

The Spirit Outline – Mike Baird

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The Spirit

Different Names

- The Spirit of the Lord
- The Spirit of truth
- Light of Christ (D&C 88:7)
- Spirit of Christ (Moroni 7:16)

Different than the Holy Ghost

- Joseph Fielding Smith:
"I know that frequently the Holy Ghost and the Spirit of Christ have become confused. There are passages that have to be judged solely by the context, but it seems to me that the Lord has made very clear the difference between the mission of each. One is a Personage of Spirit and the third member in the Godhead. The other is a spirit of light and truth which fills the immensity of space and gives light to the intelligence

of men, whether they believe in Christ or not. " (Answers to Gospel Questions, 5:137)

- Joseph Fielding Smith:

"The Holy Ghost should not be confused with the Spirit which fills the immensity of space and which is everywhere present." (Doctrines of Salvation, 1:49-50)

Holy Ghost a Personage of Spirit

- D&C 130:22

"The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's; the Son also; but the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, *but is a personage of Spirit*. Were it not so, the Holy Ghost could not dwell in us"

Manifestation of the Holy Ghost

- Manifestations are given to those *seeking truth* as a witness to truth. Usually before baptism.

- Moroni 10:5

"if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will *manifest* the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost "

Gift of the Holy Ghost

- The Gift of the Holy Ghost is given following baptism by the laying on of hands
- The gift of the Holy Ghost includes the right to constant companionship, that we may "always have his Spirit to be with [us]" (D&C 20:77)

Characteristics of the Spirit

It is impersonal

- Joseph Fielding Smith:

"This other Spirit is impersonal and has no size, nor dimension; it proceeds forth from the presence of the Father and the Son and is in all things. We should speak of the Holy Ghost as a personage as "he" and this other Spirit as "it," although when we speak of the power or gift of the Holy Ghost we may properly say "it." " (Doctrines of Salvation, 1:49-50)

Emanates from God

- D&C 88:12
"Which light *proceedeth forth from the presence of God* to fill the immensity of space"

Is everywhere and in everything

- D&C 88:12
"Which light proceedeth forth from the presence of God to *fill the immensity of space*"
- D&C 88:13
" The light which is in all things"

Law by which governs all things

- D&C 88:13
"is the law by which all things are governed"

Light of Sun, stars, earth & power by which they are made

- D&C 88:7-10
"As also he is in the sun, and the light of the sun, and the power thereof by which it was made"

Enlightens our minds

- D&C 84:45
"the Spirit giveth light to every man that cometh into the world; and *the Spirit enlighteneth every man* through the world, *that* hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit."
- D&C 88:11
"And the light which shineth, which giveth you light, is through him who *enlighteneth your eyes*, which is the same light that *quickeneth your understandings*"
- 2 Nephi 31:3
" For the Lord God *giveth light unto the understanding*; for he speaketh unto men according to their language, unto their understanding."

Gives life to all things

- D&C 84:45
"The light which is in all things, *which giveth life to all things*"

Bruce R McConkie

- Bruce R McConkie:

"There is a spirit—the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of Christ, the light of truth, the light of Christ—that defies description and is beyond mortal comprehension. It is in us and in all things; it is around us and around all things; it fills the earth and the heavens and the universe. It is everywhere, in all immensity, without exception; it is an indwelling, immanent, ever-present, never-absent spirit. It has neither shape nor form nor personality. It is not an entity nor a person nor a personage. It has no agency, does not act independently, and exists not to act but to be acted upon. As far as we know, it has no substance and is not material, at least as we measure these things. It is variously described as light and life and law and truth and power. It is the light of Christ; it is the life that is in all things; it is the law by which all things are governed; it is truth shining forth in darkness; it is the power of God who sitteth upon his throne. It may be that it is also priesthood and faith and omnipotence, for these too are the power of God.

