Name: Dallin Williams Study Guide: Mortal Life

The Great Plan of God – Mortal Existence

*Why are we here on earth?*

Read / Study: *Encyclopedia of Mormonism* ([Mortality](https://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Mortality) & [Purpose of Earth Life](https://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Purpose_of_Earth_Life))

Links: <https://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Mortality>

<https://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Purpose_of_Earth_Life>

From a non-LDS perspective, how would you or some of your friends and family have answered the question, “**What is the purpose of life?”** Provide below three examples of what you think they might say if asked this question. Email or text them if you need them to give you a quick answer.

1. The primary purpose of life is survival of the individual organism.

1. The secondary purpose of life is survival of the species by reproduction and the protection of the next generation.

1. Any other purpose is inessential and is set by the organism itself or a second organism of equal or greater intelligence, utilizing the first.

Based on your study and reading of the Encyclopedia of Mormonism entries, what are five meaningful thoughts and observations you discovered about the belief Latter-day Saints have in the purpose of mortality? Using at least five references from the reading, write a ½ page answer to the question, “**What is the purpose of life for a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**?” Fill up the page reflect upon these answers.

1. To come to earth as spirits and be born of mortal parents. Thus receiving a mortal body of their own which they can then exercise free will with and upon. This is also to make them more like God the Father in the way that he also has a physical, but exalted, body (see EoM [Physical Body](https://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Physical_Body)).

1. To obtain as much knowledge and wisdom as is possible for mortals to the effect of becoming more like God the Father. Also, to develop personal secular and religious talents. Many prominent members of the leadership of the church have higher educations. (See EoM [Intelligence](https://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Intelligence)).

1. To go through trials, which give them opportunities to choose to align their will with God the Father’s. Trials are not seen as punishments from God the Father. Keeping the teachings of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is taught to bring blessings. (See EoM [Suffering in the World](https://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Suffering_in_the_World)).
2. To fulfill the purposes in their lives for which they were foreordained, which include church callings and offices. This is vital to the structure and function of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints because it is mostly comprised of volunteer, or lay, clergy. (see EoM [Foreordination](https://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Foreordination)).
3. To establish the foundations of an eternal family, e.g., baptism, confirmation, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, priesthood keys, endowment, sealing. (see EoM [Marriage: Eternal Marriage](https://eom.byu.edu/index.php/Marriage#Eternal_Marriage)).

Questions:

1. Did our spirits look like our mortal bodies?
2. Do our souls look or act differently than our spirits?