

Introduction

- John Taylor:
“I well remember a remark that Joseph Smith made to me. . . . Said he, ‘Elder Taylor, you have been baptized, you have had hands laid upon your head for the reception of the Holy Ghost, and you have been ordained to the holy priesthood. Now, if you will continue to follow the leadings of that spirit, it will always lead you right. Sometimes it might be contrary to your judgment; never mind that, follow its dictates; and if you be true to its whisperings it will in time become in you a principle of revelation so that you will know all things.’ (Teachings of the Presidents of the Church, John Taylor, Pg 153)
 - Apply this to me then: Says to me it is important I learn to "hear" what the Holy Ghost would have me know.

The Language of the Spirit

- 1 Cor 2:11
For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.
- We have a language of the physical body.
 - Language of the Spirit different.
 - We need to learn to hear and understand that Language
- Boyd K Packer: "The Language of the Church is the Language of the Spirit" (World leadership training June 21,2003)
- 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 on *hears*.
 - 1 Nephi 17:45

Holy Ghost and Light of Christ

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

- John Taylor: Pg 155 (#2)
But there is a very great difference between this spirit and

feeling that leads men to do right, which is emphatically denominated a portion of the Spirit of God, which is given to every man to profit withal, and what is termed in the scriptures the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Gospel Kingdom pg 42)

- 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.’ ”
- D&C 88:7-13
 - The Spirit is the Power of God (v13)
 - Light (communicative system to enlighten our minds etc)
 - Law (13)
 - Matter (D&C 131:7)

Expound

How does the Holy Ghost then perform his work?

- He uses the Light of Christ.
 - 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. 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.” (New Witness for Articles of Faith pg. 258)

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. Or additional access to use of the Spirit

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

- Testimony
 - Sanctification (cleansing)
 - Revelation
 - Healing
 - Prophecy
- Holy Ghost is “Guard” for access to the Spirit
 - “All access to the Spirit comes through the Holy Ghost”
 - Through Holy Ghost, obedient children can have access to the Spirit
 - We may have access if we are obedient, if it is expedient in God’s plan

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.

So how does it feel?

- Peace
- Harmony
- centered
- resonates

How does it *not* feel

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

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)