

A PERSONAL TRUE STORY

A Witness
of the
Gifts
of the
Spirit

Anonymous

*Hope is believing, faith is asking,
knowledge is receiving, and priesthood is becoming.*

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Introduction

This book was originally planned to be a part of the book, *How To Open Your Spiritual Eyes*, but I was instructed to separate it into a second volume. It is meant to be a reference to help you to understand the many gifts of the Spirit that the Lord wishes to bestow upon you. Some of this information may be familiar; however, if it is new, seek your own witness from the Lord.

I always advise my readers to begin with the book *How To Have Your Second Comforter* before reading the other books. This is because if you are not comfortable with the first book, you will surely not like what comes afterward. Usually, I suggest reading them in succession, but in the case of these two new volumes I would ask you to read *How To Open Your Spiritual Eyes*, followed by *A Witness to the Gifts of the Spirit* before the other witness books.

My hope is that you will develop a relationship with the Lord to where He can personally show you the same things I have seen. You will probably see much I have not. That is the beauty of the Heavenly Realm, it is endless and you will never run out of things to learn.

These volumes are for those who are awakening to their mission with the Lord. A fire burns within you to know Jesus Christ personally, to be a witness, and to serve Him with all your heart. There is no accident to this consuming desire, for we come to this world prepared to perform a mission, and your awakening is part of the journey.

The Gifts of the Spirit

What is a simple definition of a Gift of the Spirit? **A spiritual bestowal of power for the purpose of building the Kingdom of God.** This spiritual power is God’s priesthood in action. It does not come upon us by passing a worthiness interview from a church authority or by years of scholarly study. It is not qualified by gender or age.¹ It is simply given to God’s humble servants because of their pure hearts² and an eye single to His glory.³

“Priesthood” is an interesting word. We often associate it with the rights to officiate in Church ordinances and duties. The full implication is more to do with the level of relationship we have with the Lord.⁴ That relationship is what determines the level of spiritual gifts we are allowed to use.⁵ If we are disconnected from the Lord, our outward priesthood actions will be hollow and without power.⁶

Some of these gifts of the Spirit can be received before baptism, and some after receiving the Gift of the Holy Ghost. This is meant to be a general list of the gifts the Lord would bestow upon His servants.⁷

¹ Acts 10:34-35, Mormon 8:12, D&C 38:16

² 3 Nephi 12:8, D&C 56:18

³ Matthew 6:22, 3 Nephi 13:21-22, Mormon 8:15-16, D&C 4:5, D&C 88:67-68

⁴ Alma 13, D&C 84:35-39 “And also all they who receive this priesthood receive me, saith the Lord; For he that receiveth my servants receiveth me; And he that receiveth me receiveth my Father; And he that receiveth my Father receiveth my Father’s kingdom; therefore all that my Father hath shall be given unto him. And this is according to the oath and covenant which belongeth to the priesthood.”

⁵ Alma 13:10, Helaman 10:4-5, 3 Nephi 14:8-11

⁶ Matthew 7:22-23

⁷ Scriptures that lists the gifts of the Spirit: Omni 1:25, Mosiah 8:16-18, Alma 9:21, 3 Nephi 29:6, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, D&C 46:8-29

List of the Gifts of the Spirit:

1. Believing on their words that Jesus is the Christ
2. Gift of Discernment
3. Gift Revelation
4. Gift of Forgiveness
5. Faith to be Healed
6. Ministering of Angels
7. Gift of Charity
8. Gift of Tongues
9. Interpretation of Tongues
10. Faith to Heal
11. Discerning of Spirits
12. Gift of Prophecy
13. Gift of Preaching
14. Gift of Translation
15. Working of Miracles
16. The Word of Knowledge
17. The Word of Wisdom
18. To Know the Diversities of Operations
19. To Know the Differences of Administration
20. Knowing that Jesus is the Christ

Seeking the Gifts of the Spirit can be dangerous if our heart is not right with God. We are commanded to seek these gifts, but there is a warning:

“Wherefore, beware lest ye are deceived; and that ye may not be deceived seek ye earnestly the best gifts, always remembering for what they are given; for verily I say unto you, they are given for the benefit of those who love me and keep all my commandments, and him that seeketh so to do; that all may be benefited that seek or that ask of

me, that ask and not for a sign that they may consume it upon their lusts.” (D&C 46: 7-9)

Although it is important to seek the best gifts, we must be careful to only seek them for the glory of God and not for our own pride or personal promotion. The Lord is very good to us, and promises to share these gifts freely.

“For all have not every gift given unto them; for there are many gifts, and to every man is given a gift by the Spirit of God.⁸ To some is given one, and to some is given another, that all may be profited thereby.” (D&C 46:11-12)⁹

If your desires are to know truth, to become a servant of the Lord by bringing His glory to the earth, according to His will, then you are ready to receive the gifts of the Spirit.

“And it shall come to pass that he that **asketh** in Spirit shall receive in Spirit; that unto some it may be given to have all those gifts, that there may be a head, in order that every member may be profited thereby. He that **asketh** in the Spirit **asketh** according to the will of God; wherefore it is done even as he **asketh**.” (D&C 46:28-30)

Four times the Lord uses the word “asketh.” When we ask the Lord for that which we desire in righteousness (in harmony with God’s will) we are given all the gifts.¹⁰

⁸ 1 Corinthians 12:7-31

⁹ Moroni 10:8

¹⁰ Moses 6:52, 2 Nephi 4:33-35, Luke 11:13

I will now carefully go through this list of spiritual gifts to explain what they are. This is my witness based upon what the Lord has shown me and commanded that I share. For more information, how they can be developed, refer to the book, “How To Open Your Spiritual Eyes.” Please pray for a personal witness for how this can be applied for you.

1) Believing on Their Words that Jesus is the Christ

This is perhaps the most fundamental of the gifts of the Spirit,¹¹ and all other spiritual gifts are built upon this. One of the first gifts we receive is to believe the words of the Lord’s servants regarding the truthfulness of Jesus Christ.

Have you ever wondered why so many of the earth’s population have no interest in hearing the Gospel? They go about their lives, comfortable in their beliefs, often established from thousands of years of culture and tradition. Why would the Lord not bless everyone with this gift to believe, so that they may all have the blessings of the Lord’s covenant?¹²

The fact is, the gifts are available to all those who desire them. This gift is particularly unique in that it was first bestowed before we were born into mortality. Not all are under the covenant of the House of Israel, and not all have partaken of the Everlasting Covenant;¹³ which is central to Jesus Christ. The seed of men live a

¹¹ D&C 46:13-14

¹² The Witness of the Temporal Dispensations, Pg. 10-11

¹³ D&C 22:1 The Everlasting Covenant is not polygamy, as stated in D&C 132. It is the complete plan whereby we covenant to be heirs through Christ’s atonement, and to plan toward eternal exaltation. The details of this covenant have not been revealed in their fullness to the world, or to the temporal church.

telestial law and are covered under the atonement,¹⁴ but will not receive eternal life unless they come unto Christ. Those who have made previous covenants (The Elect)¹⁵ will feel their hearts burn within them¹⁶ when they are in the presence of the Lord's servants and they will desire the Gospel. There are occasions when Gentiles, because of special circumstances, feel compelled to come unto Christ.¹⁷

As many people as there are in the world, and with so many religions, and philosophies, it is truly a needle in the haystack for most people to find this gift from God. Many people are hungry for the Gospel, but they do not know where to find it.

“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:” Amos 8:11

This declaration of the Lord was originally for the Israelites, because they had abandoned their covenant. The Lord gave us the New Covenant¹⁸ before His resurrection and made the Gospel available to all the gentiles. But, because of the craftiness of men,¹⁹ it has become difficult to find the Lord.

“For there are many yet on the earth among all sects, parties, and denominations, who are blinded by the subtle craftiness of men, whereby they lie in wait to deceive, and who are only kept from the

¹⁴ Moroni 8:22

¹⁵ Joseph Smith Matthew 1:22

¹⁶ 3 Nephi 11:3, Luke 24:32, 2 Nephi 16:10, Alma 19:13, D&C 9:8

¹⁷ Acts 10:44-48, Acts 15:8-9, Acts 16:14

¹⁸ Matthew 26:26-29 (Testament is the same as covenant.) 3 Nephi 12:46-48, Hebrews 8 and 9

¹⁹ Secret combinations among the principalities and powers of the earth.

truth because they know not where to find it.” D&C 123:12

It is the responsibility of the Lord’s servants, as they are called,²⁰ to preach His Gospel.

“Therefore, repent all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me, and believe in my gospel, and be baptized in my name; for he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned; and signs shall follow them that believe in my name.” Ether 4:18

What are the signs that shall follow those that believe?²¹ These are no less that the gifts of the Spirit. But, first the Gospel is to be preached by the Lord’s servants.

“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:14-15

When they shall hear the Gospel, they feel the Spirit and desire to learn more. Sometimes this comes in the form of scripture,²² and sometimes by direct preaching.²³ What does it take for someone to acquire this gift? It requires us to have a desire to know to the extent that we cry out to God. This was the case with King Lamoni:

²⁰ D&C 4:3-7

²¹ Mormon 9:24-25

²² John 20:30-31, 1 Nephi 19:23, 2 Nephi 4:15-16, Mosiah 27:35-36, Alma 17:2

²³ 1 Thessalonians 2:13

“And it came to pass that after he had said all these things, and expounded them to the king, that the king believed all his words. And he began to cry unto the Lord, saying: O Lord, have mercy; according to thy abundant mercy which thou hast had upon the people of Nephi, have upon me, and my people. And now, when he had said this, he fell unto the earth, as if he were dead.” Alma 18:40-42

The power to believe, opened the door to a complete baptism of fire and Holy Ghost experience. It is beautiful how the Lord blesses us according to our faith regardless of who we are. The gentiles in Jerusalem were able to receive a fullness²⁴ after they believed.

“And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? When they heard these things, they held their peace,²⁵ and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.” Acts 11:15-18

Through the gift of believing on the apostle’s words they were able to receive the Holy Ghost. Truly, the gift to believe on their words is the strike point for all the gifts of the Spirit.

“And it came to pass that the thirty and first year did pass away, and there were but few who were

²⁴ Gift of the Holy Ghost

²⁵ To “hold their peace” means to keep it to themselves.

converted unto the Lord; but as many as were converted did truly signify unto the people that they had been visited by the power and Spirit of God, which was in Jesus Christ, in whom they believed. And as many as had devils cast out from them, and were healed of their sicknesses and their infirmities, did truly manifest unto the people that they had been wrought upon by the Spirit of God, and had been healed; and they did show forth signs also and did do some miracles among the people.” 3 Nephi 7:21-22

As I have said before, “Hope is believing, faith is asking, knowledge is receiving, and priesthood is becoming.” This gift is a precursor to all other gifts.

“And again, more blessed are they who shall believe in your words because that ye shall testify that ye have seen me, and that ye know that I am. Yea, blessed are they who shall believe in your words, and come down into the depths of humility and be baptized, for they shall be visited with fire and with the Holy Ghost, and shall receive a remission of their sins.” 3 Nephi 12:2

The gift to believe on their words opens the door to the baptism of fire and gift of the Holy Ghost.

“And now Father, I pray unto thee for them, and also for all those who shall believe on their words, that they may believe in me, that I may be in them as thou, Father, art in me, that we may be one.” 3 Nephi 19:23

To have the gift “to believe on their words that Jesus is the Christ,” is to have the faith to start the journey of ascending the hill of the Lord.²⁶ We have planted the seed in our heart, because of hope;²⁷ and if we cry out to the Lord we will be given more gifts until we have them all in their fullness.²⁸ It is advisable, as the Lord’s servants, to pray that those to whom we minister receive this gift.²⁹

2) Gift of Discernment

This spiritual gift is one of the most important and fundamental gifts we can desire. But it is often overlooked and desperately needed by those who would be God’s servants. It is freely given, but requires a process of development.

The key component of discernment occurs where your heart is, whether you seek The Lord or the things of the world. When a person first begins to plant the seed of faith they are able to discern if it as a good seed simply by how it grows within their hearts. If it feels right, has a warm familiarity, or clarity, they will feel drawn to it.

The way the Lord helps us to cultivate this gift is by giving us His commandments. As we read the scriptures, and study the lives of the prophets and the Lord’s covenant people, we begin to see the pattern which helps us to discern basic principles that can guide us. At this stage things seem black and white. We grow in our association with the Lord and He blesses us with His Spirit, which is

²⁶ Psalm 24:3

²⁷ Alma 32:27-43

²⁸ D&C 46:29-30, Not everyone receives all the gifts in this life, but eventually as you receive all things from the Lord every gift shall be manifest to you.

²⁹ 1 Corinthians 1:4-7, 1 Nephi 1:5, Alma 6:6, 3 Nephi 1:11

referred to as the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost in scripture.³⁰ This can lead one to seek baptism of water as a sign to the Father that we have accepted Jesus the Christ.³¹ Then, as we continue in righteousness (following the Spirit) we are blessed with the baptism of fire and the Gift of the Holy Ghost.³² We continue to be led by the same Spirit, but now we are joined to our Lord, Jesus Christ.³³

The Gift of Discernment takes on a larger role in our development the closer we come to Him.³⁴ We can be given this gift early on, when we are seeking to know the Lord, or later after we have received the Gift of the Holy Ghost. But, the closer we come to Him, the level in which dark familiar spirits will seek to sidetrack and destroy us will increase. If we correctly discern the Adversary, they will switch gears and try a new tactic. The good news is that the Lord will always help us to come around and see the difference between His voice and the familiar spirit.

“But ye are commanded in all things to ask of God, who giveth liberally; and that which the Spirit testifies unto you even so I would that ye should do in all holiness of heart, walking uprightly before me, considering the end of your salvation, doing all things with prayer and thanksgiving, that ye may not be seduced by evil spirits, or doctrines of devils, or

³⁰ Luke 11:10-13, Jarom 1:4, See How To Open Your Spiritual Eyes, Anonymous, pg. The Holy Ghost can be the same as the Holy Spirit or different depending upon the context.

³¹ Romans 6:3-5,

³² Hebrews 6:1-4, 2 Nephi 31:13

³³ Galatians 3:26-29, Romans 15:4

³⁴ D&C 46:27, 1 Kings 3:9-11, 1 Corinthians 2:14, Hebrews 4:12, Alma 18:18, Alma 32:35

the commandments of men; for some are of men, and others of devils.” (D&C 46:7)

We are commanded to pray and to ask of God for what we should do,³⁵ that we be not deceived; either by evil spirits, false doctrine, or the words of men. These verses then go on to list the gifts of the Spirit with the commandment to “seek ye earnestly the best gifts.” One of those is the Gift of Discernment. The more gifts you acquire, the easier it becomes to spot the Adversary.

When you receives this gift, you can expect more clarity in seeing truth verses error. The subtlety of a familiar spirit is their ability to sugar coat the lies they communicate to us. They are called “familiar” because they know you intimately. Often these spirits have followed you for many years.³⁶ They know your desires, beliefs, trusts, doctrinal views and almost everything. If they can get you to move your direction even a slight percentage away from the light, they begin to have power over you.

When the Adversary wishes to deceive us, he may often appeal to our pride or comfort, and will use guilt and discouragement to stop our progression. They speak in a voice that sounds like our own. Here are some examples that you may be hearing a false spirit:

Pride:

- “You would make a great leader; the Lord needs you.”
- “Go serve that person now, people will see you.”
- “You should spend more time working, a good father must provide for his family.”

³⁵ D&C 50:31-32

³⁶ Often these spirits do not know your background before birth; therefore, the become more aggressive as they realize you are a servant of the Lord. But the Lord prepares His servants to discern.

- “Read your scriptures more; you don’t want to be embarrassed for not knowing that.”
- “It’s more important that you clean that room than spend time with your son; cleanliness is next to Godliness.”
- “You don’t need your Second Comforter; the Lord will give you what you need when the time is right.”
- “It’s good to pray, but don’t expect the Lord to answer you.”
- “You are the greatest among my servants.”

Comfort:

- “I promise you will become rich with the things of the world.”
- “Your success and money is a sign of your standing with the Lord.”
- “You will not have to face the Adversary again because of your worthiness.”
- “You have more power than any of them.”
- “You shall be given what you desire if you do this.”
(something temporal)

Guilt:

- You can’t expect the Lord to do that, because you really did some bad things.
- Your past sins make you too unworthy as him/her to expect the same results.
- You had your chance, now you have to start over again. You should have done more.
- Why would the Lord bless you?
- Remember what you did? (Dwelling upon past sins.)

Discouragement:

- That didn't go well. Stop while you're ahead.
- You are not smart enough.
- You aren't really the spiritual type.
- You've never been good at spiritual things.
- How many times before you will finally give up?
- You can't do this. Just give up. Know when it's time to quit. It's okay, you just aren't cut out for this. Nobody will think anything.

Do you see the pattern? The Adversary speaks in a familiar, righteous sounding way, but will offer clues if you look carefully; usually appealing to your pride or comfort.³⁷ If we are living our lives according to the Lord's pattern we will discern clearly.

“Let thy bowels also be full of charity towards all men, and to the household of faith, and let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; then shall they confidence wax strong in the presence of God; and the doctrine of the priesthood shall distill upon thy souls as the dews of heaven.” D&C 121:45

Two things we are counseled to do: first, to fill our desires with charity; second, to garnish our thoughts with virtue. Doing this will leave no room for the Adversary, and make it easier to spot a deception. Let me define these two words in relation to the above scripture:

Charity is more than kind acts of service. It implies a oneness with Christ,³⁸ to have the “pure love of Christ,” which comes with the Gift of the Holy Ghost. It is to be in harmony with God's will and to see His

³⁷ Matthew 4:6, 3 Nephi 6:15

³⁸ Moroni 7:47- 48

children the way He sees them. This will greatly enhance the Gift of Discernment.

