

**The Spirit in our Lives**  
**Cooper Mt Ward**  
**1/26/03**

## **Introduction**

- About Marti's talk
- Was **not the original plan** for Marti & I to speak.
  - Because of the Whisperings of the Spirit that Marti and I are speaking today
- I have had many **humbling experiences** as Bishop and this is yet another one
  - Humbling because I realize yet again how dependent I am upon the Lord to be able to do as he asks in *His* way
- I have **felt the responsibility** to Speak as the Spirit would guide ever since it was clear to me I should speak today
  - Prayed much
  - Studied much
  - Pondered
  - Fasted
  - All so that I might speak in accordance with the Spirit.
- **Ask for you to have a prayer** in your heart for 2 reasons.
  - That I may speak today in full accordance with the Spirit
  - That you may listen with the Spirit
  - For I believe with all my heart what it says in D&C 50:21
  - D&C 50:21  
21 Therefore, why is it that ye cannot understand and know, that he that receiveth the word by the Spirit of truth receiveth it as it is preached by the Spirit of truth?  
22 Wherefore, he that preacheth and he that receiveth, understand one another, and both are edified and rejoice together.
- It is my humble and most sincere desire that I may speak with the Spirit of Truth.
- Testify what will happen if we both do our parts
  - **Spirit will speak to them.**

## Need the Spirit more in our lives

- **I love my Counselors**
- **Sometime** within the first several weeks after called as Bishop they asked:
  - Do you have a **theme** or guidance for the ward?
  - Searched feelings - **Astonished** when I realized I did
    - Hadn't thought of it that way
    - But – a feeling that I have had since immediately after being ordained and set apart.
- “We as members of the Cooper Mountain Ward need to have a greater reliance upon the Holy Ghost in our lives. And that need is going to grow greater”
  - Feel this with all my soul
  - I feel it as a constant background “**pressure**” and it is a **driving force** to me.

**Why??** Since first verbalizing that feeling I have pondered *why* I feel this way. What is the reason?

- **World wide training** broadcast on Jan 18th
  - Two things leaped out at me that fit
  - 1)** It has been reinforced to me that the split between the Standards of the Church and the Standards of the World is growing. It has really hit home.
    - **Elder Eyring** in the Leadership Broadcast said:
      - “Hold up the Lord’s Standards”
      - “Do not alter them”
      - “Do not lower them”
      - “Raise the people to the standards”
      - “The Holy Ghost can clarify the standards”
    - **President Hinckley** at the same Broadcast in speaking about missionaries said we are to:
      - “Raise the standard for missionaries”
      - “Raising the bar will raise our young men”
    - **Elder Bednar** also spoke of this gulf between the Lord’s standards at the fireside to youth

- **President Brigham Young** saw this, saying:  
 “It was revealed to me in the commencement of this Church, that the Church would spread, prosper, grow and extend, and that in proportion to the spread of the Gospel among the nations of the earth, so would the power of Satan rise” (in *Journal of Discourses*, 13:280).
- To **offset** this rising power of Satan we need now more than ever
  - Revelation for our families and individually
  - The strength that living the Lord’s standards give.
- **I feel to testify that** to live the Lord’s standards we need the Holy Ghost in our lives as constant companions

2) It is also clear that as the church goes forward **direct contact** with General authorities will be less and less

- We need to rely more upon the Spirit for direction and less on direct contact with Apostles & Gen Authorities
- **World Wide broadcast**
  - 56 languages
  - **Elder Packer**, of the 12 Apostles  
 “The language of the Church is the Language of the Spirit”
  - **My realization** about the expectation that the Spirit would teach as needed.
  - **Tuning fork**
    - I have learned that the language of the Spirit is something we “hear” mostly with our feelings.
  - **President Harold B. Lee:**  
 “ When we understand more than we know with our minds, when we understand with our hearts, then we know that the Spirit of the Lord is working upon us. ” (Harold B. Lee, Stand Ye in Holy Places, pg 92]
  - It then becomes very important then that we **develop the ability to hear** the language of the spirit
  - If not heard by the Spirit – **just so many words**

## Baptism & Sacrament

Another way to state my feeling is that we need to:  
“always have his Spirit to be with us”

- **Baptism** – took upon us certain covenants
- We then received the **Gift of the Holy Ghost**
  - Constant companion as we are worthy
- Today and every week as we attend sacrament meeting and partake of the sacrament we **renew those covenants**
  - Described in sacrament prayer for the bread
  - **D&C 20:77**

O God, the Eternal Father, we ask thee in the name of thy Son, Jesus Christ, to bless and sanctify this bread to the souls of all those who partake of it, that they may eat in remembrance of the body of thy Son, and witness unto thee, O God, the Eternal Father, that they are willing to take upon them the name of thy Son, and always remember him and keep his commandments which he has given them; that they may always have his Spirit to be with them. Amen.
  - **Elder Dallin H Oaks:**

“When we consciously and sincerely renew our baptismal covenants as we partake of the sacrament, we renew our qualification for the promise “that [we] may always have his Spirit to be with [us]” (**D&C 20:77**).
- The importance of this promise cannot be overstated
- President Wilford Woodruff called the gift of the Holy Ghost the greatest gift we can receive in mortality (see *The Discourses of Wilford Woodruff*, ed. G. Homer Durham [1990], 5).
- Unfortunately I feel that we as members:
  - Quite often **do not understand the value** of the gift of the Holy Ghost
  - We do not always **understand what this gift can mean** to us or do for us
  - Do not always **understand the conditions** for enjoyment of the gift we are given

## Value of the gift of the Holy Ghost

Let me speak of the value of the Gift of the Holy Ghost

In speaking of the gift of the Holy Ghost we need to distinguish between:

- Light of Christ
- Manifestations of the Holy Ghost
- Gift of the Holy Ghost itself

### Light of Christ

- Sometimes called the “Spirit of Christ” or “Spirit of God”
  - It is **neither the Holy Ghost** nor the Gift of the Holy Ghost
  - In the eighty-eighth section of the Doctrine and Covenants, the Lord says,  
“The light of Christ . . . proceedeth forth from the presence of God to fill the immensity of space.” (Vv. 7, 12.)
    - **Elder Bruce R McConkie**, Former Apostle said of the Light of Christ:  
“It is the instrumentality and agency by which Deity keeps in touch and communes with all his children”
  - **D&C 84:45-46:**  
“the Spirit of Jesus Christ . . . giveth light to every man that cometh into the world; and the spirit enlighteneth every man through the world, that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit.”
  - **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**).
    - We sometimes call this manifestation **conscience**
- Light of Christ given to every man

## Manifestation of the Holy Ghost

- **Compared** to the Light of Christ, a manifestation of the Holy Ghost is more focused
- It is not given to every man
- Manifestations are given to those **seeking truth** as a witness to truth
  - Moroni's Promise ( **Moroni 10:4.** )
    - Study Book of Mormon
    - "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."
  - Words of the Savior to Moroni (**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 while not given to everyone are **available** to everyone.
  - The Book of Mormon declares that 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**).

## In Summary

- 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.
- The Gift of the Holy Ghost is **given** following baptism by the **laying on of hands**
  - It is more comprehensive.
  - It is a higher or greater endowment of Spirit.

## The Gift of the Holy Ghost

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).

This marvelous gift brings us many things:

The Bible teaches us that the Holy Ghost:

- **teaches us all things** and brings all things to our **remembrance** (see John 14:26).
- He **guides us** into truth and shows us things to come (see John 16:13).
- He **testifies** of the Son (see John 15:26; 1 Cor. 12:3).
- The Bible also teaches that the Savior and his servants will **baptize with the Holy Ghost and with fire** (see Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; John 1:33; Acts 1:5).

The Bible’s teachings about the Holy Ghost are reaffirmed and elaborated in the Book of Mormon and in modern revelations:

- The Holy Ghost is the means by which God **inspires** and **reveals His will** to his children (e.g., D&C 8:2-3).
- The Holy Ghost **bears record** of the Father and of the Son (see 3 Ne. 28:11; D&C 20:27; D&C 42:17).
- He **enlightens our minds** and **fills us with joy** (see D&C 11:13).
- By the power of the Holy Ghost we may **know the truth of all things** (see Moro. 10:5).
- By his power we may have the **mysteries of God unfolded** to us (see 1 Ne. 10:19), all things which are expedient (see D&C 18:18; D&C 39:6).
- The Holy Ghost shows us **what we should do** (see 2 Ne. 32:5)
- We **teach the gospel as we are directed** by the Holy Ghost, which carries our words into the hearts of those we teach (see 2 Ne. 33:1).

Latter-day scriptures also teach that:

- The remission of sins, which is made possible by the Atonement, comes “by baptism, and by fire, yea, even the Holy Ghost” (D&C 19:31; see also 2 Ne. 31:17). Thus, the Risen Lord pleaded with the Nephites to repent and come unto him and be baptized “that ye may be sanctified by the reception of the Holy Ghost, that ye may stand spotless before me at the last day” (3 Ne. 27:20).

### **Personal experience of Gift of Holy Ghost**

- Teaches
    - enlightens my mind as I study
  - Gives revelation for guidance and confirmation
  - Gives comfort
  - Bear witness to me of truth
- 
- We as baptized members have this most precious of gifts
  - However, there are two things we must realize

### **1) You cannot force Spiritual things.**

- Gifts of the Spirit - revelation, illumination do not come suddenly or without seeking
- **President Spencer W. Kimball** taught that the Holy Ghost: “comes a little at a time as you merit it. And as your life is in harmony, you gradually receive the Holy Ghost in a great measure” (*The Teachings of Spencer W. Kimball*, ed. Edward L. Kimball [1982], 114).
- **Elder Bednar** at the fireside



## 2) Blessings available based upon personal worthiness

- “The Spirit of the Lord doth not dwell in unholy temples” (Hel. 4:24; see also Mosiah 2:36-37; 1 Cor. 3:16-17).
- Elder Dallin H Oaks:  
”Even though we have a right to his constant companionship, the Spirit of the Lord will dwell only with us when we keep the commandments. He will withdraw when we offend him by profanity, uncleanness, disobedience, rebellion, or other serious sins.” (Dallin H. Oaks, “Always Have His Spirit,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1996, 59)
- I have felt the withdrawal of the Spirit from time to time.
  - Felt its return upon repentance & doing things that bring the Spirit
- As Bishop experience with repentance of others:
  - **Dark countenance**
  - Person “felt the Spirit in our home like never before”
  - Person “It has made a difference in relationship with spouse”

### Now What?

- We know the Rx
  - Scriptures
    - **20/20**
  - Prayers, FHE, commandments,
  - President Dalton:  
”even active, righteous members need to do these things to have the Spirit in their homes”
    - **Learn the language** of the Spirit there (in home)
  - **Sacrament** – “always have his Spirit to be with us”
  - Attend the Temple
    - Marvelous blessings
    - **Learn the language** of the Spirit there
- D&C 82:10  
I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say; but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise.

## Closing

**Testimony** - I don't know all reasons **why I feel as I do** with regards to importance of this focus. I just know I do.

### My Desire

- 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)
- Do the things that the Spirit "may always be with you"

### Express love

### Testimony