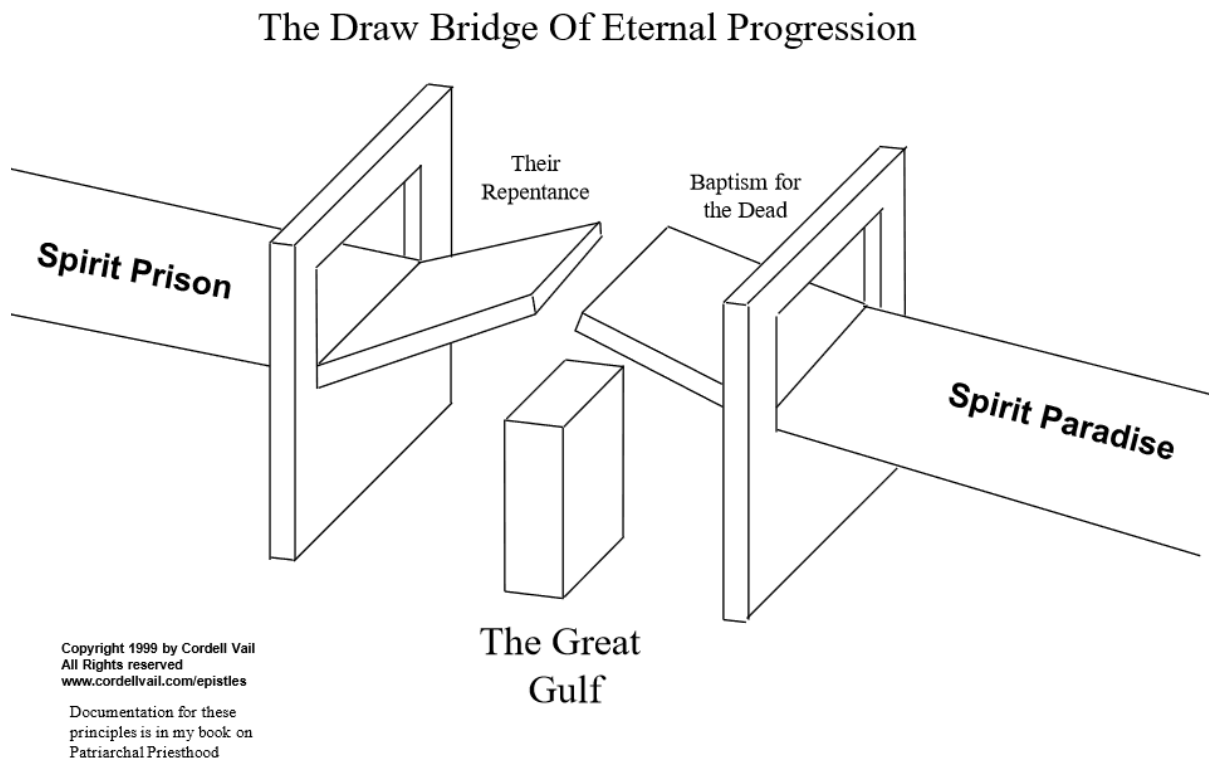


## Full Time Mission Message #20

Elder / Sister xxxxxx,

As we teach the plan of salvation, it is very important to help our new converts catch the vision of the importance of temple work. One of the concepts that is important for them to understand is that now they are baptized they have a responsibility to their deceased ancestors to help them be baptized as well. When a person dies, no matter how righteous of a life they lived, if they have not been baptized into Christ's true church by proper priesthood authority, they must go to the Spirit Prison to wait. There they are taught the gospel. If they repent and accept the gospel then they have to again wait until someone here on this earth does the proxy baptism for them so they can then move to the Spirit Paradise. Once they have repented, accept the gospel and a proxy baptism is performed for them here on earth, then they can move to the Spirit Paradise and continue to progress. This little diagram I drew seems to help new converts better understand that concept.



The church has done a study on new converts and retention. They found that if a new convert goes to the temple to do baptisms for the dead within 3 months after they were baptized, 93% of them stay active in the church. Developing temple attendance habits early in a convert's conversion process is one of the key factors in helping them stay active in the church.

Brother and Sister Vail

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