Virtue is that which is pure, beautiful, inspiring, and Christ-centered.³⁹ To garnish your thoughts continually with scripture, inspirational music, inspiring literature, majestic art and nature, will build greatness of spirit within you. Not to mention, it makes life pretty awesome. Remember how Jesus would use scripture to retort against the Adversary when He was tempted?⁴⁰ Only those who waffle between the light, appealing to their pride and comfort, will find it difficult to discern the Adversary.⁴¹

Despite our greatest efforts and virtue, we will still make mistakes and fall. Why is that? You thought you had the Gift of Discernment, right?⁴² There is a reason for this. We become strengthened in the process.⁴³ We learn well how to identify them as we learn to trust in our Lord.⁴⁴ It can be a frustrating undertaking to be sure. Often our emotions, fears, anxieties, and a host of other pressures can

³⁹ The Articles of Faith 1:15

⁴⁰ Matthew 4:4, 7, 10, Luke 4:8, 12

⁴¹ Revelation 3:15-16, "Virtue is one of the most prominent principles that enables us to have confidence in approaching our Father who is in heaven in order to ask wisdom at his hand. Therefore, if thou wilt cherish this principle in thine heart, thou mayest ask with all confidence before him and it shall be poured out upon thine head." *Statement written by Joseph Smith in Feb. 1840 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; original in private possession. Quoted from TPJS (2011), pg. 125-34 chapter 10, Prayer and Personal Revelation*", LDS.org

⁴² 2 Nephi 4:27-33, Ether 2:14, Isaiah 49:15, D&C 9:6-8

⁴³ D&C 105:6, Ether 12:27

⁴⁴ Isaiah 50:10, D&C 122:7

cause us to not see the truth. A person wrote me the following question:

“When one hears a voice and is trying to discern between the “familiar” voices and the Lord’s voice, can one ask “whose” voice it is? For example, is it helpful to ask, “Is this Jesus speaking?”, etc. or can the adversary deceive us on that also?”

Yes, we can always ask the Lord for guidance, but we may not necessarily receive a discernable answer, as the Lord will often prefer to teach us. We may ask the Lord if it is Him, the Adversary speaks to the affirmative, and we call it incorrectly. The Lord allows us to fail so that we can learn to discern. Let me give you an analogy:

I asked my daughter once why she doesn’t like to play basketball. She said, “Because I’m not good at it!” I proceeded to ask her how much she practiced, and of course it was very little. The problem was that she had so many negative experiences that she decided it wasn’t her thing. It was safer to enjoy it from the sidelines like most people.

What if my daughter had first learned to stand under the basket and make the easier shots? At the beginning, she would likely miss many, but her averages would improve, as well as her confidence. As she continued, the coach could offer her encouragement and advice if she was listening. The more difficult shots would be attempted and she would have improved greatly; increasing her confidence. She would learn the rules of the game and perhaps join a team. Her experience would have been completely different.

Basketball can be fun, but it is just a game. The privilege of being a servant of the Lord is Life Eternal. Often, when it comes to talents,

we choose what we will become. People can be born with a propensity for a certain skill; but it is the tenacious, those with the most desire that reach great heights. How much do you want to be a servant of the Lord? How much failure are you willing to endure to develop your “gift?” This principle applies to all the gifts of the Spirit. The Lord will coach you each step of the way. Expect failure, but also in time, the ability to discern the Adversary until he will have no power over you. Moroni wrote the following:

10 Wherefore, a man being evil cannot do that which is good; neither will he give a good gift.

11 For behold, a bitter fountain [**person without faith**] cannot bring forth good water; neither can a good fountain bring forth bitter water; wherefore, a man being a servant of the devil cannot follow Christ; and if he follow Christ he cannot be a servant of the devil.

12 Wherefore, all things which are good cometh of God; and that which is evil cometh of the devil; for the devil is an enemy unto God, and fighteth against him continually, and inviteth and enticeth to sin, and to do that which is evil continually.

13 But behold, that which is of God inviteth and enticeth to do good continually; wherefore, every thing which inviteth and enticeth to do good, and to love God, and to serve him, is inspired of God. **[This is a powerful tool in discerning the adversary.]**

14 Wherefore, take heed, my beloved brethren, that ye do not judge that which is evil to be of God, or that which is good and of God to be of the devil.

15 For behold, my brethren, it is given unto you to judge, that ye may know good from evil; and the way to judge is as plain, that ye may know with a perfect knowledge, as the daylight is from the dark

night. **[We have to learn this process, God doesn't do it for us.]**

16 For behold, the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that he may know good from evil; **[We are each given the means to compare and contrast between choices.]** wherefore, I show unto you the way to judge; for every thing which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ; wherefore ye may know with a perfect knowledge it is of God.

17 But whatsoever thing persuadeth men to do evil, and believe not in Christ, and deny him, and serve not God, then ye may know with a perfect knowledge it is of the devil; for after this manner doth the devil work, for he persuadeth no man to do good, no, not one; neither do his angels; neither do they who subject themselves unto him.

18 And now, my brethren, seeing that ye know the light by which ye may judge, which light is the light of Christ, see that ye do not judge wrongfully; for with that same judgment which ye judge ye shall also be judged.

19 Wherefore, I beseech of you, brethren, that ye should search diligently in the light of Christ that ye may know good from evil; and if ye will lay hold upon every good thing, and condemn it not, ye certainly will be a child of Christ.

20 And now, my brethren, how is it possible that ye can lay hold upon every good thing?

21 And now I come to that faith, of which I said I would speak; and I will tell you the way whereby ye may lay hold on every good thing.

22 For behold, God knowing all things, being from everlasting to everlasting, behold, he sent angels to minister unto the children of men, to

make manifest concerning the coming of Christ; and in Christ there should come every good thing. **[gifts of the Spirit]**

23 And God also declared unto prophets, by his own mouth, that Christ should come.

24 And behold, there were divers **[mysterious]** ways that he did manifest things unto the children of men, which were good; and all things which are good cometh of Christ; otherwise men were fallen, and there could no good thing come unto them.

25 Wherefore, by the ministering of angels, and by every word which proceeded forth out of the mouth of God, men began to exercise faith in Christ; and thus by faith, they did lay hold upon every good thing; and thus it was until the coming of Christ.

[Seeking to receive revelation and acting upon it.]

26 And after that he came men also were saved by faith in his name; and by faith, they become the sons of God. **[Received the Gift of the Holy Ghost.]** And as surely as Christ liveth he spake these words unto our fathers, saying: Whatsoever thing ye shall ask the Father in my name, which is good, in faith believing that ye shall receive, behold, it shall be done unto you. **[Receiving Gifts of the Spirit.]**

Moroni 7:10-26

Many of us give up when learning to discern the voice of the Lord. I've listened to many friends and family with despair, describe the many times their prayers fell flat, or their revelations didn't play out as they supposed. Obviously, they felt they had either been deceived or were conjuring their own thoughts. The most difficult revelations are often the most stressful, filled with emotion and trepidation.

I had an experience many years ago praying for things related to my business, thinking I had received an answer, only to see the opposite occur. My revelation had been incorrect, and I wondered why – was I not pure enough to understand the Lord’s voice? In retrospect, I was new to the process of revelation and wanted it so badly that my emotions clouded my vision. I have since learned to calm my mind, and not to feel inclined to one choice versus the other as I discern the Lord’s will.

I have received many questions regarding this gift of discernment. Many people struggle with knowing what to believe, or who to follow. Here are four questions that I think are worth taking some time to answer:

Question: What about those who are deceived and yet use the same scriptures to preach their version of the gospel?

Answer: There are many interpretations of scripture to be found. Nobody wants to think they are one the “mistaken ones,” so what do you do? Listen to everyone, but do not take their gospel for fact until you have received your own personal revelation. Yes, it is a process of learning to discern, trial and error, but there is no other way. Every person will experience deception during their life, it’s how you respond and repent that matters. If you are seeking virtue, are humble like a child and desire the Lord’s will more than anything you will be led to the truth.

Question: How can we discover a deceiver?

Answer: Until you can perfectly use the gift of discernment, there are some things to look for. If they continually seek the limelight, call attention to themselves, and insist upon everyone agreeing with what they teach, I would be skeptical. A servant of the Lord will shy away from this behavior and even despise it. When their

views are challenged a true servant is not offended, but will suggest you ask God; to pray for your own revelation, repent, and seek the Lord only. It's not about the messenger in any way. A true servant will have no negative reaction or anger toward anyone whose opinions and teaching differ from them. They will simply put it in the Lord's hands and preach what they have been called to deliver.

Question: What are the signs of a true messenger?

Answer: It is very simple. They preach repentance. That means, they teach how to come to the Lord, by turning your heart, might and strength toward Jesus Christ. Anything else you must judge by the fruits. Everything is measured by the signs that follow those that believe; the gifts of the Spirit, which come by baptism and the Holy Ghost.

Do we always need a prophet to guide us onto the path first?

Answer: The Lord always sends His prophets. The word has become a misnomer in modern times as we associate it with celebrity status and genteel perfection. On the opposite end, it has a stigma of the long bearded crazy man predicting the end of the earth. A prophet has a great purpose in the Lord's plan. He sends many prophets to help us in the process of knowing Him and repenting. He will be sending many more in the near future. The scriptures are our first source to find the words of the prophets. All modern prophets must have their words weighed according to the Spirit of discernment and revelation. If we are weak in that area we must judge them by their fruits.

I recorded a personal revelation which I received to help me when discerning pure revelation or deceiving spirits. You may want to pray to see if this will apply to you.

I asked, “Lord, how do we know when we are receiving a revelation from you?”

“When a revelation comes to your mind and your first inclination is to doubt—ask me if it comes from above or from an unclean source. If the answer is clearly given, it is good.”

“If you continue to ask and you cannot get a yes or no where just moments earlier it came easily—take it as a no. Be sure you are asking with a clear mind, devoid of emotion, unworthy thoughts, or doubts that you are receiving revelation. Remember, the Spirit will speak to you, and you will often translate these messages into your own words, and thereby the words will have a voice similar to your own and yet from above.”

“Do not be discouraged if you find that you were being deceived by the Adversary. You must be tempted that you may learn to distinguish the good from the evil. If you are humble and seek my word, you will be led to the truth. There must be an opposition in all things, therefore if you are given a deception by the Adversary prepare yourself to receive a powerful revelatory experience from above, for I shall not leave you comfortless.”

Learning to discern often begins with asking simple yes and no questions, then learning how to receive more revelation in time.⁴⁵

If you desire the gift of Discernment, ask for it. Expect there to be a learning and development curve in the process. As you release all

⁴⁵ How To Open Your Spiritual Eyes, pg.

your unbelief⁴⁶ and doubts, the Lord will help you to hear His voice and you will begin to experience the life of a servant of the Lord.

3) Gift of Revelation

This gift goes in conjunction with the gift of Discernment; for how can you discern without receiving revelation from the Lord? Your ability to receive revelation expands exponentially as you learn to open your spiritual senses.

Joseph Smith said, “It is the privilege of the children of God to come to God and get revelation. ... God is not a respecter of persons; we all have the same privilege.”⁴⁷ The Lord wishes to communicate with us. This is not something only privileged to prophets, apostles, and church leaders; it is for all.

“We believe that we have a right to revelations, visions, and dreams from God, our Heavenly Father; and light and intelligence, through the gift of the Holy Ghost, in the name of Jesus Christ, on all subjects pertaining to our spiritual welfare; if it so be that we keep his commandments, so as to render ourselves worthy in his sight.”⁴⁸

This Joseph Smith quote covers many gifts, but makes it clear that they are designed for our spiritual welfare to render us worthy in His sight. Worthy for what? -- to be His servant.

⁴⁶ Matthew 17:19-21, Mark 6:14, Moroni 7:37

⁴⁷ The Prophet Joseph Smith, *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* (Melchizedek Priesthood and Relief Society course of study, 2007), 132

⁴⁸ Letter from Joseph Smith to Isaac Galland, Mar. 22, 1839, Liberty Jail, Liberty, Missouri, published in *Times and Seasons*, Feb. 1840, p. 54.

What does it feel like to receive revelation? How can we discern what we are receiving?

“A person may profit by noticing the first intimation of the spirit of revelation; for instance, when you feel pure intelligence flowing into you, it may give you sudden strokes of ideas, so that by noticing it, you may find it fulfilled the same day or soon; (i.e.) those things that were presented unto your minds by the Spirit of God, will come to pass; and thus by learning the Spirit of God and understanding it, you may grow into the principle of revelation, until you become perfect in Christ Jesus.”⁴⁹

This quote from Joseph Smith helps us to understand a few principles of receiving this gift. First, what to expect: you will feel it flowing into you, sudden ideas and thoughts, which find themselves becoming realized within the day or soon after. Second, that as you start to recognize this Spirit and you begin to “grow into the principle of revelation.” It is a process of development. Third, by this process we become perfect in Jesus Christ; meaning, we come to know Him. What a beautiful nugget of truth from the prophet Joseph Smith! This is a gift that must be cultivated and expanded until we know Jesus.

My question to you is this: what is more important to your spiritual development at this time, the scriptures, or your ability to receive revelation? Joseph Smith said the following:

“I have an old edition of the New Testament in the Latin, Hebrew, German and Greek languages. ... I thank God that I have got this old book; but I thank

⁴⁹ *History of the Church*, 3:381; from a discourse given by Joseph Smith on June 27, 1839, in Commerce, Illinois; reported by Willard Richards.

him more for the gift of the Holy Ghost. I have got the oldest book in the world; but I have got the oldest book in my heart, even the gift of the Holy Ghost. ... The Holy Ghost ... is within me, and comprehends more than all the world; and I will associate myself with him.”⁵⁰

Joseph clearly values the gift of Revelation before the scriptures. I know this may raise alarm among some who read this. “How could you suggest such a thing?” This is not to say scriptures are not indispensable, they are also a gift from God to help you grow in faith. But, without the Gift of Revelation we are left to our own devices to try and understand the intent and context of the prophetic Word. A simple scan of the vast scholarly disagreements among theologians causes one to pause and wonder.

Many of the Church are confused by the “rod of iron” spoken of by Nephi, as he said it was the “word of God” which led to the Tree of Life. Some have supposed this is “reading scripture;” but a more accurate meaning would be the literal word of God – the receipt of direct revelation. This may come through scripture, other people, prayer, or numerous ways; but without revelation to discern, we are susceptible to be led astray down dark unfamiliar paths.⁵¹

When the Lord’s Spirit is upon us we are expected to receive revelation. Joseph Smith said, “No man can receive the Holy Ghost without receiving revelations. The Holy Ghost is a revelator.”⁵² Also, Moroni said, “And by the power of the Holy Ghost you may

⁵⁰ *History of the Church*, 6:307–8; paragraph divisions altered; from a discourse given by Joseph Smith on Apr. 7, 1844, in Nauvoo, Illinois; reported by Wilford Woodruff, Willard Richards, Thomas Bullock, and William Clayton.

⁵¹ 1 Nephi 11:25

⁵² *History of the Church*, 6:58; from a discourse given by Joseph Smith on Oct. 15, 1843, in Nauvoo, Illinois; reported by Willard Richards.

know the truth of all things.”⁵³ Not just some things, but all things. It is important to point out that he said, “may know,” which alludes that you may not receive all things. Only according to our faith are all things made known unto us.

“And in that day that they shall exercise faith in me, saith the Lord, even as the brother of Jared did, that they may become sanctified in me, then will I manifest unto them the things which the brother of Jared saw, even to the unfolding unto them all my revelations, saith Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of the heavens and of the earth, and all things that in them are.” (Ether 4:7)

The Lord makes it clear that as we exercise faith like the brother of Jared and becoming sanctified in Him, then we will see all His revelations—everything. Have some of you doubted the extent of the experiences I have written about? I have only written a fraction of what the Lord has shown me, and may show you, according to your faith.

How does one exercise faith like the Brother of Jared unto sanctification? This is obviously not an easy task or you would see more doing it. The key lies within the kind of faith that he exercised. It is interesting how the Lord acknowledged his exceeding faith. Nowhere in scripture before that time, and rarely afterward, do we see this occur.

And the Lord said unto him: Because of thy faith thou hast seen that I shall take upon me flesh and blood; and never has man come before me with such exceeding faith as thou hast; for were it not so ye could not have seen my finger.⁵⁴

⁵³ Moroni 10:5

⁵⁴ Ether 3:9

What was it that gave the Brother of Jared such great faith? He went and molted the stones from the rock and presented them to the Lord to help save His people. Is that all? Not too long before this he was severely chastised by the Lord for not seeking Him earnestly. What changed?

To have “great faith” is to receive revelation and then to act upon it. But it goes even further: it is to seek revelation, and then to act upon it. Before the Brother of Jared’s Second Comforter he spoke with the Lord in the cloud. This was not a misty white cloud that would show up from time to time. It was the cloud of the Spirit that resided in His mind.⁵⁵ It veiled him from the Lord. The Brother of Jared did not have scripture like us to guide him. Why do you think he was unaware of Jesus’ physical nature? He knew enough that God was real and that he could hear and answer prayers.

He pondered and prayed for a solution for how to save his people in the barges, and then the revelation came. He went about to make it happen and took the molten stones to the Lord. He saw the finger of the Lord as the stones began to light up. At this point he recoiled in fear, knowing that any improper thought would disconnect him from God. But, what he saw was truth revealed by the power of faith. The Lord required him to declare his faith to Him and at this point, there was nothing preventing him from standing in the presence of Jesus Christ; his faith had pierced the veil.⁵⁶ The Lord was overjoyed with his faith and proceeded to answer all his questions.⁵⁷

⁵⁵ The Spirit can affect our minds to activate all but our visual sensitivities. This is the state of being in the Cloud.

⁵⁶ Ether 3:26, Ether 12:20-21 This pattern of faith is what opens the veil and a tangible relationship with God.

⁵⁷ Refer to How To Open Your Spiritual Eyes, Anonymous, Pg.

