

One of the most precious and beautiful gifts from God is the Holy Ghost. It is also one of the most abused and offended attributes of God.

Once in a class on the Holy Ghost, the teacher expressed that the Holy Ghost was very sensitive and needed to be wooed, or courted. Webster's definition of woo is: to court solicitously; to invite with importunity. The teacher went on to give an example. When we meet the "love of our life," we desire his or her fellowship—we want to be with them constantly. We do everything in our power to win them to ourselves. This process is called courting. The instructor stated if we desired the Holy Ghost with as much passion and desire as we do for the "love of our life," we would walk on a celestial plain.

The Spirit of God is easily offended. We even feel we can control His Spirit. For example, we come to church with not much preparation, if any, and sit down expecting to be fed. Someone is designated to offer an invocation. He asks the Holy Ghost to come and bless what we have planned that day for a worship service. He (the Holy Ghost) is asked to bless the speaker that he may present the things he has prepared. He is asked to bless a people who have come unprepared. Then at the conclusion of the service, we have a benediction which thanks the Spirit of God for being there, whether he has or not; and hope He will be there on Wednesday for prayer service, and next Sunday for another service.

Some years back, a seventy I knew was told by the Lord that God is not subject to man, but man is subject to God. It is amazing how we think we can plan something and expect God to bless the work of our minds and hands.

Until we as a people learn how to woo the Spirit of God and respect His presence, we will suffer a lack of His manifestations. We also must learn how to let the Holy Ghost be in charge. "The elders are to conduct the meetings as they are led by the Holy Ghost, according to the commandments and revelations of God" (DC 17:9).

Moroni states regarding the elders, priests, and teachers, that "their meetings were conducted by the church, after the manner of the workings of the Spirit, and by the power of the Holy Ghost; for as the power of the Holy Ghost led them whether to preach or exhort, or to pray, or to supplicate, or to sing, even so it was done" (Moroni 6).

It is amazing how we box in and limit the Holy Ghost. Even in spite of this, He comes at times and ministers out of His love and desire for God's people. We seem to be satisfied with the crumbs from His table. It is His purpose and function to execute precisely the will of God.

There is a hymn which states, "We limit not the truth of God." Every time I sing that, I realize that we do limit the truth of God by limiting the Holy Ghost.

When the day comes that we can trust the priesthood to trust the Holy Ghost, and conduct our meetings as the Holy Ghost would direct, we shall come out of darkness into noontday light and receive blessings beyond our imagination.

Then, how do we woo the Spirit of God to come and minister to us?

First, we must remember that the Spirit of God is very sensitive and can be offended by our lack of respect and reverence. The Holy Ghost has feelings; these feelings are the feelings of God. There is even an offense against the Holy Ghost which is unpardonable, because an offense to the Holy Ghost is an offense against God. How we treat the Holy Ghost is how we treat God.

God has counseled us not to rush into His presence; that is, unprepared. We are to prepare our minds and our hearts to receive whatever God chooses to manifest to us by His Spirit. Once again, we cannot dictate to God or demand anything from Him. We are to humbly request His presence and ministry. God knows our needs before we ask Him, yet it is an act of faith that we mentally or orally petition Him. Pride, or a haughty spirit, will cause the Spirit to flee. Where, on the other hand, a broken heart and a contrite spirit is acceptable to God. This is how we should approach God for the manifestation of the Holy Ghost.

Second, we cannot depend on the prayer of another to prepare the way for the Spirit of God to be manifest to us. Invocations are an old Judaic and Christian tradition, based on the belief that God is way

up there and we are way down here, and somehow we need to summon Him down here in the form of His Spirit to minister to us. When we are done with Him, or His Spirit, then a benediction sends Him once again into the heavens. This tradition, which is a carry over from Protestantism, has no place in the theology of Christ's Church.

We are told that His Spirit is in and through all things. The scripture states that the Spirit of Christ is given to every man who comes into this world. This is not to be confused with the gift of the Holy Ghost, which is given to those who come unto Christ under the covenant of baptism and the laying on of hands (for the reception of the Holy Ghost) by authoritative priesthood.

This Spirit of Christ, which is given to all men, is to lead them into all light, or truth—to direct them back to God. I call this Spirit, conscience. We believe that light and truth is found within the Restoration of Christ's Church, and this Spirit of Christ is to lead them, ultimately, into His Church.

