

Holy Spirit of Promise Outline - Mike Baird

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What is Holy Spirit of Promise?

- D&C 88:3
 - Holy Ghost
 - Bruce R McConkie:
 - ” This name-title is used in connection with the sealing and ratifying power of the Holy Ghost” (Mormon Doctrine, pg 361)

Sealed by the Holy Spirit of Promise

- D&C 132:7
 - Not just marriage but every covenant, contract etc.
 - Harold B Lee:
 - ”In other words, baptism is only efficacious, and the initiatory ordinance is applicable, when it is sealed by the Holy Spirit of Promise.” (Teachings of Harold B Lee, pg 96)
 - If not sealed then blessing not received
 - Have an end when dead

What does it mean to seal?

- Ratify, justify, or to approve
- Bruce R McConkie:
 - ”To seal is to ratify, to justify, or to approve. Thus an act which is sealed by the Holy Spirit of Promise is one which is ratified by the Holy Ghost; it is one which is approved by the Lord; and the person who has taken the obligation upon himself is justified by the Spirit in the thing he has done.” (Mormon Doctrine, pg 361)

What is basis for receiving the seal?

- D&C 76:50-54
 - Overcome by Faith
 - Just & True

- Joseph Fielding Smith:
"When a man and a woman, in all sincerity, enter into a covenant of marriage for time and all eternity (and after they have "overcome by faith," and are "just and true"), the Holy Ghost—who is the Spirit of promise—bears record of or ratifies that sealing. In other words, he seals the promises appertaining to the marriage covenant upon them."
(Doctrines of Salvation, Vol II, pg 98)
- Harold B Lee:
" The Holy Spirit of Promise is the Holy Ghost, which searches the hearts of men, one who reads our thoughts and our doings, and until He gives His sealing approval, then only will our blessings be efficacious and of full force when we are out of this world." (Teachings of Harold B Lee, pg 16)
- Harold B Lee:
"Now, we may have been baptized, but until we have kept the covenant that we made in the waters of baptism that we be true and faithful in keeping the commandments , until it is sealed also by the Holy Spirit of Promise, it shall not be efficacious." (Teachings of Harold B Lee, pg 99)

The seal can be withdrawn after being made

- D&C 20:31-34
 - "man may fall from grace"
- Joseph Fielding Smith:
"If one or both of these covenanting persons break that covenant by which they were sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, then the Spirit withdraws the seal and the guilty party, or parties, stand as if there had been no sealing or promise given. All covenants are sealed based upon faithfulness." (Doctrines of Salvation, Vol II, pg 98)

The seal can be made again after being withdrawn

- The requirements are the same as those for the seal in the first place
 - D&C 76:50-54
- When we break the baptismal covenant, if we repent and partake of the sacrament worthily then we receive the seal of approval of the Holy Ghost.
 - Bruce R McConkie:
"Thus those who partake worthily of the sacrament—and the same repentance and contrition and desires for righteousness should precede the partaking of the sacrament as precede

baptism—all such receive the companionship of the Holy Spirit. Because the Spirit will not dwell in an unclean tabernacle, they thus receive a remission of their sins through the sacramental ordinance. Through this ordinance the Lord puts a seal of approval upon them; they are renewed in spirit and become new creatures of the Holy Ghost, even as they did at baptism; they put off the old man of sin and put on Christ whose children they then are.” (A New Witness to the Articles of Faith, pg 240)

- The same principle applies to other covenants
 - This does not trivialize breaking covenants - repentance is still required and the greater the sin the greater the repentance required
 - Should be viewed as providing hope for when we do break covenants

What about when someone enters a covenant by “fraud”?

- D&C 41:1
 - “curse , that have professed my name with the heaviest of all cursings”
 - Joseph Fielding Smith:
”Should a person endeavor to receive the sealing blessing by fraud, then the blessing is not sealed, notwithstanding the integrity and authority of the person officiating. Instead of a blessing they will receive a cursing, the heaviest of all. Therefore, a person who may deceive the bishop or any other officer, will stand condemned before the Lord, for he cannot be deceived and justice will be meted out to all.” (Doctrines of Salvation, Vol II, pg 98-99)