

Importance of Holy Ghost

What is the most important gift we can receive? (Eternal Life - D&C 14:7).

- To get this gift requires many things.

What is the most important gift we can receive in this life? (Holy Ghost)

- Joseph Fielding Smith: “There is nothing more important in the lives of members of the Church than to have the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Answers to Gospel Questions, Vol 2, pg 113, The teachings of Church Authorities.)

Why? Why would the Prophet say that?

- Bruce R McConkie: “Men ought -- above all things in this world -- to seek for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. There is nothing as important as having the companionship of the Holy Ghost. Those who first receive this endowment and who then remain in tune with this member of the Eternal Godhead will receive a peace and a comfort that passeth all understanding; they will be guided and preserved in ways that are miraculous; they will be instructed until they receive all truth; they will sanctify their souls so as to dwell spotless before the Sinless One in his everlasting kingdom. There is no price too high, no labor too onerous, no struggle too severe, no sacrifice too great, if out of it all we receive and enjoy the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (A new witness for the articles of faith, pg 253).

What did he say??

- #1 Holy Ghost is a witness to truth, and so bears the testimony of the truth, and that is how we get a testimony, by revelation from the Holy Ghost.
- #2 Holy Ghost has the power to cleanse us. Burn out the bad and replace it with righteousness. (Sanctification)

The Language of the Spirit

- We have a language of the physical body.
 - Language of the Spirit different.
- I like that – the language of the Spirit.
 - Can’t think of much more exciting or important than understanding the language of the Spirit.

As Bishop, feeling and following the Spirit at the Back of my mind

- Hearing
- Revelation
- Promptings & thoughts
- Focus on one aspect of the Language of The Spirit – “hearing”
- Boyd K Packer: “As an Apostle, I listen now to the same inspiration, coming from the same source, in the same way, that I listened as a boy. The signal is much clearer now.
- Boyd K Packer: “We do not have the words (even the scriptures do not have the words) which perfectly describe the Spirit. The scriptures usually use the word *voice*, which does

not exactly fit. These delicate, refined spiritual communications are not seen with our eyes nor heard with our ears. . . It is a voice that one *feels* more than one *hears*.

- 1 Nephi 17:45

Holy Ghost and Light of Christ

What or who is it we are “listening” to?

- Holy Ghost – but how? He can only be in one place at a time?
- Can be confusing

Holy Ghost different from Spirit (Light of Christ)

- **Drawing**
- The Holy Ghost is a personage of spirit and a member of the Godhead.
 - Elder Joseph Fielding Smith taught that:
“the Holy Ghost should not be confused with the Spirit [the Light of Christ] which fills the immensity of space and which is everywhere present. This other Spirit is impersonal and has no size, nor dimensions; 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.’”

Expound

How does the Holy Ghost then perform his work?

- He uses the Light of Christ.

We all have received the Gift of the Holy Ghost after Baptism.

One way to look at the Gift of the Holy Ghost is an extra portion of the Spirit.

What does this extra portion do different than what all receive?

- Testimony
- Sanctification (cleansing)
- Revelation
- Healing
- Prophecy

We need to “hear” the Spirit.

- Pliers on your finger.
 - If you do something with your physical body you get feedback – pain. So you don’t do it.
 - We have spent a lifetime
- We need to learn to listen to the spirit in the same way.

- If we are doing something that causes us spiritual pain, then don't do it.

President Nichols – What is it Satan can't duplicate (Danny Dalton).

So how does it feel?

- Peace
- Harmony
- centered
- resonates

How does it *not* feel

- Off key (Amourae)
- stirred up (What did Satan do to the Lamanites - stir them up to anger)
- conflict (arguing with your parents)
- anger
- sensual

Temple this next Saturday

- In temple there is not the distractions
- Important that you are worthy
 - Doesn't mean you are perfect – you are worthy
- I want you to “listen” to your feelings.
 - Examine how you feel
 - Taste it
 - learn it so you can recognize it
 - Still small voice
- Learn to be still