This light of truth or light of Christ is seen in the light of the luminaries of heaven; it is the power by which the sun, moon, and stars, and the earth itself are made. It is the light that "proceedeth forth from the presence of God to fill the immensity of space." It is "the light which is in all things, which giveth life to all things, which is the law by which all things are governed, even the power of God who sitteth upon his throne, who is in the bosom of eternity, who is in the midst of all things." It is the agency of God's power; it is the means and way whereby "he comprehendeth all things," so that "all things are before him, and all things are round about him." It is the way whereby "he is above all things, and in all things, and is through all things, and is round about all things." Because of it, "all things are by him, and of him, even God, forever and ever." ("D&C 88:6-13, 41.)

Thus, when the Mosaic account of the creation says that "the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters" ("Gen. 1:2), and when Abraham records of those same events that "the Spirit of the Gods was brooding upon the face of the waters" ("Abr. 4:2), the revealed word is speaking of the light of Christ. And when Job says that "by his spirit [the Lord] hath garnished the heavens" ("Job 26:13), and the Psalmist explains that all things were created because the Lord sent forth his spirit, by which also he "renewest the face of the earth" ("Ps. 104:30), both are teaching the same truth. Creation itself came by the light of Christ.

The light of Christ is neither the Holy Ghost nor the gift of the Holy Ghost; but that member of the Godhead, because he along with the Father and the Son is God, uses the light of Christ for his purposes. Thus spiritual gifts, the gifts of God meaning faith, miracles, prophecy, and all the rest—come from God by the power of the Holy Ghost. Men prophesy, for instance, when moved upon by the Holy Ghost. And yet Moroni says: "All these gifts come by the Spirit of Christ" ("Moro. 10:17), meaning that the Holy Ghost uses the light of Christ to transmit his gifts. But the Spirit of Christ, by which the Holy Ghost operates, is no more the Holy Ghost himself than the light and heat of the sun are the sun itself" (A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, pg 257-8.)

Means and way by which God Comprehendeth all things

- Bruce R McConkie:
"It is the agency of God's power; it is the means and way whereby "he comprehendeth all things," so that "all things are before him, and all things are round about him." It is the way whereby "he is above all things, and in all things, and is through all things, and is round about all things." Because of it, "all things are by him, and of him, even God, forever and ever." ("D&C 88:6-13, 41.") (A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, pg 257-8.)
- John A Widstoe:
"This divine universe-filling medium, which holds all things together, places every soul born into the earth in communication with the members of the Godhead. Through it flow the truth and power that touch the intelligence and conscience of men." (Evidences and Reconciliations, Widstoe, John A. Pg 62)

Light of Christ given to all Men

- Moroni 7:16 (Mormon)
"the Spirit of Christ is given to *every man...*"
- D&C 84:45
"And the Spirit giveth light to *every man* that cometh into the world"

Given so we can judge good from evil

- Moroni 7:16 (Mormon)
"For behold, the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, *that he may know good from evil*"

Access to the Spirit

Requires Obedience

- D&C 121:34-47
- William Bradford
"The Holy Ghost is that "Guard", to see that God's children, through obedience, can have access to the Spirit through the Holy Ghost. All access to The Spirit comes through the Holy Ghost - without him is nothing learned. If we are obedient to the laws which govern our access to and use of Spirit, we may have it, if it is expedient in God's plan" (ELDER WILLIAM R. BRADFORD'S TALK ON "THE SPIRIT")

Relationship of Faith and Priesthood to the Spirit

- Bruce R McConkie:
"There is a spirit—the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of Christ, the light of truth, the light of Christ" ("D&C 88:6-13, 41.)..... It may be that it is also priesthood and faith and omnipotence, for these too are the power of God" (A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, pg 257-8.)
- Bradford:
" If time would permit I could talk about how faith relates to this, drives the usage of this great spirit. If time would permit I would talk about mighty miracles from the use of The Spirit - And he hears prayers, and hears the words of ordinations and blessings and many other things, and then subjects matter to law and causes things to happen." (ELDER WILLIAM R. BRADFORD'S TALK ON "THE SPIRIT")