

The Holy Ghost & The Spirit

Relationships and Differences

Outline

- The Holy Ghost
- The Spirit (Light of Christ, Spirit of Christ)
- The Holy Ghost and the Spirit are different
- Holy Ghost uses the Light of Christ
- The Spirit is the agency of God's Power
- Before Baptism
- Gift of the Holy Ghost
- Gifts of the Spirit

Holy Ghost

- 3rd Member of the Godhead
- Personage of Spirit (D&C 130:22)
- Referred to as "He" not "it" (John 14:26, John 15:26)
- One place at one time
- Holy Ghost and Light of Christ different
- Holy Ghost and gift of Holy Ghost different

Holy Ghost – Responsibilities and Functions

- Revelator
- Teacher
- Comforter
- Holy Spirit of Promise
- Witness of Christ
- Witness to our spirit
- Guide to and witness of truth
- Prophecy
- Beareth record of Father & Son
- Sanctifier
- Baptism of Fire

The Spirit (Light of Christ, Spirit of Christ)

- It is not God the Father, Jesus Christ nor the Holy Ghost
- Impersonal
- Emanates from God (D&C 88:12)
- Is everywhere and in everything (D&C 88:12-13)
- Law by which governs all things (D&C 88:13)
- Light of Sun, stars, earth & power by which they are made (D&C 88:7-10)
- Enlightens our minds (D&C 84:45, D&C 88:11)
- Gives life to all things (D&C 84:45)
- Transmits spiritual gifts (Moroni 10:17)

The Spirit (cont.)

- **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." (New witness to the Articles of Faith, pg 258)

The Holy Ghost and the Spirit are different

Joseph Fielding Smith:

"The Holy Ghost should not be confused with the Spirit which fills the immensity of space and which is everywhere present. 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)

The Holy Ghost Uses the Light of Christ

Joseph Fielding Smith:

"The person of the Holy Ghost can work through the Spirit of Christ that permeates everything, or he can work by personal contacts." (Doctrines of Salvation, 1:49-50)

Bruce R McConkie:

"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." (A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, pg 258.)

The Spirit is the agency of God's Power

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." (Doctrines of Salvation, 1:49-50)

Our access to the Spirit

- Requires Obedience
 - D&C 121:37

"powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon the principles of righteousness."
 - William Bradford:

"No one can have access to The Spirit unless he is obedient." (The Spirit)
- Holy Ghost
 - Controls access to the Spirit

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." (The Spirit)

Before Baptism – Light of Christ

- Light of Christ is given to all men that they might know good from evil and leads all men to the truth (Moroni 7:16)

Joseph Fielding Smith:

"if a man who has never heard the gospel will hearken to the teachings and manifestations of the Spirit of Christ, or the Light of Truth, which come to him, often spoken of as conscience ... it will lead him eventually to the fullness of the gospel." (Doctrines of Salvation, 1:51)

Before Baptism – Manifestation of the Holy Ghost

- Manifestation of the Holy Ghost is given before baptism as a witness to the truth (Moroni 10:4)

Dallin H Oaks:

"In contrast, a manifestation of the Holy Ghost is more focused. This manifestation is given to acquaint sincere seekers with the truth about the Lord and his gospel...

To repeat, the Light of Christ is given to all men and women that they may know good from evil; manifestations of the Holy Ghost are given to lead sincere seekers to gospel truths that will persuade them to repentance and baptism." ("Always Have His Spirit," Ensign, Nov. 1996, 59.)

Gift of the Holy Ghost

- Gift of the Holy Ghost is not the Holy Ghost

Joseph Smith:

"There is a difference between the Holy Ghost and the gift of the Holy Ghost. Cornelius received the Holy Ghost before he was baptized, which was the convincing power of God unto him of the truth of the Gospel, but he could not receive the gift of the Holy Ghost until after he was baptized. Had he not taken this sign or ordinance upon him, the Holy Ghost which convinced him of the truth of God, would have left him." (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pg, 199)

Gift of the Holy Ghost (cont.)

- Higher Endowment or manifestation of the Spirit

John Taylor:

"we have something more than that portion of the Spirit of God which is given to every man, and it is called the gift of the Holy Ghost, which is received through obedience to the first principles of the Gospel of Christ, by the laying on of hands of the servants of God." (Gospel Kingdom, pg 43)

Charles W Penrose:

"the gift of the Holy Ghost." What is it? It is a greater and higher endowment of the same spirit which enlightens every man that comes into the world" (Journal of Discourses, 23: 350)

Gift of the Holy Ghost (cont.)

Bruce R McConkie:

"This gift is a special endowment of divine grace and goodness that is received after baptism and is conferred upon believing souls by the laying on of hands. It is the right to the constant companionship of the Holy Ghost based on faithfulness. It is the right to receive revelation, to see visions, and to be guided from on high. It opens the door so that spiritual gifts and all that the Lord has in store for the faithful may flow to them in abundant measure." (A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, pg 256)

Marion G Romney:

"There are three phases of the light of Christ that I want to mention. The first one is the light which enlighteneth every man that cometh into the world; The second phase is the gift of the Holy Ghost; And the third is the more sure word of prophecy." ("The Light Of Christ", Priesthood Session: April 1977)

Gifts of the Spirit

- Spiritual gifts come from God by the power of the Holy Ghost, transmitted by the Spirit (Moroni 10:17)

Bruce R McConkie:

"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" (Moroni 10:17), meaning that the Holy Ghost uses the light of Christ to transmit his gifts." (A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, pg 258)