

Understanding the Godhead 2 – Holy Ghost

(Priest Lesson January 2015 – Roald Peterson)

Introduction

Since our last lesson dealt with God the Father, it might seem logical to talk about Jesus Christ. But I feel that we should use this lesson to learn more about the Holy Ghost – for a couple of reasons. First, he is the one who leads us to Christ. Second, he is the member of the Godhead with whom we interact most often in our fallen, mortal state. Third, most of us know far too little about this wonderful being who has postponed the blessings of mortality so he can help us through our mortal probation.

What is the Holy Ghost?

- Holy Ghost is a member of the Godhead and represents the Father and the Savior. How we treat him, seek his counsel, heed him, or ignore him is the same as if he were the Father.

“The Holy Ghost is the third member of the Godhead. He is a Spirit, in the form of a man. ... The Holy Ghost is a personage of Spirit, and has a spirit body only. His mission is to bear witness of the Father and the Son and of all truth.

“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. He is also called the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of Truth, and the Comforter” (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, 1:38).

- Holy Ghost has the spirit body of a man, and looks, walks, and talks as a spirit man.

... I beheld that he was in the form of a man; yet nevertheless, I knew that it was the Spirit of the Lord; and he spake unto me as a man speaketh with another. (1 Nephi 11:11)

- Holy Ghost is a personage of spirit so that he can dwell with us. Because God is merciful and loves his children, he wanted us to have the help of God available to us even in our fallen mortal condition.

... the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of Spirit. Were it not so, the Holy Ghost could not dwell in us. (DC 130:22)

- Will HG ever get a physical body? Yes and no.
- As a member of Godhead he cannot dwell in unclean temples. (Alma 7:21)

Missions of the Holy Ghost

- Bears witness of the Father and the Son. (DC 20:27)
- Bears witness of the truth of all things. (Moroni 10:5)
- Holy Ghost is “the Comforter” because he comforts us in our fallen condition. We have lost immortality, perfect health, celestial glory, the presence of God, and many other things.
- Teaches all things. (John 14:26)
- Brings all things to our remembrance. (John 14:26)
- Fills us with hope and perfect love. (Moroni 8:26)

- Shows us all things we should do. (2 Nephi 32:5)
- Is the spirit of revelation and the spirit of prophecy. (Alma 5:46–47)
- Holy Ghost conveys the gifts of the Spirit to the children of God (1 Corinthians 12:1–11; Moroni 10:9–17; D&C 46:13–26).
- Reproves the world for sin (John 16:8; D&C 121:43).
- Guides us to all truth and shows us what we should know and do (see John 16:13; Moroni 10:5; D&C 39:6; 2 Nephi 32:5; Moses 8:24).
- Enables us to ask of God according to the will of God (see D&C 46:30; 63:64). (Prayer Circle)
- Those who speak by the power of the Holy Ghost speak scripture (see D&C 68:4; 2 Peter 1:21).
- Enables righteous individuals to discern the thoughts of others (Alma 10:17; 12:3; 18:16–18; Jacob 2:5).
- Wise virgins are guided by the Holy Ghost and will not be deceived (see D&C 45:57).

Holy Ghost is Justifier

- Justifies us by purifying our hearts and making us innocent – without sin.

... the gate by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism by water; and then cometh a remission of your sins by fire and by the Holy Ghost. (2 Nephi 31:17)

... For by the water ye keep the commandment; by the Spirit ye are justified, ... (Moses 6:60)

Holy Ghost is the Sanctifier

- Holy Ghost is the agent of sanctification. It is he who, through the atonement, makes us pure and holy.

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. (Alma 13:12)

- Sanctification not only means to become pure, but to become holy. To become holy is to have a change of purpose – to be dedicated to God's purpose – which is to save and exalt all those who are willing.
- When you bless the sacrament you asked the Lord to sanctify the bread and water to change their worldly purpose to a holy purpose.
- If we do not change our purpose to God's purpose, we will not become gods.