The rest of these revelations have been hidden from the world, preserved in the sealed portion of the plates that were given to Joseph Smith, and will yet be revealed to the world at a future time.⁵⁸ But, you may not have to wait if your faith is sufficient.⁵⁹

Moroni injects into the book of Ether 12 a long sermon regarding faith, revelation and the gifts of the Spirit. I have included my notes to help you understand the meaning more clearly. Pray for your own revelation regarding these.

6 And now, I, Moroni, would speak somewhat concerning these things; I would show unto the world that faith is things which are hoped for and not seen; wherefore, dispute not because ye see not, for ye receive no witness until after the trial of your faith. **[receiving revelation and acting upon it]**

7 For it was by faith that Christ showed himself unto our fathers, after he had risen from the dead;⁶⁰ and he showed not himself unto them until after they had faith in him; wherefore, it must needs be that some had faith in him, for he showed himself not unto the world.

8 But because of the faith of men he has shown himself unto the world, and glorified the name of the Father, and prepared a way that thereby others might be partakers of the heavenly gift,⁶¹ that they might hope for those things which they have not seen.

9 Wherefore, ye may also have hope, and be partakers of the gift, if ye will but have faith.

⁵⁸ Ether 3:22

⁵⁹ Ether 4:7

⁶⁰ 3 Nephi 11

⁶¹ 3 Nephi 12:1-2, D&C 4,

10 Behold it was by faith that they of old were called after the holy order of God. **[walked with God with higher priesthood]**

11 Wherefore, by faith was the law of Moses given. But in the gift of his Son hath God prepared a more excellent way; and it is by faith that it hath been fulfilled. **[The Lord Himself sought revelation from the Father and acted upon it.]**

12 For if there be no faith among the children of men God can do no miracle among them; wherefore, he showed not himself until after their faith. **[Faith leads to the Second Comforter.]**

13 Behold, it was the faith of Alma and Amulek that caused the prison to tumble to the earth.

14 Behold, it was the faith of Nephi and Lehi that wrought the change upon the Lamanites, that they were baptized with fire and with the Holy Ghost.

15 Behold, it was the faith of Ammon and his brethren which wrought so great a miracle among the Lamanites.

16 Yea, and even all they who wrought miracles wrought them by faith, even those who were before Christ and also those who were after. **[All because of seeking revelation and acting upon it.]**

17 And it was by faith that the three disciples obtained a promise that they should not taste of death; and they obtained not the promise until after their faith.

18 And neither at any time hath any wrought miracles until after their faith; wherefore they first believed in the Son of God. **[See it with the eye of faith first, then the reality comes forth.]**

19 And there were many whose faith was so exceedingly strong, even before Christ came, who

could not be kept from within the veil, **[The Lord cannot withhold from such individuals]** but truly saw with their eyes the things which they had beheld with an eye of faith, **[They saw it in their minds first.]** and they were glad.

20 And behold, we have seen in this record that one of these was the brother of Jared; for so great was his faith in God, that when God put forth his finger he could not hide it from the sight of the brother of Jared, because of his word which he had spoken unto him, which word he had obtained by faith. **[What was the word spoken to the Brother of Jared? The word was his name, meaning he now knew his true relationship with the Lord made by covenant.]**⁶²

21 And after the brother of Jared had beheld the finger of the Lord, because of the promise which the brother of Jared had obtained by faith, the Lord could not withhold anything from his sight; wherefore he showed him all things, for he could no longer be kept without the veil. **[This is to have one's calling and election made sure, the pinnacle of the Second Comforter experience.]**

22 And it is by faith that my fathers have obtained the promise that these things **[The New Covenant]** should come unto their brethren **[Lamanite remnant]** through the Gentiles; **[The Restoration]** therefore the Lord hath commanded me, yea, even Jesus Christ.

23 And I said unto him: Lord, the Gentiles **[Secular world, not of the House of Israel]** will mock at these things, because of our weakness in writing; for Lord

⁶² This information was given to him in a fullness when he received his Second Comforter and his calling and election was made sure. Refer to How To Open Your Spiritual Eyes, Anonymous, pg.

thou hast made us mighty in word by faith, but thou hast not made us mighty in writing; for thou hast made all this people that they could speak much, because of the Holy Ghost which thou hast given them;

24 And thou hast made us that we could write but little, because of the awkwardness of our hands. Behold, thou hast not made us mighty in writing like unto the brother of Jared, for thou madest him that the things which he wrote were mighty even as thou art, unto the overpowering of man to read them.

25 Thou hast also made our words powerful and great, even that we cannot write them; wherefore, when we write we behold our weakness, and stumble because of the placing of our words; and I fear lest the Gentiles shall mock at our words.

26 And when I had said this, the Lord spake unto me, saying: Fools mock, but they shall mourn; and my grace is sufficient for the meek, that they shall take no advantage of your weakness; **[Only the humble followers of Christ will have the revelation sufficient to understand the jewels of information contained in these writings.]**

27 And if men come unto me I will show unto them their weakness. **[Lack of faith, lack of the gifts of the Spirit.]** I give unto men weakness that they may be humble; and my grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me; for if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them. **[Key to receiving the gifts of the Spirit.]**

28 Behold, I will show unto the Gentiles their weakness, and I will show unto them that faith, hope and charity bringeth unto me—the fountain of

all righteousness. **[The foundation which brings all the gifts of the Spirit.]**

29 And I, Moroni, having heard these words, was comforted, and said: O Lord, thy righteous will be done, for I know that thou workest unto the children of men according to their faith;

30 For the brother of Jared said unto the mountain Zerin, Remove—and it was removed. And if he had not had faith it would not have moved; wherefore thou workest after men have faith.

31 For thus didst thou manifest thyself unto thy disciples; for after they had faith, and did speak in thy name, thou didst show thyself unto them in great power.

32 And I also remember that thou hast said that thou hast prepared a house for man, yea, even among the mansions of thy Father, in which man might have a more excellent hope; wherefore man must hope, or he cannot receive an inheritance in the place which thou hast prepared.

33 And again, I remember that thou hast said that thou hast loved the world, even unto the laying down of thy life for the world, that thou mightest take it again to prepare a place for the children of men.

34 And now I know that this love which thou hast had for the children of men is charity; **[Spiritually reborn in Christ, the Gift of the Holy Ghost.]** wherefore, except men shall have charity they cannot inherit that place which thou hast prepared in the mansions of thy Father.

35 Wherefore, I know by this thing which thou hast said, that if the Gentiles have not charity, because of our weakness, that thou wilt prove them, and take away their talent, **[Parable of the Talents / Gifts of**

the Spirit]⁶³ yea, even that which they have received, and give unto them who shall have more abundantly.

36 And it came to pass that I prayed unto the Lord that he would give unto the Gentiles grace, **[capacity to grow in light]** that they might have charity. **[Receive Christ, Gift of the Holy Ghost]**

37 And it came to pass that the Lord said unto me: If they have not charity it mattereth not unto thee, thou hast been faithful; wherefore, thy garments shall be made clean. And because thou hast seen thy weakness thou shalt be made strong, even unto the sitting down in the place which I have prepared in the mansions of my Father. **[Eternal Life]**

The Brother of Jared learned to seek the Lord's voice. As we discussed in the section on discernment, it can be a careful process as we begin to receive revelation. We must learn to listen to what the Lord will speak to us.

“If you will listen to the first promptings, you will get it right nine times out of ten.” (Joseph Smith)⁶⁴

Historical journal entries are not always accurate and reliable sources, but there is some truth to this. I have found that the first promptings are often clear revelation. Usually it's the follow-up doubts that come from the Adversary. But, can we not judge based on what is good?

⁶³ How To Open Your Spiritual Eyes, Anonymous, pg.

⁶⁴ Joseph Smith, Diary of Charles L. Walker

Moroni offers council for how we can tell whether the revelation is of God and how to receive the greatest gifts.⁶⁵ Chapter 7 of the Book of Moroni:

11 For behold, a bitter fountain cannot bring forth good water; neither can a good fountain bring forth bitter water; wherefore, a man being a servant of the devil cannot follow Christ; and if he follow Christ he cannot be a servant of the devil. **[We can judge by the fruit whether it is good or evil.]**

12 Wherefore, all things which are good cometh of God; and that which is evil cometh of the devil; for the devil is an enemy unto God, and fighteth against him continually, and inviteth and enticeth to sin, and to do that which is evil continually. **[Does the revelation point toward personal gratification or to building the Kingdom of God?]**

13 But behold, that which is of God inviteth and enticeth to do good continually; wherefore, every thing which inviteth and enticeth to do good, and to love God, and to serve him, is inspired of God. **[Three things; to do good, to love God, to serve Him.]**

14 Wherefore, take heed, my beloved brethren, that ye do not judge that which is evil to be of God, or that which is good and of God to be of the devil. **[Don't confuse the two.]**

15 For behold, my brethren, it is given unto you to judge, that ye may know good from evil; and the way to judge is as plain, that ye may know with a perfect knowledge, as the daylight is from the dark night.

16 For behold, the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that he may know good from evil;

⁶⁵ James 1:17

wherefore, I show unto you the way to judge; for every thing which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ; **[gift of discernment]** wherefore ye may know with a perfect knowledge it is of God.

17 But whatsoever thing persuadeth men to do evil, and believe not in Christ, and deny him, and serve not God, then ye may know with a perfect knowledge it is of the devil; for after this manner doth the devil work, for he persuadeth no man to do good, no, not one; neither do his angels; **[dark exalted spirits / sons of perdition]** neither do they who subject themselves unto him. **[disembodied evil spirits]**

18 And now, my brethren, seeing that ye know the light by which ye may judge, which light is the light of Christ, see that ye do not judge wrongfully; for with that same judgment which ye judge ye shall also be judged. **[Do not judge for evil those from whom the Lord has chosen.]**

19 Wherefore, I beseech of you, brethren, that ye should search diligently **[with careful study and pondering prayer]** in the light of Christ **[His Holy Spirit]** that ye may know good from evil; and if ye will lay hold upon every good thing, and condemn it not, ye certainly will be a child of Christ.

20 And now, my brethren, how is it possible that ye can lay hold upon every good thing?

21 And now I come to that faith, of which I said I would speak; and I will tell you the way whereby ye may lay hold on every good thing.

22 For behold, God knowing all things, being from everlasting to everlasting, behold, he sent angels to minister unto the children of men, to

make manifest concerning the coming of Christ; and in Christ there should come every good thing.

23 And God also declared unto prophets, by his own mouth, that Christ should come.

24 And behold, there were divers [**mysterious**] ways that he did manifest things unto the children of men, which were good; and all things which are good cometh of Christ; otherwise men were fallen, and there could no good thing come unto them.

25 Wherefore, by the ministering of angels, and by every word which proceeded forth out of the mouth of God, men began to exercise faith in Christ; [**seek revelation and act upon it**] and thus by faith, they did lay hold upon every good thing; and thus it was until the coming of Christ.

26 And after that he came men also were saved by faith in his name; and by faith, they become the sons of God. [**received the baptism of fire and Gift of the Holy Ghost**] And as surely as Christ liveth he spake these words unto our fathers, saying: Whatsoever thing ye shall ask the Father in my name, which is good, in faith believing that ye shall receive, behold, it shall be done unto you. [**Every gift of the Spirit.**]

27 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, have miracles ceased because Christ hath ascended into heaven, and hath sat down on the right hand of God, to claim of the Father his rights of mercy which he hath upon the children of men?

28 For he hath answered the ends of the law, [**performed the atonement**] and he claimeth all those who have faith in him; [**saves us through the Gift of the Holy Ghost**] and they who have faith in him will cleave unto every good thing; [**seeks every good gift**] wherefore he advocateth the cause

[diligently seeks our blessing] of the children of men; and he dwelleth eternally in the heavens.

29 And because he hath done this, my beloved brethren, have miracles ceased? **[because he is far above us in Heaven]** Behold I say unto you, Nay; neither have angels ceased to minister unto the children of men. **[a gift of the Spirit]**

30 For behold, they are subject unto him, to minister according to the word of his command, showing themselves unto them of strong faith **[seeking revelation and acting upon it]** and a firm mind **[filled with virtue and charity]** in every form of godliness. **[With an eye single to the glory of God.]**

31 And the office of their ministry is to call men unto repentance, **[to bring them to the presence of the Lord]** and to fulfil and to do the work of the covenants of the Father, **[the Everlasting Covenant]** which he hath made unto the children of men, to prepare the way among the children of men, by declaring the word of Christ unto the chosen vessels of the Lord, **[fourth estate, the gatherers of Mt. Zion]** that they may bear testimony of him.

32 And by so doing, the Lord God prepareth the way that the residue of men **[second estate]** may have faith in Christ, that the Holy Ghost may have place in their hearts, according to the power thereof; and after this manner bringeth to pass the Father, the covenants which he hath made unto the children of men. **[Everlasting Covenant made before the foundation of the world.]**

33 And Christ hath said: If ye will have faith in me ye shall have power to do whatsoever thing is expedient in me. **[all gifts of the Spirit]**

34 And he hath said: Repent all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me, and be baptized in my name, and have faith in me, that ye may be saved.

35 And now, my beloved brethren, if this be the case that these things are true which I have spoken unto you, and God will show unto you, with power and great glory at the last day, that they are true, and if they are true has the day of miracles ceased?

36 Or have angels ceased to appear unto the children of men? Or has he withheld the power of the Holy Ghost from them? Or will he, so long as time shall last, or the earth shall stand, or there shall be one man upon the face thereof to be saved?

37 Behold I say unto you, Nay; for it is by faith that miracles are wrought; and it is by faith that angels appear and minister unto men; wherefore, if these things have ceased wo be unto the children of men, for it is because of unbelief, and all is vain.

38 For no man can be saved, according to the words of Christ, save they shall have faith in his name; wherefore, if these things have ceased, then has faith ceased also; and awful is the state of man, for they are as though there had been no redemption made. **[without the gifts of the Spirit, no man can be saved]**

39 But behold, my beloved brethren, I judge better things of you, for I judge that ye have faith in Christ because of your meekness; **[seeking His will]** for if ye have not faith in him then ye are not fit to be numbered among the people of his church. **[Moroni is speaking to the members of the church who will read these words.]**

40 And again, my beloved brethren, I would speak unto you concerning hope. How is it that ye can attain unto faith, save ye shall have hope?

41 And what is it that ye shall hope for? Behold I say unto you that ye shall have a hope through the atonement of Christ and the power of his resurrection, **[body raised in glory]** to be raised unto life eternal, and this because of your faith in him according to the promise. **[Everlasting Covenant]**

42 Wherefore, if a man have faith he must needs have hope; for without faith there cannot be any hope. **[hope is believing...]**

43 And again, behold I say unto you that he cannot have faith and hope, save he shall be meek, and lowly of heart. **[full submission to the Lord]**

44 If so, his faith and hope is vain, for none is acceptable before God, save the meek and lowly in heart; and if a man be meek and lowly in heart, and confesses by the power of the Holy Ghost that Jesus is the Christ, **[we must speak it]** he must needs have charity; **[be given the Gift of the Holy Ghost]** for if he have not charity he is nothing; **[You cannot be one with Christ and inherit Eternal Life]** wherefore he must needs have charity.

45 And charity suffereth long, and is kind, and envieth not, and is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, **[seeketh the will of the Father]** is not easily provoked, **[by evil]** thinketh no evil, **[do not entertain evil thoughts]** and rejoiceth not in iniquity **[forsake sins]** but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, **[that the Lord would allow to come upon you]** believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. **[receive the revelations of the Lord]**

46 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, if ye have not charity, ye are nothing, for charity never faileth. **[Never faileth to do the Lord's will...]** Wherefore, cleave unto charity, **[Oneness with the Father]**

which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail—
[all other things will not be exalted]

47 But charity is the pure love of Christ, **[The Gift of the Holy Ghost]** and it endureth forever; **[Eternal Life]** and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with him.

48 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, **[sisters too]** pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love, **[to receive the baptism of fire and Gift of the Holy Ghost]** which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son, Jesus Christ; that ye may become the sons of God; that when he shall appear we shall be like him, **[be filled with light without spot]** for we shall see him as he is; **[face to face]** that we may have this hope; that we may be purified even as he is pure. Amen.

Moroni then, in his final sermon of the Book of Mormon writes his most important message, continuing his thoughts regarding the gifts of the Spirit and revelation in Moroni 10:

19 And I would exhort you, my beloved brethren, that ye remember that he is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and that all these gifts of which I have spoken, which are spiritual, **[discerned by the spiritual senses]** never will be done away, even as long as the world shall stand, only according to the unbelief **[incorrect application because of the traditions of the fathers]** of the children of men.

20 Wherefore, there must be faith; and if there must be faith there must also be hope; and if there must be hope there must also be charity.

21 And except ye have charity **[Gift of the Holy Ghost]** ye can in nowise be saved in the kingdom of

God; neither can ye be saved in the kingdom of God if ye have not faith; **[seek revelation and act upon it]** neither can ye if ye have no hope. **[be believing]**

22 And if ye have no hope ye must needs be in despair; and despair cometh because of iniquity. **[bound to our sins]**

23 And Christ truly said unto our fathers: If ye have faith ye can do all things which are expedient unto me. **[you will be a servant]**

24 And now I speak unto all the ends of the earth—that if the day cometh that the power and gifts of God shall be done away among you, it shall be because of unbelief.

25 And wo be unto the children of men if this be the case; for there shall be none that doeth good among you, no not one. For if there be one among you that doeth good, he shall work by the power and gifts of God. **[You must exercise the gifts of the Spirit, or all would fail!]**

26 And wo unto them who shall do these things **[gifts of the Spirit]** away and die, for they die in their sins, and they cannot be saved in the kingdom of God; and I speak it according to the words of Christ; and I lie not.

27 And I exhort you to remember these things; for the time speedily cometh that ye shall know that I lie not, for ye shall see me at the bar of God; and the Lord God will say unto you: Did I not declare my words unto you, which were written by this man, like as one crying from the dead, yea, even as one speaking out of the dust? **[Those who read the Book of Mormon, who might that be?]**

28 I declare these things unto the fulfilling of the prophecies. And behold, they shall proceed forth out of the mouth of the everlasting God; and his

word shall hiss forth from generation to generation.

