

## The Gift of the Holy Ghost

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### "Far beneath our privileges"

- Brigham Young:  
"There is no doubt, if a person lives according to the revelations given to God's people, he may have the Spirit of the Lord to signify to him his will, and to guide and to direct him in the discharge of his duties, in his temporal as well as his spiritual exercises. I am satisfied, however, that in this respect, we live *far beneath our privileges*. " (Discourses of Brigham Young, selected and arranged by John A. Widtsoe, pg 32)

### The doctrine with regards to the the Holy Ghost, the Spirit, and the gift of the Holy Ghost

#### The 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
  - Joseph Fielding Smith:  
" President Joseph F. Smith has expressed it thus: "The Holy Ghost as a personage of Spirit can no more be omnipresent in person than can the Father or the Son... " (Doctrines of Salvation, 1: 41.)
- Holy Ghost and Light of Christ different (Joseph Fielding Smith, Answers to Gospel Questions, 5:137)

- Holy Ghost and gift of Holy Ghost different (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pg, 199)

## **The Spirit (Light of Christ, Spirit of Christ)**

- Impersonal ("it" not "He")
- Emanates from God (D&C 88:12).
- This is the light “which is in all things, which giveth life to all things” (D&C 88:13).
- “giveth light to every man that cometh into the world” (D&C 84:46)
- The prophet Mormon taught that “the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that he may know good from evil” (Moro. 7:16; see also Moro. 7:19; 2 Ne. 2:5; Hel. 14:31)
- The Light of Christ enlightens and gives understanding to all men (D&C 88:11).
- Law by which all things are governed (D&C 88:13).
- 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.)

## **Manifestations of Holy Ghost**

- In contrast to the Spirit, 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
  - Moroni 10:4  
Moroni promises that when we study the Book of Mormon and seek to know whether it is true, sincerely and with real intent, God will “manifest” the truth of it unto us, “by the power of the Holy Ghost” (Moro. 10:4)
  - Ether 4:11  
“He that believeth these things which I have spoken, him will I visit with the manifestations of my Spirit, and he shall know and bear record. For because of my Spirit he shall know that these things are true”
- These manifestations are available to everyone

- 2 Ne. 26:13  
The Savior “manifesteth himself unto all those who believe in him, by the power of the Holy Ghost; yea, unto every nation, kindred, tongue, and people” (2 Ne. 26:13)

## Gift of Holy Ghost

- The gift of the Holy Ghost is more comprehensive
- 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)
- McConkie – Lightning analogy
  - What does that mean?
    - One way to look at it is an extra portion 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)
      - Testimony
      - Sanctification (cleansing)
      - Revelation
      - Healing
      - Prophecy
      - Be edified
      - Be comforted
- Through the greater endowment of the Light of Christ the Holy Ghost conveys to the Saints the gifts of the Spirit

## 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: 54.)
- Joseph Fielding Smith:  
" President Joseph F. Smith has expressed it thus: "The Holy Ghost as a personage of Spirit can no more be omnipresent in person than can the Father or the Son, but by his intelligence, his knowledge, his power and influence,

over and through the laws of nature, he is and can be omnipresent throughout all the works of God." Thus when it becomes necessary to speak to us, he is able to do so by acting through the other Spirit, that is, through the Light of Christ. " (Doctrines of Salvation, 1: 41.)

- 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.)

## **Our access to the Spirit**

- 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)
- The 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 [The] Spirit, we may have it, if it is expedient in God's plan." (The Spirit)

## **Gifts of the Spirit**

- Spiritual gifts come through the Spirit of Christ
  - Moroni 10:17  
"And all these gifts come by the Spirit of Christ"
- When the Holy Ghost works with us, he transmits his gifts by the agency of 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. " (A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, pg 258.)

## References

- Marion G Romney "The Holy Ghost", Ensign, May 1974, pg 90
- Dallin H. Oaks, "Always Have His Spirit," Ensign, Nov. 1996, 59

## **How and Why then of "Far beneath our privileges"**

- Worthiness
- We aren't listening
- We don't know how to listen
- We don't understand what it means
- We lack faith

## **When should we use the gift of the Holy Ghost?**

- Choosing beans

## **What does "constant companionship" mean?**

## **How do we know we have the Holy Ghost with us?**

- D&C 11:12-13
- Galatians 5:22-23

## **What does "extra portion" "higher endowment mean in practical terms for you and me?**

## **How does this relate to President Dalton's Spirituality statement?**

## **Victory over self – What does this mean?**

- President McKay  
" Spirituality, our true aim, is the consciousness of victory over self, and of communion with the Infinite ("Something Higher Than Self")
  - Align our self