Those of us who have come into the body of Christ have been given the Gift of the Holy Ghost. This means we now have access to a greater manifestation of God's Spirit. This greater manifestation desires to dwell within us, to find permanent residence within our soul. With it comes gifts of the Spirit, revelation, and comfort from God. The sad part of this great blessing is, that we do not walk and function in a way that the Holy Ghost can find permanent residence within us. He comes and goes as we allow Him. We walk in disobedience to the commandments, desiring to do our own thing. Our souls are bound to Babylon so much of the time. So our gift has the most difficult time of manifesting to us God's will.

When we enter into a place of worship, we should come in such a manner that we have brought Him (the Holy Ghost) with us, abiding in us. This means some forethought and preparation has been made. The Spirit of God should also be waiting for us, as the scripture states: "I shall go before you and prepare the way." God wants to meet with us. It is through and by the Holy Ghost that this is done, until we become sanctified and able to bear His presence.

Now, if we have made preparation, humbling ourselves and penitent before God, then we should quietly and reverently enter the place of worship so as not to offend His waiting Spirit.

We as Latter Day Saints are also chatter-day Saints. When we gather together, we want to visit. The question is, did we come to visit and socialize, or worship? If the answer is worship, then reverence is mandatory.

Catholicism, with all its abominations, has one aspect I respect; and that is the reverence in their churches and worship. There is a respect for the Holy of Holies. Even though misguided, it is yet present. Latter Day Saints need to learn how to come together and worship God in reverence.

Just stop and think now, when you were aware of the Spirit of God, was it in humility and a time of reverence?

Let us be mindful of God's Holy Spirit, respect His feelings, and prepare ourselves for His indwelling. He wants to come and abide with us continually. We must walk in such a way that God can have His way with us.

HOLY SPIRIT - HOLY GHOST

Over many years i have heard men of the priesthood preach and teach that there is no difference between the Holy Spirit and the Holy Ghost. This has bothered me as to whether there is a difference.

I have taken the Bible, Book of Mormon, and the Doctrine and Covenants to see what they have to say. The scriptures state that there is a marked difference in their meaning. Our Priesthood and members should know that there is a difference.

It is recognized that the scriptures are the word of God. In the Book of Mormon, Nephi, the son of Lehi, was given a vision interpreting the word of God as the Rod of Iron. We as a people stress, in our teaching and preaching, that if it is not in the scriptures we do not accept it as the word of God.

This presentation has been put together that we may become more unified in understanding the word of God

I expect these scriptures will not convince all the priesthood and members that there is a difference in the Holy Spirit and the Holy Ghost.

WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE?

- Moroni 6:1 And now I speak concerning baptism
- Moroni 6:2 Behold, elders, priests, and teachers were baptized; and they were not baptized, save they brought forth fruit meet that they were worthy of it; neither did they receive any unto baptism, save they came forth with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, and witnessed unto the church that they truly repented of all their sins.
- Moroni 6:3 And none were received unto baptism, save they took upon them the name of Christ, having a determination to serve him to the end.
And after they had been received unto baptism, and were wrought upon and cleansed by the power of the Holy Ghost, they were numbered among the people of the church of Christ.
- D & C 17:20 No one can be received into the church of Christ unless he has arrived unto the years of accountability before God, and is capable of repentance.
- D & C 17:21a Baptism is to be administered in the following manner unto all those who repent.
- D & C 76:5 And again, we bear record for we saw and heard, and this is the testimony of the gospel of Christ, concerning them who come forth in the resurrection of the just:
- They are they who received the testimony of Jesus, and believed on his name, and were baptized after the manner of his burial, being buried in the water in his name, and this according to the commandment which he has given, that by keeping the commandments, they might be washed and cleansed from all their sins,
- And receive the Holy ~~Spirit~~ ^{Ghost} by the laying on of the hands of him who is ordained and sealed unto this power;
- And who overcame by faith, and are sealed by that Holy Spirit of Promise, which the father sheds forth upon all those who are just and true;
- They are they who are the church of the Firstborn,
- They are they into whose hands the Father has given all things;
- D & C 76:5g They are they who are priests and kings who have received of his fullness, and of his glory, and are priests of the Most High after the order of Melchisedec, which was after the order of Enoch, which was after the order of the only begotten Son;

HOLY GHOST - HOLY SPIRIT

COMMENT

This paper is written to show that the Holy Spirit, The Holy Ghost, The Spirit of God, The Spirit of Christ, The Holy Spirit of Promise, is the same spirit, though the function is different in most cases, that is the authority given is different, yet it has a primary function of leading men and women to God with its origin being God.

