

# The Holy Ghost

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## Introduction

Stake theme is 1 Nephi 4:6

“And I was led by the Spirit, not knowing beforehand the things which I should do.”

Today we speak of the Holy Ghost.

I am representing the Stake President today. I know this subject is important to him. I have felt his sense of need that we as members of the Stake make the Spirit a bigger part of our lives. This need he feels I know is driven by his love for us.

## The Importance of the Holy Ghost

- Think of the greatest gift you received (Give time to think)
- Greatest of all God’s gifts is Eternal Life (D&C 14:7).
  - What is Eternal Life?
    - God’s life or that is to say to live in his presence.
- What do we have to do to get it?
  - Conditions placed upon receiving this gift. Not just given to anyone.
  - No unclean thing can enter into his presence (1 Nephi 10:21)
  - To do so we must put off the natural man (Mosiah 3:19) and be spiritually born of God (Alma 5:13-14, 21). This requires that:
    - We gain a testimony of Christ
    - Enter in the straight and narrow path of repentance and baptism (2 Nephi 31:17-18).
    - Once upon that path we must press forward feasting upon the words of Christ and endure to the end (2 Nephi 31:20-21, 32:3).
  - To do this by our self would be impossible, I believe.
  - Focus on the Holy Ghost
  - The Holy Ghost is not only important but is necessary:
    - Development of a testimony
    - The conversion we must go through to gain eternal life.
      - Conversion - a burning or cleansing which we must go through to be clean enabling us to enter our Heavenly Father’s presence
        - Remember, no unclean thing can enter his presence (1 Nephi 10:21)

What Modern day Prophets and Apostles have said about the importance of the Holy Ghost:

- President 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)
- President Wilford Woodruff:  
“You may have the administration of angels, you may see many miracles; you may see many wonders in the earth; but I claim that the gift of the Holy Ghost is the greatest gift that can be bestowed upon man.” (Discourses of Wilford Woodruff, pg. 5).
- President Harold B Lee:  
“And every baptized member of the Church, who lives worthy of it, may have the greatest of all gifts that can come to mankind, the gift of the Holy Ghost, by which the Lord reveals all that is necessary to make in completeness a dispensation of the gospel” (Teachings of Harold B Lee, Chapter 1).
- President Brigham Young:  
“I want to see men and women breathe the Holy Ghost in every breath of their lives, living constantly in the light of God's countenance.” (Discourses of Brigham Young, pg. 31)
- Elder 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).
- When I hear a Prophet say “This is the most important thing in this life” Ding, Ding, Ding, Ding, Mike, TAKE NOTICE
- To understand why President Joseph Fielding Smith, President Woodruff, President Brigham Young, President Harold B Lee and Elder McConkie make these statements we must understand:
  - Who the Holy Ghost is (personality, attributes)
  - What is His office (responsibilities, functions)
  - What it is that He does for us.

**This is the focus of my talk today.**

- I will be using the scriptures and writings of modern day prophets and apostles as my source of information
- I am sure a lot of what I share with you today you will have heard before.
  - I ask of you - Don't tune out.
  - Over the past 6 months I have read just about every word written in the scriptures and in the words of our modern day prophets and apostles that relate to the Holy Ghost, I have studied, pondered and prayed over those words and their meanings.
    - I know I don't know or understand everything about the Holy Ghost
    - I know I know and understand a lot more than I did 6 months ago.
    - More than anything else I have grown to appreciate more and more the importance of the Holy Ghost in my life
    - Because of that greater sense of importance of the Holy Ghost as I prepared this talk I have desired more than anything to make it worth your while, that you may learn something and more importantly gain a greater sense of importance of the Holy Ghost in your own life and have a greater desire to seek to have the Spirit of God with you.

I promise and witness to you that if you will listen to what I say today you will learn. If you listen with your ears to my words and to your feelings the Holy Ghost will confirm the truth of what I say in your hearts and provide understanding to your mind.

**So again the focus is:**

- Who the Holy Ghost is (personality, attributes)
- What is His office (responsibilities, functions)
- What it is that He does for us.