[began in 1830 until our generation]

29 And God shall show unto you, that that which I have written is true.

30 And again I would exhort you that ye would come unto Christ, and lay hold upon every good gift, **[all of them]** and touch not the evil gift, nor the unclean thing. **[make yourself holy to the Lord]**

Revelation is the language of the Lord. It can be subtle, direct, or earth-shattering; but for most people it is too confusing to attempt, to understand, and explore. The prophet Mormon councils us strongly to believe in revelation:

“Yea, wo unto him that shall deny the revelations of the Lord, and that shall say the Lord no longer worketh by revelation, or by prophecy, or by gifts, or by tongues, or by healings, or by the power of the Holy Ghost! Yea, and wo unto him that shall say at that day, to get gain, that there can be no miracle wrought by Jesus Christ; for he that doeth this shall become like unto the son of perdition, for whom there was no mercy, according to the word of Christ!” 3 Nephi 29:6-7

“And again I speak unto you who deny the revelations of God, and say that they are done away, that there are no revelations, nor prophecies, nor gifts, nor healing, nor speaking with tongues, and the interpretation of tongues; behold I say unto you, he that denieth these things knoweth not the gospel of Christ; yea, he has not read the scriptures; if so, he does not understand them. For do we not read that God is the same yesterday,

today, and forever, and in him there is no variableness neither shadow of changing?"
Mormon 9:7-9

I have shared many thoughts regarding the gift of revelation. In the book *How To Open Your Spiritual Eyes* I will demonstrate in detail how to practice and develop these various gifts.⁶⁶

The Gift of Revelation is a foundational spiritual aptitude that must be acquired in order to exercise all the gifts of the Spirit. Everything hinges upon it. Sweep away all your doubts and other restraints as we have discussed previously, and prepare to open your spiritual senses.

4) Gift of Forgiveness

I was once with a group of people, maybe twelve in attendance, when I saw the Heavens open and a pillar of fire come down upon the people in the room. The Lord descended and went around the room touching each person on their forehead, except for three. I didn't say anything at the time and wondered why this had occurred. Later, when I asked the Lord why three of the people were not touched He said, "Because they have not yet learned to forgive. All others received a forgiveness of their sins." It was made clear to me that this was not only meant for them to forgive others, but to also forgive themselves.

The Gift of Forgiveness, as with any gift, often requires us to pray to the Lord that He will bestow it upon us. The Lord freely forgives; that is the easy part. All that is required is that we seek forgiveness

⁶⁶ How To Open Your Spiritual Eyes, pg. 40-89

from Him. The part that is often a stumbling block⁶⁷ is our reluctance to forgive others, or ourselves.

“Yea, and as often as my people repent will I forgive them their trespasses against me.⁶⁸ And ye shall also forgive one another your trespasses; for verily I say unto you, he that forgiveth not his neighbor’s trespasses when he says that he repents, the same hath brought himself under condemnation.”⁶⁹ (Mosiah 26:30-31)

Joseph Smith added a beautiful insight to the process of seeking forgiveness.

“One of the most pleasing scenes that can occur on earth, when a sin has been committed by one person against another, is, to forgive that sin; and then according to the sublime and perfect pattern of the Savior, pray to our Father in heaven to forgive [the sinner] also.”⁷⁰

To then pray that the sinner may also receive forgiveness is charity of the most sublime. On another occasion Joseph said:

“Ever keep in exercise the principle of mercy, and be ready to forgive our brother on the first intimations of repentance, and asking forgiveness; and should we even forgive our brother, or even our enemy,

⁶⁷ 2 Nephi 4:29-33

⁶⁸ Moroni 6:8

⁶⁹ D&C 64:7-14

⁷⁰ *History of the Church*, 6:245; from “A Friendly Hint to Missouri,” an article written under the direction of Joseph Smith, Mar. 8, 1844, Nauvoo, Illinois, published in *Times and Seasons*, Mar. 15, 1844, p. 473.

before he repent or ask forgiveness, our heavenly Father would be equally as merciful unto us.”⁷¹

It is a divine manifestation of this gift when we find ourselves serving the very people that have abused us or sinned against us. Is not this what the Savior did? Joseph Smith was recorded as saying:

“It grieves me that there is no fuller fellowship; if one member suffer all feel it; by union of feeling we obtain power with God. Christ said He came to call sinners to repentance, to save them. Christ was condemned by the self-righteous Jews because He took sinners into His society; He took them upon the principle that they repented of their sins. ... If [sinners] repent, we are bound to take them, and by kindness sanctify and cleanse them from all unrighteousness by our influence in watching over them. ... Nothing is so much calculated to lead people to forsake sin as to take them by the hand, and watch over them with tenderness.”⁷²

And then Joseph gives us an insight into the nature of mercy:

“Patience is heavenly, obedience is noble, forgiveness is merciful, and exaltation is godly; and he that holds out faithful to the end shall in no wise

⁷¹ *History of the Church*, 3:383; from a discourse given by Joseph Smith on July 2, 1839, in Montrose, Iowa; reported by Wilford Woodruff and Willard Richards.

⁷² *History of the Church*, 5:23–24; from a discourse given by Joseph Smith on June 9, 1842, in Nauvoo, Illinois; reported by Eliza R. Snow.

lose his reward. A good man will endure all things to honor Christ.”⁷³

When the Lord came to the people in bountiful⁷⁴ and gave them the Beatitudes. This beautifully crafted blueprint is the Lord’s method for coming to Him and receiving the Second Comforter. It has an important component related to forgiveness.

3 Yea, blessed are the poor in spirit who come unto me, **[Broken heart and contrite spirit]** for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **[They shall come to the Throne.]**

4 And again, blessed are all they that mourn, **[Cry unto the Lord]** for they shall be comforted. **[I shall be with them.]**

5 And blessed are the meek, **[Submit to the revelations received.]** for they shall inherit the earth. **[Shall stand with the Church of the Firstborn when the earth is changed and exalted.]**

6 And blessed are all they who do hunger and thirst after righteousness, **[Those who seek my will above all things.]** for they shall be filled with the Holy Ghost. **[Their spirits shall be quickened and be one with Me.]**

7 And blessed are the merciful, **[Those who will forgive.]** for they shall obtain mercy. **[Grace or divine progression through Christ.]**

8 And blessed are all the pure in heart, **[Real intent, pure love of God.]** for they shall see God.

9 And blessed are all the peacemakers, **[Those who bring souls to Me.]** for they shall be called the

⁷³ *History of the Church*, 6:427; from a letter from Joseph Smith and Hyrum Smith to Abijah Tewksbury, June 4, 1844, Nauvoo, Illinois; Abijah Tewksbury’s last name is incorrectly spelled “Tewkesbury” in *History of the Church*.

⁷⁴ 3 Nephi 12:3-10

children of God. **[Called My sons and daughters, Servants of the Most-High.]**

10 And blessed are all they who are persecuted for my name's sake, **[Willing to give up their life for me.]** for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **[They shall come to the Throne.]**⁷⁵

Such "Blessed"⁷⁶ people can only be received by the Lord if they partake of the Gift of Forgiveness. "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."⁷⁷

The Lord taught a great lesson to His disciple Peter when asked regarding forgiveness:

21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?⁷⁸

22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.

⁷⁵ Read my full comments regarding this translation at:

<https://pure Revelations.wordpress.com/2017/03/06/the-beatitudes-a-blueprint-of-the-second-comforter/>

⁷⁶ Anointed of the Lord

⁷⁷ Matthew 6:14-15

⁷⁸ D&C 98:37-48 How the Lord will handle the forgiveness of those who continue to sin.

25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

31 So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me:

33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.⁷⁹ (Matt 18:21-35)

⁷⁹ Ephesians 4:30-32

It should be understood, that our Lord is merciful and just; a loving Father who desires to bless us with every gift we need to rise above the darkness of this world. For many, the pain or strife we hold in our hearts towards others, and even ourselves, may prevent us from receiving a fullness of His light. Jesus said, “Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven.”⁸⁰ Does this not also apply to yourself? The Lord revealed in His words through Joseph Smith:

“And they who remain shall also be quickened; nevertheless, they shall return again to their own place, to enjoy that which they are willing to receive, because they were not willing to enjoy that which they might have received. For what doth it profit a man if a gift is bestowed upon him, and he receive not the gift? Behold, he rejoices not in that which is given unto him, neither rejoices in him who is the giver of the gift. (D&C 88:32-33)

The gift of Forgiveness from sin requires us to forgive everyone (including ourselves) in order that we too may receive this gift. The Lord taught how this can be done.

“And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. **[All things according to Thy will.]** Give us day by day our daily bread. **[Bless us with our needs.]** And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. **[Forgive us as we forgive others.]** And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.” **[Bless us with discernment.]** (Luke 11:2-4)

⁸⁰ Luke 6:37

In the Lord's first example ever given of a proper prayer to the Father, He lays it out as such:

1. Address our Holy Father.
2. We accept His will in our behalf.
3. We ask for what we need.
4. We ask for forgiveness, as we forgive others. [Gift of Forgiveness]
5. We ask for the Gift of Discernment.

Are you praying that you will have the Gift of Forgiveness? Are you praying for other's forgiveness? The Apostle Paul said, "To whom ye forgive anything, I forgive also: for if I forgave anything, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ; Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."⁸¹ Satan will use our lack of faith in the gift of forgiveness against us. We must ask the Lord for this gift.

In reference to my original story when I was gathered together in a group: why was the pillar of fire, or baptism of fire accompanied by the Lord forgiving all those who were at this sacred gathering? One of the things that always transpires when a baptism of fire occurs is a forgiveness of sins.⁸² Another thing that can occur is a healing of our bodies.⁸³ Each time the glory, or fire of heaven, is poured over us we are forgiven if we are willing to forgive also. Consider the following story from the Book of Mark:

⁸¹ 2 Corinthians 2:10-11

⁸² Helaman 5:41-48, 3 Nephi 9:20, Ether 12:14, D&C 33:11-12, Orson Pratt, who wrote in 1840 that Joseph Smith was told "that his sins were forgiven." Papers of Joseph Smith, Orson Pratt, 1:391, The event was also recorded in the Doctrine and Covenants as a manifestation prior to that of Moroni (1823) that assured "this first elder that he had received a remission of his sins" D&C 20:5. Such occurred when Joseph received his baptism of fire as he knelt in the presence of the Father and the Son.

⁸³ Refer to chapter on The Gift of Healing, pg.

“When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee. But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?’

“And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts? Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house. And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.” (Mark 2:5-12)

Forgiveness can be extremely difficult, and nothing less than divine help may be required to overcome the emotional trauma of abuse and suffering that is too overwhelming. Years of bottled up pain and memories can be seemingly impossible to let go. There are often familiar spirits who tell us repeatedly that we are not worthy, that we are the deepest of sinners, and that we are not good enough. Will you believe that the Lord is truthful when He says, “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.”⁸⁴ Remember the experience of Alma the Younger? He was overcome with hopelessness because of the seriousness of his sins after his encounter with the angel; and for three days he suffered.

⁸⁴ Hebrew 8:12

“As I was thus racked with torment, while I was harrowed up by the memory of my many sins, behold, I remembered also to have heard my father prophesy unto the people concerning the coming of one Jesus Christ, a Son of God, to atone for the sins of the world. Now, as my mind caught hold upon this thought, I cried within my heart: O Jesus, thou Son of God, have mercy on me, who am in the gall of bitterness, and am encircled about by the everlasting chains of death. And now, behold, when I thought this, I could remember my pains no more; yea, I was harrowed up by the memory of my sins no more. And oh, what joy, and what marvelous light I did behold; yea, my soul was filled with joy as exceeding as was my pain! (Alma 36:17-20)

The gift of Forgiveness will pave the way for all the gifts of the Spirit, which will allow us to have a relationship with our Lord beyond anything possible. Because of Him all may be made clean, white, and holy without spot. If you need this gift, cry out to the Lord and He will comfort you, then you will be ready for the baptism of fire and all the other gifts of the Spirit.

5) Faith to be Healed

There are many good Christians today who suffer from physical afflictions that desire to be healed. Many pray for deliverance and most wonder when they will see the miracle. I believe this gift is far more than to only believe you can be healed from a physical ailment. The phrase in itself is coupling the words “faith” and to “heal.” You might rephrase it like this: **to have the gift whereby**

you can act upon revelation to receive healing, both physically and spiritually.

We've already discussed the gift of Revelation, which implies that having "great faith" You must seek revelation and act upon it.⁸⁵ When we are seeking a special blessing regarding our health, either to our body or spirit, it will require revelation; which only the Lord can provide.

Someone who is seeking answers to how they can improve their spirituality, or overcome a physical ailment may find this gift especially useful. In this example from the Savior's life, the woman received a revelation by the Spirit for how she could be healed. Knowing that Jesus was in the area and His reputation for healing the sick, this woman wondered how she could possibly obtain this blessing. She had suffered for many years, and undoubtedly been praying for deliverance from her suffering. She received the "Faith to be Healed."

"And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment: For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour."
(Matthew 9:20-22)

It is interesting to note that she had to do something unconventional, a test of her faith, in order to receive the blessing. There is much speculation regarding her kind of ailment and what part of His garment she touched and the deeper meaning behind

⁸⁵ Matthew 8:8-10, Matthew 15:28, Alma 19:9-10, "3 Nephi 19:35, Moroni 10:11, Moses 7:13

all that. Regardless, the lesson to be learned is that when we receive a clear thought, even if somewhat odd, we should act. The Gift of Healing often comes in the form of an unconventional act of faith. Moses was often instructed to do unconventional things amongst his people.

“And he did straiten them in the wilderness with his rod; for they hardened their hearts, even as ye have; and the Lord straitened them because of their iniquity. He sent fiery flying serpents among them; and after they were bitten he prepared a way that they might be healed; and the labor which they had to perform was to look; and because of the simpleness of the way, or the easiness of it, there were many who perished.” (1 Nephi 17:41)

In the case of the Israelites, the Lord allowed them to be afflicted to straighten them from their iniquity. Sometimes our struggles are a blessing, as we learn to be humbled and to seek the Lord in faith. Even today, many will dismiss the gifts of the Spirit as unimportant and without scientific credibility worth pursuing. People often prefer doctors and clinics over spiritual healings.⁸⁶

“Behold, he was spoken of by Moses; yea, and behold a type was raised up in the wilderness, that whosoever would look upon it might live. And many did look and live. But few understood the meaning of those things, and this because of the hardness of their hearts. But there were many who were so hardened that they would not look, therefore they perished. Now the reason they would not look is because they did not believe that it would heal

⁸⁶ I am not suggesting we remove medical treatments, for sometimes the Lord will, through His Spirit, have us seek such things; but when we have the gift of Healing we can often find a cure outside the medical norm.

them. O my brethren, if ye could be healed by merely casting about your eyes that ye might be healed, would ye not behold quickly, or would ye rather harden your hearts in unbelief, and be slothful, that ye would not cast about your eyes, that ye might perish” (Alma 33:19-20)

The “hardness of our hearts” is our inability to believe that which is of the Spirit. That is why the Lord requires a broken heart and a contrite spirit to approach Him. The simpleness of the way is clear; simply believe. If we will but “cast our eyes” in the direction of the sacred thoughts of revelatory experience, we will be opening ourselves to the many gifts of the spirit, including the gift to have the faith to be healed.

When Isaiah was called of God to preach repentance to the Israelites, He said something very profound:

“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then I said: Here am I; send me. And he said: Go and tell this people—Hear ye indeed, but they understood not; and see ye indeed, but they perceived not. [**They blocked themselves from hearing the Spirit of the Lord.**] Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes—lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed. (2 Nephi 16:8-10)

Because of the hardness of the Israelites from hearing the Spirit of the Isaiah’s message, they could not be “converted and healed.” There is a connection between our trust in God and our ability to be healed.⁸⁷ In this case, the nation was sick with idolatry and

⁸⁷ D&C 112:13

wickedness. A healing of spirit is required before a healing of the body.⁸⁸ To have the faith to be healed requires a cleansing of the influence of the Adversary.⁸⁹

“And he was casting out a devil, and it was dumb. And it came to pass, when the devil was gone out, the dumb spake; and the people wondered.” (Luke 11:14)

“When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the sprits with his word, and healed all that were sick:” (Matthew 8:16)

To receive a healing first requires that the Adversary or devil be cast out.⁹⁰ This cannot be done without revelation on the part of one being healed, or the one asking in behalf of the afflicted because they do not have the power to ask in their own behalf. Not every person afflicted is possessed of a devil, but such beings gravitate to pain, discouragement, and depression like moths to a flame. Their influence can exacerbate the problem. In many cases, a casting out is required.

It is likely alarming to someone unfamiliar with evil spirit possession to think that sickness may be accompanied by such things. Rarely is it to the extent that a person is completely without control of their bodily functions. What usually occurs is that

⁸⁸ 3 Nephi 9:13

⁸⁹ 3 Nephi 7:22

⁹⁰ No person wants to think that they are possessed of an evil spirit. Every person in mortality will experience bodily possession. It can afflict us both mentally, physically, and spiritually; but the Lord provides healing to all those who exercise faith in Him. For more help in this area of study refer to: *How To Have Your Second Comforter*, pg. 69-104

whenever a spirit merges with a temporal body they⁹¹ feel a dull, muted sensation similar to what the person afflicted is feeling. These spirits crave such interaction, and therefore seek out those who are suffering. Our spirits are capable of hearing their thoughts to us, which often add the despair and negative thinking. By removing them and bringing into us the Lord's light the healing can begin. It is good to be aware of what may be happening if we are seeking the gift to be healed.

Sometimes the person afflicted is unable to seek a blessing on their own and it requires the faith of another to heal them. When the Lord's disciples in Galilee could not cast out the evil spirit in an sick boy, the boy's father plead with Jesus to heal him.