Gen.6:57

And the Lord spake unto Adam, saying, In as much as thy children are conceived in sin, even so, when they begin to grow up sin conceiveth in their hearts, and they taste the bitter, that they may know to prize the good.

And it is given unto them to know good from evil; wherefore, they are agents unto themselves.

COMMENT

From this we can see that the first out pouring of Gods Spirit to us is the knowledge of good and evil, which can if we let it bring us to God.

Gen.5:1

And the Lord called upon men, by the Holy Ghost, everywhere and commanded them that they should repent;

Gen.6:51

But God hath made hath made known unto our fathers, that all men must repent.

And he called upon our father Adam, by his own voice, saying, I am God, I made the world, and men before they were flesh.

And he also said unto him, If thou wilt, turn unto me and hearken unto my voice, and believe, and repent of all thy transgressions, and be baptized, even in water, in the name of mine only Begotten Son, who is full of grace and truth, which is Jesus Christ, the only name which shall be given under heaven, whereby salvation shall come unto the children of men; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, asking all things in his name, and whatsoever ye shall ask it shall be given you.

Gen.6:67

And it vame to pass, when the Lord had spoken with Adam our father, that Adam cried unto the Lord, and was carried down into the water, and was laid under the water, and was brought forth out of the water; and thus he was baptized.

And the Spirit of God descended upon him, and thus he was born of the Spirit, and became quickened in the inner man.

And he heard a voice out of heaven, saying, Thou art baptized with fire and with the Holy Ghost; this is the record of the Father and the Son, from henseforth and for ever.

COMMENT

Notice hear, that in verce 68 it is called the Spirit of God, which it is, but also in verse 69 it is called the Holy Ghost, which it also is. The word Holy Spirit, Holy Ghost, and Spirit of God are the same.

1 John 3:5

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water, and the Spirit, he can not enter into the kingdom of God.

That which is born of the flesh, is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit, is spirit.

t.8:14

Now when the Apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John;

Who when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost.

[For as yet he was fallen upon none of them; only they were baptized

HOLY GHOST -HOLY SPIRIT

JRONI 7:14

For behold, the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that he may know good from evil; wherefore I shew unto you the way to judge. ...

COMMENT

Once again we are given to know that the Lord has provided us with his spirit to guide us to him, that we might know right from wrong, his ways from the devils ways, so that we might know his church, and that we can come to him. Now this is not the same as receiving of the Holy Ghost. It is the same Spirit but does not give the same blessings.

2 Nephi 13:15

And also, the voice of the Son came unto me, saying, He that is baptized in my name, to him will the Father give the Holy Ghost, like unto me; wherefore, follow me, and do the things ye have seen me do.

2 Nephi 14:11

For if ye would hearken unto the spirit which teaches a man to pray, ye would know that ye must pray; for the evil spirit teaches not a man to pray, but teaches him that he must not pray.

COMMENT

There is opposition in all things, that is why we need to know the Spirit of God and be able to recognise it.

Moroni 10:9

And there are different ways that these gifts are administered; but it is the same God who worketh all in all; and they are given by the manifestations of the Spirit of God unto men to profit them.

For behold, to one is given by the Spirit of God, that he may teach the word of wisdom; and to another, that he may teach the word of knowledge by the same Spirit, and to another exceeding great faith; and to another, the gift of healing by the same Spirit.

And again, to another, that he may work mighty miracles; and again, to another, that he may prophesy concerning all things; and again, to another, the beholding of angels and ministering spirits; and again, to another, all kinds of tongues; and again, to another, the interpretation of languages and of divers kinds of tongues.

And all these gifts come by the Spirit of Christ; and they come unto everyman severally, according as he will.

And I would exhort you, my beloved brethren, that ye remember that every good gift cometh of Christ.

1 Nephi 7:4

For by the Spirit are all things made known unto the prophets, which shall come upon the children of men according to the flesh.

COMMENT

So that whatever the name given, it is still the same spirit, however the function is of a certain, or somewhat lesser or greater power.

Alma 5:23

Now the Spirit knoweth all things; nevertheless the Son of God suffereth according to the flesh, that he might take upon him the sins of his people. .

Helaman 2:111

And behold the Holy Spirit of God did come down from heaven, and did enter into their hearts, and they were filled as if with fire; and they could speak forth marvelous words.

