What stands out to you that increases your understanding and appreciation of the Savior’s divine birth?

Joseph was Jesus’ guardian. I love how Joseph truly loved Mary because He was not willing to make her pregnancy public. He received revelation several times about what He should do and where to go in order to protect the child. Mary was called the handmaiden. The angel Gabriel´s message and their visits truly changes the perspective of Elizabeth and Mary. They received revelation from Heaven. Mary called herself the handmaiden. “from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.” Those day before the birth of Christ were truly amazing. Angels coming with good tidings. Zacharias and their family were witnesses of many miracles including the announcing of the birth of John and his divine mission, preparing the way of the Lord. Nephi saw in vision Mary that was actually carried away in the Spirit and all these was revealed through the prescience of God.

What did you learn from your readings that increases your understanding of the temptations of the Savior and His experience in the wilderness.

The condescension of Christ involved that he submitted himself to suffer temptations, and pain of body, hunger, thirst, and fatigue, even more than man can suffer (Mosiah 3:7). We suffer temptation, but it does not mean that we do commit sin itself. Jesus also suffered temptation but like it says in Mosiah 15:5, “*he yieldeth not to the temptations.”* The temptations will not be stronger than we can resist. It is interesting that it was the Spirit who carried Jesus into all the different places and not the devil. There were three temptations and each one attacked a different aspect. His natural need, His power, and then offering the glory of the world. Jesus’ temptations were truly great, but he did not yield. The scriptures knowledge can help us win just like the Savior did. After the temptation ends, relief comes, the devil goes away and miracles happen.

How can the birth, baptism and temptations of Christ be a moral compass for me?

The wise men were guided following the light of the start that was leading the way and the prophecies they received until they found the Christ. In the same way I could be directed to find Christ following the direction of the light of the Spirit and listening to and reading the word of my inspired leaders. In DyC 93:2 it says, “And that I am the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world.” My birth is also important to the Lord. I am enlightened constantly by my personal Start which is Jesus. The birth of Jesus and his condescension to his mortal body it is a gift for me of the Father. Understanding this principle, this verse has a new hole meaning to me, knowing that I have received a gift from the Father. (John 3:16) “*For God so loved the world, that he* ***gave*** *his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* The Lord descended in many ways. One way is to serve others. Nephi explained that baptism of water and fire are the gate towards eternal life. “*Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a clove of God and of all men. Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life.”*

Temptations of Christ

The Temptations of Christ

**By Elder Howard W. Hunter**

***Of the Council of the Twelve***

Temptations prepare us to grow spiritually. Temptations may attack our senses.

Temptation is a trial of our faith.