21 And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child.

22 And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us.

23 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. **[This "crying out" in faith gave the Father what was needed, the gift to have the faith to be healed.]**

25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit,⁹² I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him. **[He first named the spirit and commanded it to leave.]**

⁹¹When I use the word "they" I am referring to the various kinds of dark spirits that afflict us.

⁹² It is interesting to note that the Lord would often name these dark spirits before casting them out; a pattern to dealing with the Adversary.

26 And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead.

27 But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose. **[He healed his body.]**

28 And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out?

29 And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting. **[It is by prayer and fasting that we receive revelation. Without exercising faith unto revelation, you cannot know how to be healed, or to heal.]** (Mark 9:21-29)

If we are afflicted in mind or body, either spiritually, or physically, we can ask for the faith to be healed. This gift of the Spirit is for those who place their trust and belief in Jesus Christ. The Lord may heal you immediately, or like the woman who touched the hem of the Lord's robe, wait twelve years before the miracle. There are times when the suffering is not immediately taken from us. Why? In the case of the woman and Christ, she experienced something beautiful and life changing. She became an example of faith for millions. We must seek the Lord's council, insights, and revelation given to us by the Spirit of the Lord to know the answers to what we must do. Pray and ask for the Gift to be healed, and you will be made clean.⁹³

6) Faith to Heal

After we have the faith to be healed, we often desire the faith to heal others too. This is a wonderful gift for those who desire to be

⁹³ Ether 12:37, 1 Nephi 12:11, Alma 32:42

a servant of the Lord. Can this be done with our own light, or must we receive priesthood through proper channels of authority?

Of our own selves, we can perform various acts of healing. Some people study for years to become doctors, nurses, or to study nutrition and exercise. People become skilled in physical therapy and other types of healing skills. Often these practices require great sums of money to learn and to be accredited with professional status; and they usually charge for the service they render.

There are people who have learned how to do all types of spiritual healing too, drawing upon energy within themselves and their surroundings to try and help cleanse and restore the body. Much of these types of healing have existed for thousands of years and are popular among those seeking alternate types of homeopathic healing, natural remedies, or energy healing. Most of these systems are connected to a spiritual awareness; but not all are Christ-centered.

All forms of healing must be used with caution. Without revelation from the Lord, how safe are you? A doctor's "practice" may prescribe the wrong medication or cause greater harm than good. A spiritual healer may unintentionally cause someone to have more darkness, because of unawareness of what they are dealing with. Both of these methods, I believe, can heal; but there are always risks.⁹⁴

⁹⁴ "I then asked a series of questions regarding healing and giving blessings. I asked if I should read books from various authors to learn new ideas regarding healing. The Lord told me that it would help me to have some ideas, but that I would learn far more from my experiences in the Heavenly Realm." Witness of the End of Times, Pg. 38

The “Faith to Heal” is a spiritual gift requiring no ordination. In the church, we often assume that only those who have been ordained to the Melchizedek Priesthood have the authority to perform a healing blessing. This is not true. They have church authority to perform perfunctory duties, but spiritual privilege is conditional upon worthiness.⁹⁵

The key to healing is our level of faith and our relationship with the Lord. The more faith we exercise, the more we come to know the Lord; His attributes, His ways, and His power. Again, we must have faith, or to seek revelation and then to act upon it.⁹⁶ If we have a relationship with the Lord,⁹⁷ and we are filled with light,⁹⁸ we will be able to discern what and how we are to perform a healing; and God will make it so. The degree and ease in which we accomplish the faith to heal will be determined upon the degree of light we carry, and also the faith and light of the one receiving the blessing.

The first time I ever gave a priesthood healing blessing I was a 19-year-old missionary in a foreign country with no experience or knowledge of how to perform a blessing. My companion had suddenly been overcome by a grand mal seizure. He lay on the floor of our apartment, foaming at the mouth; and I was scared. The other two elders didn’t want to give the blessing. I prayed to the Lord, standing there, my eyes closed, “Father, what do I do?” I was told to place my hands upon his head and speak. I did as I was impressed, and simply said, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command

⁹⁵ D&C 121:34-46

⁹⁶ “Or suppose a man had the gift of healing or power to work miracles, that would not then be known; it would require time and circumstances to call these gifts into operation.” *History of the Church*, 5:26–31; bracketed words in second paragraph in original; punctuation and grammar modernized; paragraph divisions altered; from “Gift of the Holy Ghost,” an editorial published in *Times and Seasons*, June 15, 1842, pp. 823–25; Joseph Smith was the editor of the periodical.

⁹⁷ A measure of our priesthood.

⁹⁸ D&C 88:11-13, 67-68

you to be healed.” I felt a wave of energy go through the top of my head and out through my hands. He immediately relaxed and fell asleep.

Recently, the Lord spoke to me regarding the nature of healing:

“Those who do not have their sealing power can heal by faith and prayer, if it is according to my will. Using anointing, touching, prayer, and involving the recipient of the blessing in proclaiming their faith, they can be healed.”

“I asked about the times when I have exercised faith, but people were not healed and I was told that they were in the process of healing, but because of lack of faith, it was not complete. It is a good idea to remind the one being blessed that they must continue to pray and exercise faith in the blessing.”⁹⁹

During the Lord’s ministry, He had a fullness of the sealing power and was able to heal everyone.¹⁰⁰ We must seek by revelation, to pray and fast much to know exactly what must occur to help the gift of healing to take place.

There is another factor involved in exercising the gift to heal:

“Require not miracles, except I shall command you, except casting out devils, healing the sick, and against poisonous serpents, and against deadly poisons; And these things ye shall not do, except it be required of you by them who desire it, that the

⁹⁹ Witness of the End of Times, Pg. 29

¹⁰⁰ Luke 6:17-19

scriptures might be fulfilled; for ye shall do according to that which is written.” (D&C 24:13-14)

First, we must have the Lord’s permission.¹⁰¹ Often, a priesthood holder assumes because they were formally given priesthood authority that they always have the Lord’s authority to act. Again, revelation is key to moving forward.

Second, we must be asked for the healing. We can offer a blessing, but never perform unless it is officially requested by the recipient, or the guardian if the recipient is incapable of asking for themselves.

“The Lord said that healing is very simple. When the expressed desires of the one being healed and the Lord are in sync, that the person offering the blessing expresses those intentions and creates a conduit by which light and glory are transferred. This is why when giving a healing blessing it is important to first receive permission from the Lord, then to have the recipient express their faith. If they are not able to do this because of their infirmity, a loved one can do it for them. To help one to improve or express their faith, sometimes it is important to have them do an act which requires them to express faith.”¹⁰²

When Jesus walked the earth, He would often require the recipient of the healing blessing to express not only what they desired,¹⁰³ but whether they believed they could be healed. The healer may choose to ask if they believe in Jesus Christ and whether they can

¹⁰¹ D&C 35:9

¹⁰² Witness of the End of Times, Pg. 38

¹⁰³ Luke 17:11-19

be healed through a blessing.¹⁰⁴ Jesus would often require them to do some act of faith; to wash themselves, stand up, to go and do something. The more faith we can help the recipient of the blessing to express, the better will be the result. We should have the Lord's spirit of revelation help us to know what to say.

I have personally seen great healings performed by others, and have also been blessed to be the Lord's tool in this regard. In all cases I ask for permission and revelation beforehand. This may help me know where to touch the person and what direction the blessing will go. I approach the blessing with confidence. Often the Lord will impress upon me what to say or ask the recipient to do to help them bolster their faith.¹⁰⁵ Sometimes the Lord tells me, "No, they cannot be healed of their malady; this is part of their experience."¹⁰⁶

The difference between having sealing power and the Gift to Heal is the degree in which the Lord's Spirit is upon you. Someone who is greatly in tune with the Spirit has a steady stream of revelation, but the Sealing Power is like a fire hose of connectivity to the Lord by comparison. There are no barriers; all is before them.

The Lord revealed through Joseph Smith an order to these things, but also a warning:

¹⁰⁴ Alma 15:8-11

¹⁰⁵ The Lord said to me as I stood before Him:

"When offering a blessing of healing, the enlightened priesthood holder must always clear away the devils. First, by declaration, then by name tell them to leave. Second, if that is not successful, they call down the light of Heaven to fill the person. This is usually done after the person declares their desire and exercises their faith. Third, the devils are cast out and sins are forgiven as the baptism of fire and glory fills their space. The healing then comes naturally as revelation is received and the blessing declared. The faithfulness of the person receiving is required to keep themselves whole, (without the infirmity) otherwise, eventually the same problem will reoccur.

¹⁰⁶ D&C 42:48 Depending upon the Lord's will.

“And these signs shall follow them that believe—In my name they shall do many wonderful works; In my name they shall cast out devils; In my name they shall heal the sick; In my name they shall open the eyes of the blind, and unstop the ears of the deaf; And the tongue of the dumb shall speak; And if any man shall administer poison unto them it shall not hurt them; And the poison of a serpent shall not have power to harm them.”

“But a commandment I give unto them, that they shall not boast themselves of these things, neither speak them before the world; for these things are given unto you for your profit and for salvation.”
(D&C 84:65-73)

The gift of healing, as well as any spiritual gift, if we find ourselves overly impressed with ourselves, may lead to loss of these gifts of the Spirit. It is tempting to want and share experiences for the sake of impressing others. The Lord knows our hearts; therefore, I would suggest always praying for revelation as to whether it is appropriate to share experiences among people you know. It is always a good practice to restrain your words and focus on the glory of God when sharing. Jesus did this often when he was the man of Galilee.¹⁰⁷ Be careful not to offend the Lord.

As with all gifts, they not only require a pure heart and faith, but also courage; for most of these gifts require us to be vulnerable and peculiar in front of other people.

- “What will they think of me?”
- “What if things don’t go as I hoped?”

¹⁰⁷1 Chronicles 29:11, Matthew 6:13, Matthew 19:16-17, 3 Nephi 13:13, Moses 4:2

- “Will I be considered a fraud?”

The Gift to Heal, as with all gifts of the spirit, is a selfless endeavor. It is driven by our love of God, recognizing our weakness, and desiring to serve Him. The good news is that the more experience you have with the Lord’s gifts, the less you notice your personal weakness.¹⁰⁸ The Lord will make what was weak become stronger each time you serve Him.

7) Ministering of Angels

The spiritual gift that opens the door to the administering of angels is far more engaged in our lives than most realize. The problem is that we often do not have our spiritual senses open to see what is happening around us.

I have written extensively about the angelic realm,¹⁰⁹ but here I wish to discuss how they will interact with us here on earth. The gift of the ministering of angels is the blessing of their companionship and help to both come to the Lord and become a servant of Him.

What would prevent you from receiving the ministering of angels or seeing an angel? One of the sons of Mosiah was asked a question:

“Therefore, as Aaron entered into one of their synagogues to preach unto the people, and as he was speaking unto them, behold there arose an Amalekite and began to contend with him, saying: What is that thou hast testified? Hast thou seen

¹⁰⁸ Ether 12:27

¹⁰⁹ “A Witness of the Heavenly Realm,” 97-125

an angel? Why do not angels appear unto us?
Behold are not this people as good as thy people?”
(Alma 21:5)

The scriptures have given us direct instruction for how we can invite the ministering of angels. Nephi recorded, “And by day have I waxed bold in mighty prayer before him; yea, my voice have I sent up on high; and angels came down and ministered unto me.”¹¹⁰ Through prayer we open the door to their ministry, which means they come to teach us.

“And after God had appointed that these things should come unto man, behold, then he saw that it was expedient that man should know concerning the things whereof he had appointed unto them; Therefore he sent angels to converse with them, who caused men to behold of his glory.” (Alma 12:28-29)

Conversing with angels is a precursor to beholding the glory of the Lord. He always sends His messengers to prepare the way before the Second Comforter.

“And he hath power given unto him from the Father to redeem them from their sins because of repentance; therefore he hath sent his angels to declare the tidings of the conditions of repentance, which bringeth unto the power of the Redeemer, unto the salvation of their souls.” (Helaman 5:11)

What are the “conditions of repentance?” No less that what we need to come closer to God. The ministering of angels is a function of the lesser priesthood, which purpose is to prepare us to receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost.

¹¹⁰ 2 Nephi 4:24

“And the lesser priesthood continued, which priesthood holdeth the key of the ministering of angels and the preparatory gospel; Which gospel is the gospel of repentance and of baptism, and the remission of sins, and the law of carnal commandments, which the Lord in his wrath caused to continue with the house of Aaron among the children of Israel until John, whom God raised up, being filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother’s womb.” (D&C 84:26-27)

The great blessing of the ministering of angels is to prepare us to enter the presence of the Lord. Can anyone receive angels to minister unto them?

“And now, he imparteth his word by angels unto men, yea, not only men but women also. Now this is not all; little children do have words given unto them many times, which confound the wise and the learned.” (Alma 32:23)

There are many kinds of angels. They may appear to us as a glorified being of light,¹¹¹ or as a humble servant of the Lord; in which you would not see their glory. “Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”¹¹² These translated beings also minister to us as needed. The three chosen when Christ came to America are such an example: “And they are as the angels of God, and if they shall pray unto the Father in the name of Jesus they can show themselves unto whatsoever man it seemeth them good.”¹¹³

¹¹¹ Hebrews 1:13-14

¹¹² Hebrew 13:22

¹¹³ 3 Nephi 28:30

Angels also give us what we need to overcome weakness.¹¹⁴ Jacob, the brother of Nephi shared his experience contending with Sherem:

“And he had hope to shake me from the faith, notwithstanding the many revelations and the many things which I had seen concerning these things; for I truly had seen angels, and they had ministered unto me. And also, I had heard the voice of the Lord speaking unto me in very word, from time to time; wherefore, I could not be shaken.” (Jacob 7:5)

Angels will bring revelations to us from the Lord. Often when experiencing these revelations, we will also hear the Voice of the Savior. Such encounters strengthen our faith tremendously; we learn to seek revelation and to act upon it. Joseph Smith said, “If you live up to your privileges, the angels cannot be restrained from being your associates.”¹¹⁵

If you are privileged to accompany angels and to see through the veil, expect to also see the darkness. When confronting the Adversary, the Lord will send angels. “And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts;¹¹⁶ and the angels ministered unto him.”¹¹⁷ In my personal experiences, the Lord taught me more about angels when combating the Adversary than any other way. Not all experience this, but if you have this training it is beneficial to serving others.¹¹⁸

In what ways would you expect to receive an angel of the Lord?

¹¹⁴ Luke 22:43

¹¹⁵ History of the Church, 4:605

¹¹⁶ A word to denote demonic beings.

¹¹⁷ Mark 1:13

¹¹⁸ How to Have Your Second Comforter, Anonymous, pg.

“And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.” (Matthew 2:13)

“But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.” (Matthew 1:20)

In both of these cases with Joseph, the husband to Mary, he was given important instructions in a dream. Often, those whose spiritual sensitivities have not yet matured, the Lord blesses us with this gift through our dreams.¹¹⁹ Such dreams may come either as symbolic messages, or actual meetings to communicate with us. This can still occur after your spiritual eyes are open, for sometimes the distractions of life prevent us from hearing what they wish to say to us.

The other way we may receive an angel is through a vision.¹²⁰ “He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.” (Acts 10:33) When your eyes and ears are fully open this is the most common way of communication. In a trance-like state, you can either see something in a completely different environment or location, or actually see things happening around you where you are. It is usually easy to tell whether it is the Adversary or an angel

¹¹⁹ The Adversary can also communicate to us in our dreams. Seeking revelation from the Lord after such an experience will strengthen us and prepare us for greater experiences.

¹²⁰ Hebrews 1:9, Peter was saved by an angel and thought it was a vision; but was in fact a real prison rescue.

by the degree of light and glory you see. Your spiritual eyes and ears are usually very aware of what the Spirit is telling you in these situations, so it becomes quite an event.¹²¹

These things don't happen all the time. Few people walk around with a continually open veil. That would be an uncomfortable distraction to one's daily life. In the book, "How to Open Your Spiritual Eyes," I talk more about such things.¹²²

Sometimes the angels may also wake you to see them in a real-time vision. "And the things which I shall tell you are made known unto me by an angel from God. And he said unto me: Awake; and I awoke, and behold he stood before me."¹²³

When the Lord came to the people of Nephi the heavens opened and the people's spiritual eyes saw in vision the reality of the Heavenly Realm:

"And now, when they heard this they cast up their eyes as if to behold from whence the voice came; and behold, they saw the heavens open; and angels came down out of heaven and ministered unto them." (Helaman 5:48)

"And as they looked to behold they cast their eyes towards heaven, and they saw the heavens open, and they saw angels descending out of heaven as it were in the midst of fire; and they came down and encircled those little ones about, and they were encircled about with fire; and the angels did minister unto them." (3 Nephi 17:24)

¹²¹ Few things compare to seeing a full display of the Adversary being completely subdued by angels of light.

¹²² How To Open Your Spiritual Eyes, Anonymous, pg.

¹²³ Mosiah 3:2

Often people are confused as to how an angel would appear.¹²⁴ They expect to see a man as you would see a mortal, yet glowing in light, but this is not how these beings appear to us.