## Who is the Holy Ghost

### He is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Member of Godhead

- “He constitutes the third person in the Trinity, the Godhead” (Gospel Doctrine pg. 60)
- As part of the Godhead he is in Perfect unity with Father & Jesus (Sermons & Writings of Bruce R McConkie. pg. 100)
- The Apostle John recorded:  
“For there are three, that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one” (1 John 5:7), signifying, of course, they are one in understanding and purpose.
- Of them the Prophet Joseph said:  
“. . . these three are one; or, in other words, these three constitute the great, matchless, governing and supreme power over all things; by whom all things were created and made . . . and these three constitute the Godhead, and are one.” (Lectures on Faith. Lecture 5<sup>th</sup> )

### He is 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.”
- Bruce R McConkie:  
"The Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones," however, "but is a personage of Spirit." (D&C 130:22.) He is thus a spirit man, a spirit person, a spirit entity. He lives and moves and has his being separate and apart from his fellow Gods. His spirit body is in all respects comparable to the kind of a body that the Lord Jehovah possessed before that beloved and chosen one made flesh his tabernacle by the process of mortal birth. " (New Witness for Articles of Faith, pg. 254)
- Joseph Fielding Smith:  
“As a Spirit personage the Holy Ghost has size and dimensions. He does not fill the immensity of space, and cannot be everywhere present in person at the same time.” (Doctrines of Salvation Vol. 1, pg. 38)

### The Holy Ghost is a he

- Jesus referred to the Holy Ghost as a male person. Speaking to his disciples, he said:  
“But the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, **he** shall teach you all things...”(John 14:26 Italics added)  
Further: “. . . when **he**, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for **he** shall not speak of **himself**; but whatsoever **he** shall hear, that shall **he** speak: and **he** will shew you things to come. "**He** shall glorify me: for **he** shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.” (John 16:13-14. Italics added.)

## The Holy Ghost is know by other names

- In the scriptures The Holy Ghost is frequently refer to as the Comforter, the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, or the Spirit of the Lord.
- He can also properly be called the Testator, Testifier, Witness, Revelator, and Sanctifier. (New Witness for Articles of Faith, Names of the Holy Ghost. pg. 255-6)
- It can at sometimes be confusing in the scriptures as to what is meant. Christ is also called the Spirit of Truth and the second comforter. Sometimes it is hard to tell if the passage of scripture is referring to the Holy Ghost or the Gift of the Holy Ghost.
- Bruce R McConkie:  
“Oftentimes in speaking and writing, even some of our most insightful theologians confuse and intermingle passages having reference to different things. In gaining a knowledge of all things, it is incumbent upon us to learn the true and diverse meanings of the same names as they are found and used in different contexts.” (New Witness for Articles of Faith, Names of the Holy Ghost. pg. 255-6)

## Separate Person from Powers

- One place at one time, influence omnipresent
  - President Joseph F Smith:  
“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.” (Gospel Doctrine Pg. 61)
  - Bruce R McConkie:  
“He can be in only one place at one time and he does not and cannot transform himself into any other form or image than that of the Man whom he is, though his power and influence can be manifest at one and the same time through all immensity.” (Mormon Doctrine, Holy Ghost)
- Plainly then such phrases in the Scriptures as “being filled with the Holy Ghost”, and the Holy Ghost falling upon someone refer to the powers and influences that emanate from God. (Articles of Faith, Chapter 8, Pg. 160)

## Holy Ghost is different than the Light of Christ

- Last month Brother Christensen spoke your ward about the Light of Christ. We should not confuse the Holy Ghost with the Light of Christ.
- Bruce R McConkie in describing the Light of Christ said:  
“It has no agency, does not act independently, and exists not to act but to be acted upon.” (New Witness for Articles of Faith, pg. 257)
- Joseph Fielding Smith taught that:  
“One is a Personage of Spirit and the third member of 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.” (Answers to Gospel Questions, Volume 5, pg. 133)

## Holy Ghost works through the Light of Christ

- Further he taught:

“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 Vol. 1, Pg. 54)
- 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)

## Holy Ghost and Gift of Holy Ghost different

- 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)
- The High Council topic for June is the Gift of the Holy Ghost.