Holy Ghost is the Holy Spirit of Promise (HSP)

- The function of the Holy Spirit of Promise is to ratify or seal the promises of God upon those who obey the laws pertaining to those promises.
- Covenants that we make are only valid when they're sealed by the Holy Ghost acting as the HSP. (DC 132:7)
- Men and women cannot become gods until their exaltation is sealed upon them by the HSP. (DC 76:53)

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- HSP is sometimes referred to as "**another comforter**" because it goes beyond the "first comforter" functions of the Holy Ghost, and comforts sanctified people with the promise of eternal life. (DC 88:3) This is not to be confused with the Second Comforter, who is Jesus Christ.
- As HSP he is also known as the **Record of Heaven**. If he doesn't bear record of it – it isn't true. (Moses 6:61)
- Holy Ghost knows all things. (DC 35:19)

How to Have Companionship of Holy Ghost

- Make covenant of baptism. (2 Nephi 31:4)
- Receive a remission of sins. (Moroni 8:26)
- Have meekness and lowliness of heart. (Moroni 8:26)
- Be diligent in our prayers. (Moroni 8:26)
- Fast and pray. (Alma 5:46–47)

Sometimes Comes With Sign of a Dove

“The sign of the dove was instituted before the creation of the world, a witness for the Holy Ghost, and the devil cannot come in the sign of a dove. The Holy Ghost is a personage, and is in the form of a personage. It does not confine itself to the form of the dove, but in sign of the dove. The Holy Ghost cannot be transformed into a dove; but the sign of a dove was given to John to signify the truth of the deed, as the dove is an emblem or token of truth and innocence” (Joseph Smith, Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, 276).

How is Holy Ghost Omnipresent?

23 A man may receive the Holy Ghost, and it may descend upon him and not tarry with him. (DC 130:23)

“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” (Joseph F. Smith, Gospel Doctrine, 61).

- Spirit is organized intelligence. (Abraham 3:22–23)
- Spirit is just a different form of matter. Matter (element) is also intelligence. All things are made of intelligences.

There is no such thing as immaterial matter. All spirit is matter, but it is more fine or pure, and can only be discerned by purer eyes; (DC 131:7)

- Intelligence is also glory, light, and truth.

36 The glory of God is intelligence, or, in other words, light and truth. (DC 93:36)

- Intelligence comes out of God and forms a great cloud of spirit or light or glory (you choose what you want to call it.) It comes from Christ, who received it from the Father, and fills the universe. It is called the Light of Truth and the Light of Christ. (DC 88:4–13)
- Holy Ghost Operates Through the Light of Christ.

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)

- Notice also the other things the Holy Ghost makes available to you:

- Record of Heaven
- Comforter
- Peaceable things of immortal glory
- Truth of all things
- Quickeneth all things
- Gives life to all things
- Knows all things
- Has all power

How to Have Companionship of Holy Ghost

- Make covenant of baptism. (2 Nephi 31:4)
- During confirmation we were commanded to receive the Holy Ghost. - Difference between Gift & HG.
- Receive a remission of sins. (Moroni 8:26)
- Have meekness and lowliness of heart. (Moroni 8:26)
- Be diligent in our prayers. (Moroni 8:26)
- Fast and pray. (Alma 5:46–47)
- A few of the blessings of those who receive the Holy Ghost:

2 Now these sons of Mosiah were with Alma at the time the angel first appeared unto him; therefore Alma did rejoice exceedingly to see his brethren; and what added more to his joy, they were still his brethren in the Lord; yea, and they had waxed strong in the knowledge of the truth; for they were men of a sound understanding and they had searched the scriptures diligently, that they might know the word of God.

3 But this is not all; they had given themselves to much prayer, and fasting; therefore they had the spirit of prophecy, and the spirit of revelation, and when they taught, they taught with power and authority of God. (Alma 17:2–3)