“For no man has seen God at any time in the flesh, except quickened by the Spirit of God. **[spiritual eyes opened]** Neither can any natural man abide the presence of God, **[physical body]** neither after the carnal mind. **[unsanctified mind]** Ye are not able to abide the presence of God now, neither the ministering of angels; wherefore, continue in patience until ye are perfected.” (D&C 67:11-13)

This perfection comes from the baptism of fire. At this point, one is prepared to receive a fullness from the Lord. At a meeting of the School of the Prophets, March 18, 1833, the prophet Joseph Smith promised the brothers a special blessing:

“...exhorted the brethren to faithfulness and diligence in keeping the commandments of God, and gave much instruction for the benefit of the Saints, with a promise that the pure in heart should see a heavenly vision; and after remaining a short

¹²⁴ “The manifestations of the gift of the Holy Ghost, the ministering of angels, or the development of the power, majesty or glory of God were very seldom manifested publicly, and that generally to the people of God, as to the Israelites; but most generally when angels have come, or God has revealed Himself, it has been to individuals in private, in their chamber; in the wilderness or fields, and that generally without noise or tumult. The angel delivered Peter out of prison in the dead of night; came to Paul unobserved by the rest of the crew; appeared to Mary and Elizabeth without the knowledge of others; spoke to John the Baptist whilst the people around were ignorant of it.” *History of the Church*, 5:26–31; bracketed words in second paragraph in original; punctuation and grammar modernized; paragraph divisions altered; from “Gift of the Holy Ghost,” an editorial published in *Times and Seasons*, June 15, 1842, pp. 823–25; Joseph Smith was the editor of the periodical.

time in secret prayer, the promise was verified; for many present had the eyes of their understanding opened by the Spirit of God, so as to behold many things. ... Many of the brethren saw a heavenly vision of the Savior, and concourses of angels, and many other things.”¹²⁵

Such was also the case with the people of Bountiful.

“And behold, they were encircled about as if it were by fire; and it came down from heaven, and the multitude did witness it, and did bear record; and angels did come down out of heaven and did minister unto them. And it came to pass that while the angels were ministering unto the disciples, behold, Jesus came and stood in the midst and ministered unto them.” (3 Nephi 19:14-15)

The circling of fire is also the pillar of fire often spoken of in scripture, which rests upon us to sanctify us in the presence of God. All angels of the Lord from the presence of God appear in their glory within the pillar of fire.

Remember the story of the angels appearing to the Shepherds at the birth of Christ?

“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said

¹²⁵ *History of the Church*, 1:334–35; from the minutes of a meeting of the School of the Prophets held on Mar. 18, 1833, in Kirtland, Ohio; reported by Frederick G. Williams.

unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (Luke 2:8-14)

Joseph Smith described the First Vision as a "pillar of light."¹²⁶ He later described some interesting details in his visit from Moroni:

"After this communication, I saw the light in the room begin to gather immediately around the person of him who had been speaking to me, and it continued to do so until the room was again left dark, except just around him; when, instantly I saw, as it were, a conduit open right up into heaven, and he ascended till he entirely disappeared, and the room was left as it had been before this heavenly light had made its appearance."

"I lay musing on the singularity of the scene, and marveling greatly at what had been told to me by this extraordinary messenger; when, in the midst of

¹²⁶ JSH 1 :16, also, "Joseph became conscious of a heavenly light descending upon him, growing more brilliant as it enveloped him and the leaves and boughs of the trees, until they seemed to be consumed with fire and the light was brighter than the sun. It rescued Joseph from his unseen enemy. Darkness vanished." See Orson Pratt, *A Interesting Account of Several Remarkable Visions*, 5; see also Joseph Smith, "History, circa Summer 1832," 2; Alexander Neibaur journal, May 24, 1844.

my meditation, I suddenly discovered that my room was again beginning to get lighted, and in an instant, as it were, the same heavenly messenger was again by my bedside.” (Joseph Smith History 1:43-44)

It is important to note that the baptism of fire is a portal of glory which not only cleanses us, but is the means by which beings of light travel. The “fire” is not orange/red as we would consider fire, but white, plasma like energy; pure light, like the light of the sun. Its glory makes all things clean and capable of standing in the presence of God. Such a pillar of light always accompanies an angel of glory.

An angel may also come to us to give commandments from the Lord, or to test us; not always explaining fully the reason why. “And after many days an angel of the Lord appeared unto Adam, saying: Why dost thou offer sacrifices unto the Lord? And Adam said unto him: I know not, save the Lord commanded me.”¹²⁷ At such times it is good to seek a confirmation from the Lord to know if it is indeed from Him.

Joseph Smith shared the following advice in section 129 of the Doctrine and Covenants:

- 1 There are two kinds of beings in heaven, namely: Angels, who are resurrected personages, having bodies of flesh and bones—
- 2 For instance, Jesus said: *Handle me and see, for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.*
- 3 Secondly: the spirits of just men made perfect, they who are not resurrected, but inherit the same glory.

¹²⁷ Moses 5:66

4 When a messenger comes saying he has a message from God, offer him your hand and request him to shake hands with you.

5 If he be an angel he will do so, and you will feel his hand.

6 If he be the spirit of a just man made perfect he will come in his glory; for that is the only way he can appear—

7 Ask him to shake hands with you, but he will not move, because it is contrary to the order of heaven for a just man to deceive; but he will still deliver his message.

8 If it be the devil as an angel of light, when you ask him to shake hands he will offer you his hand, and you will not feel anything; you may therefore detect him.

9 These are three grand keys whereby you may know whether any administration is from God. (D&C 129:1-9)

I asked the Lord face to face regarding this section of D&C:

What about what Joseph Smith said regarding shaking a hand of spirit to know whether it is a true spirit and not be deceived? He said that bad spirits always will try and touch you, but you will feel nothing. Just extending your hand, if you see them, will evoke a response of them trying to engage. Righteous spirits will make no effort to touch you, because they know you cannot feel them. Resurrected spirits will interact with you in the Heavenly Realm and you will certainly feel their touch, and if they are condescending in the flesh in the mortal realm you will feel that too. It's pretty easy to tell which are evil and which are not. For one

who has ascended to the Throne it is easy to tell the difference,¹²⁸ the light of a glorified being is so far beyond the adversary it pales in comparison.¹²⁹

Receiving the gift of the ministering of angels is a powerful blessing, which often comes in stages as we first hear and then see them. It is not the kind of thing that is taken lightly by the Lord,¹³⁰ as are all the other gifts of the Spirit.

“Ye are swift to do iniquity but slow to remember the Lord your God. 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; wherefore, he has spoken unto you like unto the voice of thunder, which did cause the earth to shake as if it were to divide asunder.” (1 Nephi 17:45)

O, how merciful the Lord is unto us! The brothers of Nephi saw an angel of the Lord, but they were past feeling; they didn't feel the words spoken. These same angels spoke to their minds by the “still small voice,” and again they didn't listen. In the end, the voice was as thunder to them, but they continued to be blinded. We must believe and seek by faith the ministering of angels, to not dismiss their interactions with us, to be “past feeling” that we may push forward, to be prepared to come to the Lord and become His servants.

¹²⁸ I'm reminded of Moses's experience with Satan after his ascension. Moses 1:15

¹²⁹ Witness of the End of Times, pg. 93

¹³⁰ 1 Nephi 7:10

8) Gift of Charity

The most important spiritual gift which we can receive in this life is the gift of Charity.¹³¹ It is the literal crown of righteousness¹³² that is given to one whose heart is broken, and spirit is contrite.¹³³ Many of the spiritual gifts which you experience have the purpose of bringing you to a point where you can be a true servant of the Lord. This gift brings a change upon you which can never be undone, unless you sin against the Holy Ghost.¹³⁴

The word “charity” is the transliteration of the Greek word “agape,” which is written in the New Testament. It literally means “divine love.” This is not to be confused with regular love; the kind which is emotional, sentimental, or romantic. To have divine love is to see someone the way God sees them; to be connected to God’s will and understanding for others.

The apostle Paul made the point that although we may exercise various gifts of the Spirit, without charity we have nothing.

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.” (1 Corinthians 13:1-2)

How is it that charity would negate such important gifts as faith and prophesy? The Lord gives us His Spirit and gifts to help us move

¹³¹ 1 Corinthians 13:13, Moroni 7:46

¹³² 2 Timothy 4:8, D&C 25:15, D&C 29:13

¹³³ 1 Timothy 1:5

¹³⁴ Matthew 12:31, Alma 39:5-6

toward Him, but often, because of pride, people don't go beyond exercising the most important gifts of the Spirit unto perfection.¹³⁵

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.” (Matthew 7:21-25)

These people, although exercising spiritual gifts, are not known to the Lord. How can that be?¹³⁶ In His words, their foundation was not built upon Him, the rock. This rock is our baptism of fire, the gift of the Holy Ghost; which makes us His.¹³⁷

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, that this is my doctrine, and I bear record of it from the Father; and whoso believeth in me believeth in the Father also; and unto him will the Father bear record of me, for he will visit him with fire and with the Holy Ghost. And thus will the Father bear record of me, and

¹³⁵ 2 Nephi 28:26-27

¹³⁶ 2 Nephi 28:28-31

¹³⁷ John 10:14-15, 1 Corinthians 3:10-23, 1 Timothy 6:19, 2 Timothy 2:19, How To Open Your Spiritual Eyes, Anonymous, pg.

the Holy Ghost will bear record unto him of the Father and me; for the Father, and I, and the Holy Ghost are one. And again I say unto you, ye must repent, and become as a little child, and be baptized in my name, or ye can in nowise receive these things. And again I say unto you, ye must repent, and be baptized in my name, and become as a little child, or ye can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God. Verily, verily, I say unto you, that this is my doctrine, and whoso buildeth upon this buildeth upon my rock, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against them. And whoso shall declare more or less than this, and establish it for my doctrine, the same cometh of evil, and is not built upon my rock; but he buildeth upon a sandy foundation, and the gates of hell stand open to receive such when the floods come and the winds beat upon them.” (3 Nephi 11:35-40)

The word “charity,” in its colloquial usage, is someone who is kind, caring, and often willing to give of themselves to help someone in need. Truly, these are Christ-like attributes, but is this how “charity” is meant to be used when speaking of the spiritual gift?

“And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. **[No service or kindness will exalt you unless you have the Gift of the Holy Ghost.]** Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, **[Seeketh the Father’s will]** is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all

things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. **[These are attributes of a person who has become one with the Father; received the Holy Ghost.]** Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. **[Charity is a gift which cannot be undone except by denying the HG.]** For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, **[The glory which cleanses and exalts.]** then that which is in part shall be done away. **[The telestial state of our soul.]** When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. **[Your understanding is changed.]** For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. **[Our spiritual senses will be blurred at first, and then made clear.]** And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.” (1 Corinthians 13:1-13)

Faith is the Holy Spirit received by revelation as we seek the Lord--*repentance*.¹³⁸ **Hope** is the promise of a remission of sins as we covenant with the Father---*baptism*.¹³⁹ **Charity** is the baptism of fire and the Gift of the Holy Ghost as we are made clean and exalted---born again in Jesus Christ---*perfection of spirit*.¹⁴⁰

¹³⁸ Alma 34:15-17, Alma 9:27, Alma 26:22, Helaman 5:41-43, Helaman 15:7, 3 Nephi 27:19, Moroni 8:25, D&C 20:6, D&C 29:42

¹³⁹ Ephesians 4:4-7, 2 Nephi 31:17, Alma 7:15, Alma 32:21, Ether 12:8-9, 32, Moroni 7:3, Mark 1:4, D&C 33:11, D&C 39:6, D&C 107:20, Moses 6:59-60

¹⁴⁰ Moroni 8: 25-26

“And see that ye have faith, hope, and charity, and then ye will always abound in good works. And may the Lord bless you, and keep your garments spotless, that ye may at last be brought to sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and the holy prophets who have been ever since the world began, having your garments spotless even as their garments are spotless, in the kingdom of heaven to go no more out.” (Alma 7:24-25)

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob also had faith, hope and charity. This is how they became spotless and became worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven. By receiving the gift of Charity they were worthy to receive the baptism of fire and the Gift of the Holy Ghost.

In both the New Testament and the Book of Mormon, Jesus Christ instructed his disciples to “be ye therefore perfect...”¹⁴¹ What kind of perfection was He referring to? Is it not the kind of perfection which comes from divine love as we do the will of the Father?

“And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.” (Colossians 3:14-15)

Charity is what bonds us to our Lord. It is what He referred to as “be ye therefore perfect.” The Lord showed us the straightness of the path and how we could return to the Father. Without this gift, we would have nothing.

“Know ye not that he was holy? But notwithstanding he being holy, he showeth unto the children of men that, according to the flesh he humbleth himself before the Father, and witnesseth unto the Father

¹⁴¹ Matthew 5:48, Nephi 12:48

that he would be obedient unto him in keeping his commandments. Wherefore, after he was baptized with water the Holy Ghost descended upon him in the form of a dove. And again, it showeth unto the children of men the straitness of the path, and the narrowness of the gate, by which they should enter, he having set the example before them. And he said unto the children of men: Follow thou me. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, can we follow Jesus save we shall be willing to keep the commandments of the Father? And the Father said: Repent ye, repent ye, and be baptized in the name of my Beloved Son. 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 which ye have seen me do." (2 Nephi 31:7-12)

And again, Nephi speaks of this commandment:

"Behold, the Lord hath forbidden this thing; wherefore, the Lord God hath given a commandment that all men should have charity, which charity is love. And except they should have charity they were nothing. Wherefore, if they should have charity they would not suffer the laborer in Zion to perish." (2 Nephi 26:30)

Is it as simple as only "love?" What does it mean to not suffer a laborer of Zion to perish?" In the previous verses, Nephi preaches against priestcraft, and admonishes the Lord's servants to have charity; for such a servant knowing the will of God cannot bear to see any soul perish in the Lord's kingdom. They carry the gift of charity or the understanding of the Lord's divine love.

Not only is charity the greatest of spiritual gifts, but also an anchor to the soul,¹⁴² which strengthens us against the powers of darkness. Peter said, “And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.”¹⁴³ Joseph Smith made the following correction: “for charity *preventeth* a multitude of sins”¹⁴⁴ The gift of charity provides a certain clarity that helps us to recognize the Adversary; to have a pure heart and focus on the truth. This new light can prevent us from the desire to sin; but doesn’t mean we won’t sin. However, we will know that the Lord is our Redeemer and will continue to repent and seek His light.

The gift of charity is not something you are born with; it must be received from the Lord. We are born with weakness; meaning, we do not know the Lord yet.

“Behold, I will show unto the Gentiles their weakness, **[a disconnect from the Lord]** and I will show unto them that faith, hope and charity bringeth unto me—the fountain of all righteousness.” (Ether 12:28)

This one-two-three process (faith, hope, and charity) is the source of all blessings the Lord wishes to bestow upon us; like a clear fountain pushing living water upwards. All righteousness comes through the gift and power of the Holy Ghost. These gifts are conditional upon our desires to receive them.

I need to stop here to explain something. Charity is like the turn-key that gives us the Gift of the Holy Ghost. It is a virtue of godliness, and a gift of the Spirit; but is not the Gift of the Holy Ghost itself. When we receive the gift of Charity we are prepared

¹⁴² Ether 12:4

¹⁴³ 1 Peter 4:8

¹⁴⁴ JST 1 Peter 4:8

to receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost. It is like a sign to the Lord that our moment has come. If these gifts were exactly the same thing Moroni would have just named it so.

In Moroni 7 it reads:

1 And now I, Moroni, write a few of the words of my father Mormon, which he spake concerning faith, hope, and charity; for after this manner did he speak unto the people, as he taught them in the synagogue which they had built for the place of worship.

2 And now I, Mormon, speak unto you, my beloved brethren; and it is by the grace of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, and his holy will, because of the gift of his calling unto me, **[Gift of the Spirit, to preach and to prophecy]** that I am permitted to speak unto you at this time.

3 Wherefore, I would speak unto you that are of the church, **[been baptized]** that are the peaceable followers of Christ, and that have obtained a sufficient hope by which ye can enter into the rest of the Lord, from this time henceforth until ye shall rest with him in heaven.

32 And by so doing, the Lord God prepareth the way that the residue of men may have faith in Christ, that the Holy Ghost may have place in their hearts, according to the power thereof; and after this manner bringeth to pass the Father, the covenants which he hath made unto the children of men.

33 And Christ hath said: If ye will have faith in me ye shall have power to do whatsoever thing is expedient in me. **[First by Faith, which is the gift of revelation]**

34 And he hath said: Repent all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me, and be baptized in my name, and have faith in me, that ye may be saved.

42 Wherefore, if a man have faith he must needs have hope; for without faith there cannot be any hope. **[Second by Hope, which is the covenant of baptism, a witness to the Father that we accept Jesus Christ.]**

43 And again, behold I say unto you that he cannot have faith and hope, save he shall be meek, and lowly of heart. **[You must qualify for the Holy Ghost, a broken heart and contrite spirit.]**

44 If so, his faith and hope is vain, for none is acceptable before God, save the meek and lowly in heart; and if a man be meek and lowly in heart, and confesses by the power of the Holy Ghost that Jesus is the Christ, **[Must cry out to God]** he must needs have charity; for if he have not charity he is nothing; wherefore he must needs have charity. **[Hereby, he must be given the gift of the Holy Ghost.]**

Mormon preaches that to receive the gift we must desire and ask the Lord with real intent. And then Moroni, as he wraps up the monumental task his father had set in motion, declares:

43 And again, behold I say unto you that he cannot have faith and hope, save he shall be meek, and lowly of heart. **[requirements to receive the Holy Ghost]**

44 If so, his faith and hope is vain, for none is acceptable before God, save the meek and lowly in heart; and if a man be meek and lowly in heart, and confesses by the power of the Holy Ghost that

Jesus is the Christ, he must needs have charity;¹⁴⁵ [**a formula for qualifying for charity, or the Gift of the Holy Ghost.**] for if he have not charity he is nothing; wherefore he must needs have charity. [**Without the Gift of the Holy Ghost you have no place in the Lord's Kingdom.**]

45 And charity suffereth long, and is kind, and envieth not, and is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, and rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. [**These are attributes and evidences of one who has the gift of charity.**]

46 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, if ye have not charity, ye are nothing, for charity never faileth. [**It can never be reversed. You are now a son or daughter of God; born again in Jesus Christ.**] Wherefore, cleave unto charity, [**Grab hold of this gift.**] which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail—

47 But charity is the pure love of Christ, [**Divine connection to the pure love of Heaven; the will of the Father.**] and it endureth forever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with him.