COMMENT

The Holy Ghost or the Holy Spirit, which is the same Spirit and the same power of the Spirit, does not always cause or allow the gift of tongues when it is given to a newly baptized person, but it is not unheard of this happening either. I put this in so that if you did not have this experience when the hands were layed on you for the receiveing of the Holy Ghost, you will know that you did receive the Holy Ghost, as it is more common that this does not happen, than that it happens.

HOLY GHOST - HOLY SPIRIT

D. & C. 83:7_b

For the word of the Lord is truth, and whatsoever is truth is light, and whatsoever is light is Spirit, even the Spirit of Jesus Christ;

(And the Spirit 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;

And everyone that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit, cometh unto God, even the Father.

COMMENT

As is recorded in the Bible, and The Book Of Mormon, it is also recorded hear, that unto every one that is born, the Lord gives the Holy ~~Ghost~~ Spirit to everyone that they might come unto him, if they so desire. This is not the same power that is given at baptism, but is the same spirit.

D. & C. 55:1

Not in Jos. S.'s original works

Behold, thus saith the Lord unto you, my servant William; yea, even the Lord of the whole earth,

You are called and chosen, and after you have been baptized by water, which if you do with an eye single to my glory, you shall have a remission of your sins, and a reception of the Holy Spirit, by the laying on of hands.

And then you shall be ordained by the hand of my servant Joseph Smith, Jr., to be an elder unto this church, to preach repentance and the remission of sins by the way of baptism in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God;

and on whomsoever you shall lay your hands, if they are contrite before me, you shall have power to give the Holy Spirit.

COMMENT

Once again, the words Holy Ghost and Holy Spirit are innerchangeable they are the same Spirit and the same power is given, as they are one and the same.

D. & C. 76:5

And again, we bear record for we saw and heard, and this is the testimony of the gospel of Christ, concerning them who come forth in the resurrection of the just;

They are they who receive the testimony of Jesus, and believe on his name, and they were baptized after the manner of his burial, being buried in the water in his name, and this according to the commandment which he was given, that by keeping the commandments, they might be washed and cleansed from all their sins,

and receive the Holy Ghost by the laying on of the hands of him who is ordained and sealed unto this power;

And who overcome by faith, and are sealed by that Holy Spirit of Promise, which the Father sheds forth upon all those who are just and true.

They are they who are the church of the Firstborn;

D. & C. 85:2a

This comforter is the promise which I give unto you of eternal life, even the glory of the celestial kingdom; which glory is that of the church of the firstborn, even of God, the Holiest of all, through Jesus Christ, his Son;

D. & C. 107:38

First I give unto you, Hyrum Smith, to be a Patriarch unto you, to hold the sealing blessing of my church, (even the Holy Spirit of Promise,)

HOLY GHOST - HOLY SPIRIT

he that asketh in the spirit, asketh according to the will of God, wherefore it is done even as he asketh.

And again I say unto you, All things must be done in the name of Christ, whatsoever you do in the spirit;

and ye must give thanks unto god in the spirit for whatever blessing ye are blessed with; and ye must practice virtue and holiness before me continually. Even so. Amen.

Lesson 5 ORDINANCES GIVE PLACE FOR THE HOLY GHOST

Alma 5:24-28	Must be born again
Psa 111:10	Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom
Ecc 12:13	Fear God and keep commandments
Gen 6:63	Keep commandments by water
2N 13:8-9	Baptism keeps commandments
Rom 6:3-6	Crucify natural man in baptism
Mos 9:38-42	Covenant made in baptism
2N 13:15-17	Gift of Holy Ghost given after baptism
Mri 2:2-3	Holy Ghost given by laying on of hands
Mri 6:4	Cleansed by Holy Spirit
1Cor 6:11	Washed and sanctified
Gal 2:20	Baptized have put on Christ
Rom 8:9-11	Christ lives in us as Holy Spirit
1Cor 6:19	Bodies are temples of the Holy Ghost
Rom 8:14-17	If led by the Spirit then God's
1J 3:24	Know He abides in us by the Spirit
D&C 76:2	Blessings given to righteous
2N 13:18	Speak with tongues of angels
D&C 47:5-7	Gifts of Holy Ghost listed
Mri 7:41-43	Manifestations cease when faith ceases
D&C 63:3	Faith comes not by signs
Matt 7:29-32	Not all who prophesey are saved
Gal 5:22-23	Fruits of the Spirit listed
Eth 5:7	Witness after the trial of your faith
D&C 85:1c-2a	Comfort of eternal life
Heb 11:5	Testimony that he pleased God