## Attributes

- In the Scriptures we can read the attributes of the Holy Ghost.
  - He Speaks, Commands, Commissions (Acts 10:19, 13:2, 16:6, 1 Nephi 4:6)
  - Is grieved (Ephesians 4:30)
  - Searches and investigates (2 Cor 2:10)
  - Knoweth all things (Alma 7:13)

## In Summary as to *whom* He is:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Member of Godhead. As such is one with God and Jesus.
- Personage of Spirit
- Referred to in the scriptures by several different names
- One place at one time yet influence may be everywhere
  - Is not the Light of Christ but uses the Light of Christ
- Gift of the Holy Ghost is different from the Holy Ghost himself

## Responsibilities & Functions of the Holy Ghost

The first thing I'd like to say is that the responsibilities and functions of the Holy Ghost are interrelated.

### A Witness

- Under the responsibility and function of **Witness** I break things down into three inter related functions:
  - Testimony - witness to our spirit
  - Witness of Christ
  - Witness of Truth

### Testimony

- Testimony comes from the Holy Ghost.
- What is a testimony? A testimony is to know by personal revelation from the Holy Spirit that Jesus is the Son of God. (Teachings & Sermons of Bruce R McConkie. Pg. 130)
- When Christ asked the Apostles "But whom say ye that I am" Peter answered "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus then said "Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed [it] unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." (Matt 16:15-17)
- Why was he "blessed"? Because he knows by the power of the Holy Ghost that Jesus is the Lord.
- My testimony comes not from seeing what my parents did, nor from what my Bishop has said or done but from the Holy Spirit speaking to my spirit.

### Witness of Christ

- Joseph F. Smith:  
"The office of the Holy Ghost is to bear record of Christ, or to testify of him, and confirm the believer in the truth" (Gospel Doctrine Pg. 101)
- At the baptism of Jesus, the Holy Ghost bore witness to his divinity by "descending like a dove, and lighting upon him." (Matt. 3:16.)
- Every person who knows or has ever known that Jesus is the Christ has received that witness from the Holy Ghost. "Wherefore I give you to understand," wrote Paul to the Corinthians, "that no man speaking by the Spirit of God . . . can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost." (1 OCR. 12:3.)

## Guide to and witness truth

- The Holy Ghost not only bears witness to the divinity of the Father and the Son: he also bears witness to truth, particularly to gospel truths. ". . . when ye shall read these things [speaking of the gospel truths contained in the Book of Mormon], . . . I would exhort you," wrote Moroni, "that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and 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." (Moro. 10:3-4.)
- Those of us who have received the Gift of the Holy Ghost have the right, if we live righteously, to receive the guidance from the Holy Ghost.
- Joseph Fielding Smith:  
"Now there are some of our people who are being deceived. Why? Because they lack knowledge, because they lack understanding, and because they are not in tune with the Holy Spirit, which they have a right to receive." (Doctrines of Salvation Vol. 1, pg. 44)

## Witnesses to our Spirit

- We can learn things through many different ways. We learn through experiences, our senses and by reason. When we learn this way there is the possibility we may be deceived.
- Brigham Young:  
"I have proven to my satisfaction, according to the best knowledge I can gather, that man can be deceived by the sight of the natural eye, he can be deceived by the hearing of the ear, and by the touch of the hand; that he can be deceived in all of what is called the natural senses. But there is one thing in which he cannot be deceived. What is that? It is the operations of the Holy Ghost, the Spirit and power of God upon the creature."  
(Discourses of Brigham Young, pg. 31)
- Through the process then of Spirit speaking to spirit there is never any deception or uncertainty.
- Joseph Fielding Smith:  
"The Spirit of God speaking to the spirit of man has power to impart truth with greater effect and understanding than the truth can be imparted by personal contact even with heavenly beings. Through the Holy Ghost the truth is woven into the very fiber and sinews of the body so that it cannot be forgotten." (Doctrines of Salvation Vol. 1, pg. 47-8)