48 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love, which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son, Jesus Christ; [**Cry out with all your energy of heart and soul!**] that ye may become the sons of God; that when he shall appear we shall be like him, [**Stand together in the eternal burnings of the Heavenly Throne.**] for

¹⁴⁵ This is the gift of Prophecy, one of the gifts of the Spirit that often accompanies the receipt of the gift of the Holy Ghost. Pg. 69

we shall see him as he is; that we may have this hope; that we may be purified even as he is pure. Amen.” (Moroni 7:44-48)

Again, Moroni emphasizes in his final words the importance of faith, hope, and charity; the three-step process toward receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost.

“Wherefore, there must be faith; and if there must be faith there must also be hope; and if there must be hope there must also be charity. And except ye have charity ye can in nowise be saved in the kingdom of God; neither can ye be saved in the kingdom of God if ye have not faith; neither can ye if ye have no hope.” (Moroni 10:20-21)

To receive the Gift of Charity is to be a servant of the Most High. Often the Lord mentions faith, hope, and charity, when speaking of the Holy Ghost. It is by this pattern that we literally take upon us the name of Christ.

“Behold, you have my gospel before you, and my rock, and my salvation. Ask the Father in my name in faith, believing that you shall receive, and you shall have the Holy Ghost, which manifesteth all things which are expedient unto the children of men. And if you have not faith, hope, and charity, you can do nothing. Contend against no church, save it be the church of the devil. Take upon you the name of Christ, and speak the truth in soberness.” (D&C 18:17-21)

Taking His name upon us is like wearing a mantle of divine relationship. “And above all things, clothe yourselves with the bond

of charity, as with a mantle, which is the bond of perfectness and peace.”¹⁴⁶

The relationship between the gift of Charity and the gift of the Holy Ghost can be confusing. Through my experiences the Lord has helped me to understand this process and its significance to our progression. I explain it in detail in the book “How To Open Your Spiritual Eyes,” but here are a few simple explanations to some questions regarding the gift of Charity.

Question: Is charity a sign of receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost?

Answer: Charity is the bestowal of the pure light (love) of Christ, a virtue of godliness that is a sign of our worthiness to receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost.¹⁴⁷

Question: How is Charity different than the Gift of the Holy Ghost?

Answer: Charity is a gift of the Spirit that prepares us to be spiritually reborn in Jesus Christ. The Gift of the Holy Ghost is a change of our spirit body to more light and glory than it had before.

Question: How does the gift of Charity differ from the definition that charity is to love God above anything else?

Answer: The commandment to love God above all things is the prerequisite to having the Gift of the Holy Ghost. To have a broken heart and contrite spirit is a full submission to the Lord and will lead to the gift of Charity and all the blessings of Eternal Life.

¹⁴⁶ D&C 88:125

¹⁴⁷ I will be explaining this relationship in detail in the companion book, “How To Open Your Spiritual Eyes.”

Question: I'm not sure if charity is something we need to perform on our own or if it is the love we have for others after first receiving the love of God?

Answer: The gift of charity is a state of being. The fruits of charity are things such as kindness, patience, long suffering, etc. The love we have for others is a natural occurrence as we exercise virtue, but to love others as God loves them can only come in its fullness after receiving the gift of Charity because we possess a divine love that expresses God's love for His children. We see them the way the Lord sees them.

Charity is the crowning gift in this life, which will lead you to the Gift of the Holy Ghost and a full knowledge of the Lord.

“Let thy bowels **[motivations and yearnings]** also be full of charity **[God's love and purpose]** towards all men, **[the world]** and to the household of faith, **[believers]** and let virtue **[holy desires and imaginations]** garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; **[100% of the time]** then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God; **[You will have a relationship with the Lord]** and the doctrine of the priesthood shall distill upon thy soul as the dews from heaven. **[Gifts of the Spirit will expand.]** The Holy Ghost shall be thy constant companion, **[Baptism of Fire, The Gift of the Holy Ghost]** and thy scepter an unchanging scepter of righteousness and truth; **[knowledge of God, priesthood]** and thy dominion shall be an everlasting dominion, **[exaltation]** and without compulsory means **[Sealing power given]** it shall flow unto thee forever and ever. **[crowned a King]**” (D&C 121:45-46)

9) Gift of Tongues

My first experience with the gift of tongues came several months after receiving my baptism of fire and gift of the Holy Ghost. This particular gift of the Spirit I did not understand, and I had fervently prayed to the Lord that He would help me. What was it for? How would it be used? Was it only for teaching the gospel in an unknown tongue?

I had been a church missionary in a foreign country and eventually learned to speak the language; but although I had been told by leaders this was the “gift of tongues,” I didn’t see it as the true manifestation. Many have learned to speak foreign languages better than I in much shorter a time for secular purposes. The apostles, after receiving the Holy Ghost, went into the city and spoke in tongues they had never spoken before.¹⁴⁸ I needed to learn more.

Instead of going out and buying books on the topic as I have in the past, I have learned to trust in the Lord for such things. I literally knew nothing about the gift of Tongues other than it existed. The Lord told me that I would soon experience this spiritual gift. Within several weeks, as I knelt, pouring out my heart to the Lord, the Spirit told me to relax and begin to loosen my tongue. At first it was awkward and I felt embarrassed; but I continued, and within a minute the words began to flow. What was surprising was the degree to which the Spirit began to pour over me. This encouraged me to pray in tongues more fervently, and from that time forward I have practiced this gift during every formal personal prayer. Four months later after the start of the gift of Tongues I experienced the Second Comforter.

¹⁴⁸ Acts 2:1-8

I have witnessed others speak in tongues; both men and women. Usually, someone is inspired to translate what is said. I find that the Spirit is always abundantly strong when such a thing occurs. The gift can be manifested when someone is being blessed or a prayer is given. On a few occasions, I have heard something like the gift of Tongues where no Spirit was present; and no translation was offered. It felt hollow to me.

The Spirit is so strong when the gift is used that it is not uncommon for them to speak emotionally with tears. It is hard to explain the purity and intensity that accompanies the gift of Tongues and its affect upon a group of people.

I have asked the Lord at times, “Why was I told to pray or give this portion of the blessing in tongues?” The answer was that it was private between Him and the recipient. Either the person’s spirit would receive it, or he would pray and receive a translation. There are also times when someone present would receive the translation and declare it to the person for me, as a witness of the Lord’s power.

There are three distinct ways to use the gift of Tongues. Each has a different purpose, which in every way edifies and brings light to those who participate.

Praying in Tongues

This is a personal prayer, spoken in the language of the Spirit.¹⁴⁹ It is not important that anyone understands what is spoken except

¹⁴⁹ 1 Corinthians 14:1-5

“Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy. **[Seek the spiritual gifts, especially charity, and then you will prophesy.]** For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. **[A type of tongue where we speak only to God in the Spirit]**

the Lord.¹⁵⁰ The language will often change, and to your surprise become very coherent and beautiful as you focus your whole heart upon Him. There are times when words change to singing, or even humming or beautiful notes of sound.¹⁵¹ There are no time restrictions, whether you pray this way a few minutes or for hours. The longer one prays, the more the Spirit can flow over you; you feel focused. At these beautiful moments, visions begin to open and the glory of heaven can rest upon you.¹⁵² Yes, the gift of tongues is one of the most wonderful gifts the Lord can bestow upon you; but it requires child-like faith. Only one who is willing to set aside the pride of the world should attempt such a thing.

Speaking in Tongues

This is where a servant of the Lord literally speaks in an unknown tongue to another.¹⁵³ It is clearly understood by the recipient in its perfect dialect, and spoken effortlessly by the speaker.¹⁵⁴ It takes no preparation, other than to be fully engulfed in the Spirit, and on the Lord's errand; which implies a level of priesthood.¹⁵⁵ I have experienced this a few times and was amazed at how effortlessly it occurred,¹⁵⁶ both in the Middle East and in Central America. While

¹⁵⁰ 1 Corinthians 14:14

¹⁵¹ 1 Corinthians 14:15

¹⁵² Since experiencing the gift of Tongues I have been reminded of the way Native Americans will often sing in tongues as they seek a vision quest. I see much in their holy practices that remind me of what the Lord has given to me.

¹⁵³ *The Prophet spoke at an 1834 conference of elders:*

"Joseph Smith then gave an explanation of the gift of tongues, that it was particularly instituted for the preaching of the Gospel to other nations and languages, but it was not given for the government of the Church."

History of the Church, 2:162; from the minutes of a conference of elders held on Sept. 8, 1834, in New Portage, Ohio; reported by Oliver Cowdery.

¹⁵⁴ 3 Nephi 26:14, Acts 2:5-12

¹⁵⁵ As I use the word "priesthood," I am referring to a relationship with the Lord. Often, such a servant will be instructed by the Lord before such an assignment."

¹⁵⁶ A Witness of the End of Times, Anonymous, pg. 40-46

speaking I knew exactly what I was saying in English and the words came out fluently.¹⁵⁷ The gift also comes with a level of discernment, which allows the speaker to understand the thoughts of the receiver, as to not confuse the meaning or intention. This is the “tongue of angels”¹⁵⁸ that the prophets refer to.

Propheying in Tongues¹⁵⁹

Another beautiful version of this gift is where the servant blesses¹⁶⁰ or prays for another and may have the Spirit move upon them to begin speaking in an unknown tongue. As I stated earlier, this is an opportunity for the Lord to share something sacred for only certain ears, “He who has ears, let them hear.”¹⁶¹ This is a wise method to prevent someone from hearing what they are not meant to hear, because it is too sacred, or only for certain people. The Lord doesn’t always let us know how He is blessing us. In the past, when I have experienced this, I have felt compelled to tell the recipient to pray for an interpretation. The few times I have experienced this, it was never in the presence of anyone who was lacking faith. As the apostle Paul stated concerning tongues before an unbeliever, “will they not say that ye are mad?”¹⁶² The Spirit always leads when the time is appropriate.¹⁶³

¹⁵⁷ Moroni 10:15-16

¹⁵⁸ 2 Nephi 31:13-14, 2 Nephi 32:2

¹⁵⁹ Sometimes referred to as a “message in tongues.”

¹⁶⁰ 1 Corinthians 14:16

¹⁶¹ Matthew 11:15

¹⁶² 1 Corinthians 14:23

¹⁶³ “Suppose a man had the discerning of spirits, who would be the wiser for it? Or if he had the interpretation of tongues, unless someone spoke in an unknown tongue, he of course would have to be silent; there are only two gifts that could be made visible—the gift of tongues and the gift of prophecy. These are things that are the most talked about, and yet if a person spoke in an unknown tongue, according to Paul’s testimony, he would be a barbarian to those present [see 1 Corinthians 14:11]. They would say that it was gibberish; and if he prophesied they would call it nonsense. The gift of tongues is the

There have been occasion when I have blessed someone in tongues, whispering under my breath while another is voicing a blessing. Usually, no one knows I am doing this, but the Spirit is strong and I act in faith as I use the gift. This is a sweet experience as we are able to call down the powers of heaven in their behalf.

How does one receive that gift of Tongues? Is it as simple as asking, or is there some sacrifice which is required? The Psalmist of the Old Testament offers a clue:

“Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.” (Psalm 51:14-17)

“A broken and a contrite heart,”¹⁶⁴ a phrase often used by the Lord to describe the requirements to come to the Lord. It means to fully submit to Him, without reservation. This verse alludes to singing and opening the mouth for praise. Making the point that all God wants is a broken and contrite heart, the makings of the Gift of the Holy Ghost.¹⁶⁵

smallest gift perhaps of the whole, and yet it is one that is the most sought after.”

History of the Church, 5:26–31; bracketed words in second paragraph in original; punctuation and grammar modernized; paragraph divisions altered; from “Gift of the Holy Ghost,” an editorial published in *Times and Seasons*, June 15, 1842, pp. 823–25; Joseph Smith was the editor of the periodical.

¹⁶⁴ 3 Nephi 9:20

¹⁶⁵ 3 Nephi 9:20

“Do ye not remember that I said unto you that after ye had received the Holy Ghost ye could speak with the tongue of angels? And now, how could ye speak with the tongue of angels save it were by the Holy Ghost?” (2 Nephi 32:2)

To speak with the gift of Tongues requires us to first receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, I know that if ye shall follow the Son, with full purpose of heart, acting no hypocrisy and no deception before God, but with real intent, repenting of your sins, witnessing unto the Father that ye are willing to take upon you the name of Christ, by baptism—yea, by following your Lord and your Savior down into the water, according to his word, behold, then shall ye receive the Holy Ghost; yea, then cometh the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost; and then can ye speak with the tongue of angels, and shout praises unto the Holy One of Israel.” (2 Nephi 31:13)

After receiving the Gift of the Holy Ghost the Spirit may give you the gift to speak in another tongue. The Apostle Paul wrote much regarding the spiritual gift of Tongues. This was not an uncommon occurrence among the earliest Christian converts.¹⁶⁶

“And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? But covet

¹⁶⁶ Acts 19:6

earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way. (1 Corinthians 12:28-31)

What were the best gifts? He set some in the church: first, apostles or special witnesses who receive the knowledge of God; the Second Comforter. Second, prophets; who preach repentance to the people and have the gift of prophecy. Third, teachers; who receive the gift of revelation and the gift of preaching to bring souls to Christ. These gifts are worthy to covet with righteousness. The gift of tongues is another tool the Lord gives us to bless others and to come closer to Him. This gift cannot be adequately wielded before receiving charity or the Gift of the Holy Ghost.

But can't someone receive this gift before the gift of charity?¹⁶⁷ Paul said, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal."¹⁶⁸ Without the Holy Ghost, the gift of tongues is unprofitable. Why is that? Because, unless we are connected to the will of the Father it is not effective.¹⁶⁹

The Apostle Paul wrote a letter to the Corinthians who struggled with the spiritual gift of tongues. There is much here to ponder:

13 Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.

[pray for an interpretation.]

14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. **[Often when we pray in tongues, we ourselves don't know the meaning.]**

15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with

¹⁶⁷ Matthew 7:22-23

¹⁶⁸ 1 Corinthians 13:1

¹⁶⁹ D&C 63:64

the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.
[One can sing in tongues and feel the power of the Lord too.]

16 Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, **[Tongues are often used for blessing]** how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?

17 For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified. **[Do not use tongues for those who are unfamiliar with this gift, without interpretation.]**

18 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: **[Paul admits he uses this gift much.]**

19 Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue. **[He rarely uses in a gathering.]**

20 Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.

21 In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.¹⁷⁰

22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: **[A blessing for us, but not for unbelievers.]** but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

23 If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

¹⁷⁰ Isaiah 28:11

24 But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: **[The gift of prophecy is much like the gift of tongues, but in a known tongue.]**

25 And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.

26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

27 If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. **[Multiple may speak in tongues, but be orderly, and someone interpret.]**

28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. **[Keep your tongue silent if the Lord has not an interpreter or commanded you to open your mouth.]**

29 Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. **[by two or three witnesses]**

30 If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. **[speak in turn]**

31 For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.

32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. **[Be kind, respectful, and with charity.]**

33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.¹⁷¹ (1 Corinthians 14:13-33)

The Gift of Prophecy is much like the gift of Tongues, however, it is to be spoken in your own tongue. Are there any other reasons for speaking in tongues? I have found that there is an element of pure faith, which triggers a response from the Spirit when speaking in tongues that I cannot receive in any other way. A release of inhibition, child-like faith where we simply trust in the Lord. Faith as a little child is required to enter the Kingdom of Heaven; is it not?¹⁷²

“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, I know that if ye shall follow the Son, with full purpose of heart, acting no hypocrisy and no deception before God, but with real intent, repenting of your sins, witnessing unto the Father that ye are willing to take upon you the name of Christ, by baptism—yea, by following your Lord and your Savior down into the water, according to his word, behold, then shall ye receive the Holy Ghost; yea, then cometh the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost; and then can ye speak with the tongue of angels, and shout praises unto the Holy One of Israel.”¹⁷³

¹⁷¹ “As to the gift of tongues, all we can say is, that in this place, we have received it as the ancients did: we wish you, however, to be careful lest in this you be deceived. ... Satan will no doubt trouble you about the gift of tongues, unless you are careful; you cannot watch him too closely, nor pray too much. May the Lord give you wisdom in all things.”

History of the Church, 1:369; from a letter from Joseph Smith and his counselors in the First Presidency to the brethren in Missouri, July 2, 1833, Kirtland, Ohio.

¹⁷² Matthew 18:3

¹⁷³ In the historical LDS church the gift of tongues had at one time been very prevalent; even more so than most other Christian denominations in the

The purpose of the Gift of the Holy Ghost is to prepare us to enter the presence of the Lord. After we receive the gift of Charity we may receive the gift of Tongues. Every time, in my personal experience, I have been allowed to come into the Lord's presence at the Heavenly Throne I have prayed in tongues first. The outpouring of the Spirit and its subsequent instructions always prepare me.¹⁷⁴

“Do ye not remember that I said unto you that after ye had received the Holy Ghost ye could speak with the tongue of angels? And now, how could ye speak with the tongue of angels save it were by the Holy Ghost? Angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore, they speak the words of Christ. Wherefore, I said unto you, feast upon the words of Christ; **[revelations]** for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do.” (2 Nephi 32:2-3)

The Lord had told his apostles that He would send them the comforter.¹⁷⁵ When the day came
It was a bestowal of great spiritual power.

northeastern states. There are many accounts of the early saints experiencing these gifts. But, today it is hard to find an example of the gift used among the members. To read some of these accounts go to: *How To Have Your Second Comforter*, by Anonymous, pg. 148-152

¹⁷⁴ I'm not saying you cannot go to the Lord if you do not practice the gift of Tongues; but it has always made a difference for me and was how the Lord taught me.

¹⁷⁵ John 14:16, John 15:26 The name given by Christ to the Holy Spirit. The original word is *Paraclete*, and means a defender, helper, strengthener, as well as comforter.