### \*\*\*---Relate:

- Saw both range of reaction to the witness of the Holy Ghost as a missionary in Sweden:
  - Total rejection. I knew Spirit was present but not felt
  - Sister Turki – Felt spirit but failed to act
  - Leif Gronstedt – Felt the burning and acted on it
- Brad Walker – Felt the spirit and treated LDS different

Review: 1) A Witness



## A Revelator

- D&C 8:2-3
  - 2) Yea, behold, I will tell you in your mind and in your heart, by the Holy Ghost, which shall come upon you and which shall dwell in your heart.
  - 3) Now, behold, this is the spirit of revelation; behold, this is the spirit by which Moses brought the children of Israel through the Red Sea on dry ground.
- 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 to as a boy. The signal is much clearer now. We do not have the words (even the scriptures do not have 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. Once I came to understand this, one verse in the Book of Mormon took on profound meaning and my testimony of the book became fixed. The verse had to do with Laman and Lemuel, who rebelled against Nephi. Nephi rebuked them and said: 'Ye have seen an angel, and he spake unto you; yea, ye have heard his voice from time to time; and he hath spoken unto you in a still small voice, but ye were past feeling, that ye could not feel his words' (1 Nephi 17:45). I have come to know that inspiration comes more as a feeling than as a sound. Ponder and pray quietly and persistently.... The answer may not come as a lightning bolt. It may come as a little inspiration here and a little there, 'line upon line, precept upon precept' “

### \*\*\*---Relate having “felt” the voice:

- Heard as a youth praying about the Book of Mormon
- Learned to hear by feeling as a Missionary
- Heard(felt) many times as an adult and parent
  - Scott and “knowing” more than once the only reason I could give him was because of feelings.

Review: 1) A Witness 2) A Revelator

## A Teacher

- The Holy Ghost is not only a witness to the truth; he is also a great revealer and teacher of truth. (the Holy Ghost, President Marion G. Romney, May 1974 Ensign, Page 90)
- The Savior said to his disciples:

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, . . . which is the Holy Ghost, . . . [and] he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." (John 14: 16, 26. Italics added.)
- Further

"And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, . . . take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: "For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say." (Luke 12:11-12. Italics added.)

- Paul wrote to the Corinthians:

"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual." (1 OCR. 2:12-13. Italics added.)

**\*\*\*---Relate:**

- I have been taught as I have studied the Holy Ghost
  - Things I've read before have become clearer - Sanctification

Review: 1) A Witness 2) A Revelator 3) A Teacher

## Prophecy

- To the Holy Ghost we are indebted for our scriptures. Not only did he reveal the gospel truths they contain: he it was who gave the prophets the spirit of prophecy. (The Holy Ghost, President Marion G. Romney, May 1974 Ensign, Page 90)
- In ancient times Peter said:
 

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost," (2 Peter 1:20-21)
- In our Dispensation the Lord has revealed (D&C 68:3-4):
  - 3) And this is the ensample unto them, that they shall speak as they are moved upon by the Holy Ghost.
  - 4) And whatsoever they shall speak when moved upon by the Holy Ghost shall be scripture, shall be the will of the Lord, shall be the mind of the Lord, shall be the word of the Lord, shall be the voice of the Lord, and the power of God unto salvation.

**\*\*\*---Relate:**

- Prophecy I have witnessed being received or given is Patriarchal Blessing of my two oldest children
- Prophecy fulfilled I have seen in my own life.
  - My own Patriarchal blessing
  - Revelation on the Priesthood
  - Building of temples begin to "dot the land"

Review: 1) A Witness 2) A Revelator 3) A Teacher 4) Prophecy

## Holy Spirit of Promise

- Joseph Fielding Smith:

“The Holy Spirit of Promise is the Holy Ghost who places the stamp of approval upon every ordinance: baptism, confirmation, ordination, marriage. The promise is that the blessings will be received through faithfulness. If a person violates a covenant, whether it be of baptism, ordination, marriage or anything else, the Spirit withdraws the stamp of approval, and the blessings will not be received. Every ordinance is sealed, with a promise of a reward based upon faithfulness. The Holy Spirit withdraws the stamp of approval where covenants are broken.” (Doctrines of Salvation Vol. 1, pg. 45)
- D&C 132:7

“And verily I say unto you, that the conditions of this law are these: All covenants, contracts, bonds, obligations, oaths, vows, performances, connections, associations, or expectations, that are not made and entered into and sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, of him who is anointed, both as well for time and for all eternity, and that too most holy, by revelation and commandment through the medium of mine anointed, whom I have appointed on the earth to hold this power (and I have appointed unto my servant Joseph to hold this power in the last days, and there is never but one on the earth at a time on whom this power and the keys of this priesthood are conferred), are of no efficacy, virtue, or force in and after the resurrection from the dead; for all contracts that are not made unto this end have an end when men are dead.”

### So what does that mean???

- Use as an example Baptism: Unworthy person baptized.
  - Deceive elders but NOT the Holy Ghost
  - Not sealed by the Spirit
  - Not ratified by the Holy Ghost
  - Person is not justified by the Spirit in his actions
  - If later he became worthy through repentance the seal would be put in force
- Worthy person baptized the seal may be broken by sin.
- Applies to all ordinances we do and our performance in the Church

Review: 1) A Witness 2) A Revelator 3) A Teacher 4) Prophecy 5) Holy Spirit of Promise

## The Comforter

- Because He speaks peace to the hearts of the weary and disconsolate the Holy Ghost is called the comforter.
- “And the remission of sins bringeth meekness, and lowliness of heart; and because of meekness and lowliness of heart cometh the visitation of the Holy Ghost, which Comforter filleth with hope and perfect love, which love endureth by diligence unto prayer, until the end shall come, when all the saints shall dwell with God.” (Moroni 8:26)
- “Therefore it is given to abide in you; the record of heaven; the Comforter; the peaceable things of immortal glory; the truth of all things; that which quickeneth all things, which maketh alive all things; that which knoweth all things, and hath all power according to wisdom, mercy, truth, justice, and judgment.” (Moses 6:61)

### \*\*\*---Relate:

- Is there anyone here today to whom is looking for peace, or for comfort or hope? I have felt this comfort and peace in my life.
- I love the things that the Holy Ghost can do for us – testimony, teach, prophecy and so forth, things that can help me grow and prepare for God’s presence, yet at the same time it is a joy to know I can gain peace, comfort and hope from His presence.
- Notice Moroni gave us the keys to having the “visitation of the Holy Ghost” to receive peace, comfort or hope: “and because of meekness and lowliness of heart cometh the visitation of the Holy Ghost” (from repentance)

Review: 1) A Witness 2) A Revelator 3) A Teacher 4) Prophecy 5) Holy Spirit of Promise 6) The Comforter

## A Sanctifier

- There is a difference between having a testimony and being converted. A testimony is the witness we receive from the Spirit.
- Remember what I said at the beginning of this talk. A testimony is not enough. We must be converted.
- Conversion - a burning or cleansing which we must go through to be clean enabling us to enter our Heavenly Father’s presence.
- Bruce R McConkie:  
“..the Holy Spirit is a sanctifier, and he has the power to cleanse and perfect the human soul, to wash evil and iniquity out, and to replace it with righteousness. And that is the occasion when we are converted.” (Writings and Sermons of Bruce R McConkie, pg. 135).
- So what does it mean to be sanctified?
- Bruce R McConkie:  
“To be sanctified is to be saved; to fall short of sanctification is to fail to gain full salvation. Only the sanctified gain eternal life. To be sanctified is to be clean; it is a state of purity and spotlessness in which no taint of sin is found. Only those who die as to sin and are born again to righteousness, becoming thus new creatures of the Holy Ghost, are numbered with the sanctified. It is the work and mission and ministry of the Holy Spirit of God to sanctify the souls of men. This is his assigned labor in the Eternal Godhead.

How he does it we do not know, except that it is a work that can only be performed by a spirit being, and hence the need for one of his personality, status, and standing in the Supreme Presidency of the universe. Baptism of the Spirit is the way and the means whereby sanctification is made available. Thus, Jesus commands all the "ends of the earth" to be baptized in water "that ye may be sanctified by the reception of the Holy Ghost, that ye may stand spotless before me at the last day." (3 Nephi 27:20.) Truly, the Holy Ghost is a sanctifier, and the extent to which men receive and enjoy the gift of the Holy Ghost is the extent to which they are sanctified. In the lives of most of us, sanctification is an ongoing process, and we obtain that glorious status by degrees as we overcome the world and become saints in deed as well as in name." (New Witness for Articles of Faith. pg. 265-6)

- Alma speaks of those who are sanctified (Alma 13:11-12):
  - 11) Therefore they were called after this holy order, and were sanctified, and their garments were washed white through the blood of the Lamb.
  - 12) Now they, after being sanctified by the Holy Ghost, having their garments made white, being pure and spotless before God, could not look upon sin save it were with abhorrence; and there were many, exceedingly great many, who were made pure and entered into the rest of the Lord their God.

**\*\*\*---Relate:**

- I'd like to ask each of us: Can we picture what Alma said in what I just read in your life?
- Probably all can to some degree:
  - I think there is degree's or levels of this as we become "cleansed" and "purified" we are filled with more and more light. And that light abhors darkness:
  - Depraved things in this life certainly
  - Another "level" – Foul language - I certainly hope so
  - Another "level" – offended such we wouldn't watch R rated movie and even some PG type?
  - Isn't there probably another level each one of us can go to?
  - I have certainly felt this is true as I have studied the Holy Ghost and have striven to be "cleaner" I know I have become more sensitive to things I do and say that would offend the Spirit and cause it to leave.

Review: 1) A Witness 2) A Revelator 3) A Teacher 4) Prophecy 5) Holy Spirit of Promise 6) The Comforter 7) A Sanctifier

## Qualifying for the companionship of the Holy Ghost

### Initial Qualification

Faith, repentance, baptism and laying on of hands for the Gift of the Holy Ghost (4<sup>th</sup> article of faith)

- All or most of us present today have been here

### Gift of Holy Ghost confers *right* to the constant companionship of the Holy Ghost.

- Note that we are commanded to *receive* the Holy Ghost.

### Actual enjoyment of the gift requires us to be worthy.

- Joseph Fielding Smith:

“We have a great many members of this Church who have never received a manifestation through the Holy Ghost. Why? Because they have not made their lives conform to the truth. And the Holy Ghost will not dwell in unclean tabernacles or disobedient tabernacles. The Holy Ghost will not dwell with that person who is unwilling to obey and keep the commandments of God or who violates those commandments willfully. In such a soul the spirit of the Holy Ghost cannot enter. That great gift comes to us only through humility and faith and obedience.” “When we are disobedient, when our minds are set upon the things of this world rather than on the things of the kingdom of God, we cannot have the manifestations of the Holy Ghost. Did you ever stop to think what a great privilege it is for us to have the companionship of one of the members of the Godhead? Have you thought of it that way? That is our privilege, if we keep the commandments the Lord has given us.” (We Are Here to be Tried, Tested, Proved, BYU Speeches of the Year [Provo, 25 Oct 1961], pg. 4)

### \*\*\*---Relate:

- Have you thought of it that way?
- I feel strongly and I know I echo the feelings of President Richardson when I say that we need to bring the Holy Ghost out of this background, maybe obscure type role in our lives to a role where He stands as the member of the Godhead who is most accessible to us. He can be our constant companion.

He can be:

- A witness and testator to our souls who speaks to our spirit
- A revealer of truth in a world clamoring with conflicting messages
- A teacher
- A sealer
- A comforter at a time when we need peace
- A sanctifier of our souls
- For all this we should be willing to agree with Elder McConkie that: “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).

Close with Testimony