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:1-4)

It has always been interesting to me how the gift of Tongues and “cloven tongues like as of fire” can be used together. The glory of the Lord compared to a human tongue? The gift of tongues is often an immediate spiritual gift bestowed upon a person after receiving the baptism of fire and gift of the Holy Ghost.

“Let the anointing of thy ministers be sealed upon them with power from on high. Let it be fulfilled upon them, as upon those on the day of Pentecost; let the gift of tongues be poured out upon thy people, even cloven tongues as of fire, and the interpretation thereof. And let thy house be filled, as with a rushing mighty wind, with thy glory.” (D&C 109:35-37)

What kind of tongue is it? A cloven tongue is a divided tongue shape. This was a popular metaphor in the ancient middle east to describe what flames do as they rise. When a person speaks in tongues, they often raise their voices to God in praise. When they speak the tongue of angels in a foreign language, they speak by the power of the Holy Ghost; the same “cloven tongue” which is a witness of divine intervention.

When someone receives the baptism of fire what happens to them? The fire or glory of God rests upon them. A typical reaction of such an experience is to speak in the tongue of angels. Some will

prophesy and some will witness the white fire or glory that surrounds them. Even some, because their eyes are not open, will only sense what is happening to them.

When I received my baptism of fire and gift of the Holy Ghost, I saw the glory come down upon the group of men I was with. I saw the white flames above the heads of many of these men.¹⁷⁶ I was overcome and said words I do not remember, but I did not speak in tongues until months later. Each person will experience this gift if they seek it by faith. Do not dismiss its beautiful blessing toward helping you to come to the Lord. If you carry any unbelief or discomfort, put it aside and trust in the Lord. For me, the gift of tongues was indispensable in parting the veil and coming to God.

10) Interpretation of Tongues

Anyone who receives the gift of Tongues must seek the companion gift of the Interpretation for what was spoken. I have learned from experience that if I don't seek an interpretation it will not be given. This is usually how the Lord works; and this gift is closely associated with the gift of revelation.

When I pray in tongues I prefer to focus on the way I feel, an attitude of praise and love toward my Father. There have been times when I have asked the Lord the meaning of what I was saying and was told that they were familiar words of praise that my spirit understood. At times the words sounded like a particular language, and other times not.

When I have been present when others have spoken in tongues I immediately ask the Lord what is being said. The words or phrases have come to my mind very clearly, often hearing the words repeat

¹⁷⁶ Acts 2:3, *How To Have Your Second Comforter*, Anonymous, pg. 116

themselves. As I often do when receiving revelation, I will ask the Lord if my revelation is correct. Sometimes, although I have been given an interpretation, I have been impressed to not speak it. Within a short time, someone else would give the interpretation. It is interesting to me how the words they offered were usually different than mine, yet meant the same thing.

Joseph Smith said the following:

Be not so curious about tongues, do not speak in tongues except there be an interpreter present; the ultimate design of tongues is to speak to foreigners, and if persons are very anxious to display their intelligence, let them speak to such in their own tongues. The gifts of God are all useful in their place, but when they are applied to that which God does not intend, they prove an injury, a snare and a curse instead of a blessing.¹⁷⁷

In Joseph Smith's time, the gift of Tongues was very common among the members.¹⁷⁸ To seek to speak in tongues to simply show what you can do is a bad idea. We must always be cautious that it is led by the Spirit of the Lord.

“Speak not in the gift of tongues without understanding it, or without interpretation. The devil can speak in tongues; the adversary will come with his work; he can tempt all classes; can speak in English or Dutch. Let no one speak in tongues unless he interpret, except by the consent of the one who

¹⁷⁷ *History of the Church*, 3:392; from a discourse given by Joseph Smith about July 1839 in Commerce, Illinois; reported by Willard Richards.

¹⁷⁸ *How to Have Your Second Comforter*, Anonymous, pg.148-152

is placed to preside; then he may discern or interpret, or another may.”¹⁷⁹

“If you have a matter to reveal, let it be in your own tongue; do not indulge too much in the exercise of the gift of tongues, or the devil will take advantage of the innocent and unwary. You may speak in tongues for your own comfort, but I lay this down for a rule, that if anything is taught by the gift of tongues, it is not to be received for doctrine.”¹⁸⁰

What do you consider doctrine? For me it is anything which I receive from the Lord as received by revelation.¹⁸¹ Any time I hear someone speak in tongues and an interpretation is given I always seek a confirmation; sometimes asking two or three times. I have been in groups where tongues and interpretation was given, and multiple witnesses bore testimony that they too received a confirmation of its truthfulness. The Law of Witnesses is a good standard.¹⁸²

I mentioned in the previous section that sometimes the tongues spoken would ring hollow to me and I received no interpretation. Familiar spirits can also cause one to speak in tongues. Speaking in tongues in public can be a snare to those who do it too frequently. It immediately attracts attention, especially when in a large group. We must be sure we are led by the Spirit of the Lord so as to not be deceived.

¹⁷⁹ *History of the Church*, 3:392; from a discourse given by Joseph Smith about July 1839 in Commerce, Illinois; reported by Willard Richards.

¹⁸⁰ “doctrine,” meaning church doctrine. *History of the Church*, 4:607; from a discourse given by Joseph Smith on Apr. 28, 1842, in Nauvoo, Illinois; reported by Eliza R. Snow.

¹⁸¹ John 7:16-17, 1 Corinthians 14:5-6, 3 Nephi 11:26-40, D&C 11:16, D&C 88:77-78, D&C 97:14, D&C 121:45

¹⁸² Matthew 18:16

“Tongues were given for the purpose of preaching among those whose language is not understood; as on the day of Pentecost, etc.,¹⁸³ and it is not necessary for tongues to be taught to the Church particularly, for any man that has the Holy Ghost, can speak of the things of God in his own tongue as well as to speak in another; for faith comes not by signs, but by hearing the word of God.”¹⁸⁴

Joseph is making the same point that the Apostle Paul made to the Corinthians. The purpose of speaking in tongues is to share the Gospel in someone’s own language, not to prove as a sign that we have special power. Therefore, there must be a good reason when the gift of tongues is spoken in a group setting.

Are there clues that will help us discern if the gift of tongues is not from God? Joseph said the following:

“We have also had brethren and sisters who have had the gift of tongues falsely; they would speak in a muttering, unnatural voice, and their bodies be distorted ... ; whereas, there is nothing unnatural in the Spirit of God.”¹⁸⁵

¹⁸³ “I read the 13th chapter of First Corinthians [at a meeting held on December 26, 1841], also a part of the 14th chapter, and remarked that the gift of tongues was necessary in the Church; ... the gift of tongues by the power of the Holy Ghost in the Church, is for the benefit of the servants of God to preach to unbelievers, as on the day of Pentecost.”

History of the Church, 4:485; from a discourse given by Joseph Smith on Dec. 26, 1841, in Nauvoo, Illinois; reported by Willard Richards.

¹⁸⁴ *History of the Church*, 3:379; from a discourse given by Joseph Smith on June 27, 1839, in Commerce, Illinois; reported by Willard Richards.

¹⁸⁵ *History of the Church*, 4:580; punctuation modernized; from “Try the Spirits,” an editorial published in *Times and Seasons*, Apr. 1, 1842, p. 747; Joseph Smith was the editor of the periodical.

There are people who will speak in tongues, like a spiritual medium, to share words of different spirits present. If they seem to change personality it is a red flag to be sure. I would be wary of such usage of this gift.

If you have ever truly witnessed someone speak in tongues it is a beautiful thing to behold. I have found that the tongue spoken is often that of the angels who are with you. They will radiate the Spirit of the Lord and speak in a manner that does not feel uncomfortable or forced. Those who speak will do so slowly, or naturally; but it is always be filled with light. Even so, it is best to ask the Lord for a confirmation and interpretation. I hope that you will seek and exercise the gift of tongues, as well as the interpretation of tongues. These gifts are of God and will bring you great joy.

11) Discerning of Spirits

The gift of Discernment is the second gift I listed in this book; its importance is critical to our moving forward as a servant of the Lord. This other gift, which involves discerning spirits, is one that for some reason many do not seek. As with many of the gifts of the spirit, previous beliefs and traditions may sway our desires. I remember as a child being petrified of ghosts, evil spirits, and other paranormal subjects, because of stories and tales, movies and teachings, which taught me to avoid these things all together.

Why would anyone want to have a gift which would open a dark and creepy place, even a clear view of the world that is actively surrounding us?¹⁸⁶

¹⁸⁶ Of course, not all spirits are evil, some are confused, some are mischievous. We must know what we are dealing with that we might protect those to whom we love and serve.

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.” (1 Timothy 4:1)

How can anyone fight against what they do not know? How much do we not see? “Behold, we are surrounded by demons, yea, we are encircled about by the angels of him who hath sought to destroy our souls.”¹⁸⁷

The fact is that we are all surrounded by demons who desire to destroy us.¹⁸⁸ Jesus was able to discern spirits, to know the presence of devils. He even knew their intentions.

“And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils. And all the city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.” (Mark 1:32-34)

The Lord desires us who are His servants to deal with such things:

“Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.” (Luke 9:1-21)

The Lord also called seventy more disciples and when they returned to the Lord they said,

¹⁸⁷ Helaman 13:37

¹⁸⁸ The word “demon” is the Biblical word for bad spirits.

“And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions,¹⁸⁹ and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.” (Luke 10:17-20)

In response to their triumphant return the Lord admonishes them that these are fallen angels with great power, but He has given His servants power over them. However, to the Lord this is not worthy of rejoicing, only that their names are written in heaven; which means that they are among the servants of the Lord.

The Apostle Paul counseled the saints regarding these evil spirits.

“But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord’s table, and of the table of devils.” (1 Corinthians 10:20-21)

How often do we play into the hands of devils, the evil spirits that entice us to sin? What do we allow ourselves to watch, to hear, to say, to go, to do? If you do the bidding of evil spirits, you cannot do the Lord’s work unless we repent and choose Christ. That’s a hard pill for many to swallow who live in the world. Jesus said, “My

¹⁸⁹ Names to denote classes of devils.

kingdom is not of this world.”¹⁹⁰ We must be able to discern and choose wisely.

“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Ephesians 6:11-12

Your biggest battle in the Spirit will be against the unseen realm of darkness. This gift is critical to being a servant of the Lord. Have you suited up your armor?¹⁹¹ Are you a soldier for the Lord? Every servant must be a soldier. Not the kind that charges recklessly into battle; but the kind that seeks the instructions of their leader, and to act precisely as told. This is how a soldier of the Lord operates against the Adversary. And to such individuals there is no danger.

How do we protect ourselves from this kind of evil and deception?

“But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.” (James 4:6-86)

We are told be humble and submissive before the Lord. This means to seek His will concerning the matter. Then, we are to resist the

¹⁹⁰ John 18:36

¹⁹¹ How to Have Your Second Comforter, Anonymous, pg. 95-104

evil spirits. We do not ignore them or make friends with them, unless that is what we are expressly commanded by the Lord to do.

In the last days, some of Satan’s greatest angels of darkness shall fill the earth.¹⁹² These sons of perdition shall walk among us, and as His servants we must be able to discern.

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”
(Revelations 16:13-14)

The gifts of the Spirit that lead to Christ are for our salvation, for without them we would perish. We must know our enemy to defeat him.¹⁹³

¹⁹² 1 Timothy 4:1

¹⁹³ D&C 29:36-40

“36 And it came to pass that Adam, being tempted of the devil—for, behold, the devil was before Adam, **[Satan stood before Michael.]** for he rebelled against me, **[Jesus Christ]** saying, Give me thine honor, **[His glory]** which is my power; and also a third part **[One of three groups of beings.]** of the hosts of heaven turned he away from me because of their agency;
37 And they were thrust down, **[Removed from the higher realms, separated by the firmament.]** and thus came the devil and his angels;
38 And, behold, there is a place prepared for them from the beginning, which place is hell. **[The place of Satan’s dominion was always part of the plan since the beginning.]**
39 And it must needs be that the devil should tempt the children of men, or they could not be agents unto themselves; for if they never should have bitter they could not know the sweet—**[It was expected to happen, as there is opposition in all things.]**
40 Wherefore, it came to pass that the devil tempted Adam, and he partook of the forbidden fruit and transgressed the commandment, [went beyond the

“O the wisdom of God, his mercy and grace! For behold, if the flesh should rise no more our spirits must become subject to that angel who fell from before the presence of the Eternal God, and became the devil, to rise no more.¹⁹⁴ And our spirits must have become like unto him, and we become devils, angels to a devil, to be shut out from the presence of our God, and to remain with the father of lies, in misery, like unto himself; yea, to that being who beguiled our first parents, who transformeth himself nigh unto an angel of light, and stirreth up the children of men unto secret combinations of murder and all manner of secret works of darkness.” (2 Nephi 9:8-9)

I have written extensively about the realm of darkness. The more one knows of his enemy, the more power is wielded toward his defeat. It is critical that the Lord’s servants understand how this realm operates.¹⁹⁵

It is not always easy to discern spirits and the people who are influenced by them. There are people walking amongst us, those with a kindly face and reputation, whose spirit is as dark as hell itself. Some of the most notorious serial killers in history were the most harmless looking from their outward appearance. Never judge a book by its cover; look deeper.

limits] wherein he became subject to the will of the devil, [**Satan achieved his design to establish his own dominion.**] because he yielded unto temptation.”

¹⁹⁴ There is a false belief among many that Satan will repent at some point, to return to God. This leads some to tread lightly, with supposed gentleness and charity toward the Adversary. This is a dangerous belief and is not true.

¹⁹⁵ Go to: A Witness of the End of Times, Anonymous, pg. 71-97

“But behold, the devil hath deceived me; for he appeared unto me in the form of an angel, and said unto me: Go and reclaim this people, for they have all gone astray after an unknown God. And he said unto me: There is no God; yea, and he taught me that which I should say. And I have taught his words; and I taught them because they were pleasing unto the carnal mind; and I taught them, even until I had much success, insomuch that I verily believed that they were true; and for this cause I withstood the truth, even until I have brought this great curse upon me.” (Alma 30:53)

Korihor was deceived by a devil disguised as an angel of light. He admitted that his teachings “were pleasing unto the carnal mind.” Evil spirits can speak things to us words that are comfortable and pleasing. The Lord has counseled: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, ye must watch and pray always, lest ye be tempted by the devil, and ye be led away captive by him.”¹⁹⁶

“For behold, a bitter fountain cannot bring forth good water; neither can a good fountain bring forth bitter water; wherefore, a man being a servant of the devil cannot follow Christ; and if he follow Christ he cannot be a servant of the devil. Wherefore, all things which are good cometh of God; and that which is evil cometh of the devil; for the devil is an enemy unto God, and fighteth against him continually, and inviteth and enticeth to sin, and to do that which is evil continually.” (Moroni 7:11-12)

To “watch” is to be looking and observant; to “pray” is to be asking for help. All the gifts of the Spirit are given to help us to discern what is of God or the devil.

¹⁹⁶ 3 Nephi 18:15

“But ye are commanded in all things to ask of God, who giveth liberally; and that which the Spirit testifies unto you even so I would that ye should do in all holiness of heart, walking uprightly before me, considering the end of your salvation, doing all things with prayer and thanksgiving, that ye may not be seduced by evil spirits, or doctrines of devils, or the commandments of men; for some are of men, and others of devils. Wherefore, beware lest ye are deceived; and that ye may not be deceived seek ye earnestly the best gifts, always remembering for what they are given; For verily I say unto you, they are given for the benefit of those who love me and keep all my commandments, and him that seeketh so to do; that all may be benefited that seek or that ask of me, that ask and not for a sign that they may consume it upon their lusts.” (D&C 46:7-9)

If we pray to discern, with holiness and purity of heart, and with gratitude, we shall be given the discernment we need as promised.¹⁹⁷

The Prophet Joseph Smith taught:

“Recent occurrences that have transpired amongst us render it an imperative duty devolving upon me to say something in relation to the spirits by which men are actuated.

“It is evident from the Apostles’ writings [**in the New Testament**], that many false spirits existed in their day, and had ‘gone forth into the world,’ and that it

¹⁹⁷ D&C 50:31-33

needed intelligence which God alone could impart to detect false spirits, and to prove what spirits were of God.¹⁹⁸ The world in general have been grossly ignorant in regard to this one thing, and why should they be otherwise—‘for no man knows the things of God, but by the Spirit of God.’¹⁹⁹

“There always did, in every age, seem to be a lack of intelligence pertaining to this subject. Spirits of all kinds have been manifested, in every age, and almost amongst all people. ... All have their spirits, all have a supernatural agency, and all contend that their spirits are of God. Who shall solve the mystery? ‘Try the spirits,’ says John²⁰⁰, but who is to do it? The learned, the eloquent, the philosopher, the sage, the divine—all are ignorant. ... Who can drag into daylight and develop the hidden mysteries of the false spirits that so frequently are made manifest among the Latter-day Saints? We answer that no man can do this without the Priesthood,²⁰¹ and having a knowledge of the laws by which spirits are governed; for as ‘no man knows the things of God, but by the Spirit of God,’ so no man knows the spirit of the devil, and his power and influence, but by possessing intelligence which is more than human, and having unfolded through the medium of the Priesthood the mysterious operations of his devices. ...’ **[The Lord must teach you.]**

“A man must have the discerning of spirits before he can drag into daylight this hellish influence and

¹⁹⁸ 1 John 4:1-4

¹⁹⁹ 1 Corinthians 2:11

²⁰⁰ 1 John 4:1

²⁰¹ Those with a relationship with God, established through revelation.

unfold it unto the world in all its soul-destroying, diabolical, and horrid colors; for nothing is a greater injury to the children of men than to be under the influence of a false spirit when they think they have the Spirit of God. Thousands have felt the influence of its terrible power and baneful effects. ...'

“As we have noticed before, the great difficulty lies in the ignorance of the nature of spirits, of the laws by which they are governed, and the signs by which they may be known; if it requires the Spirit of God to know the things of God; and the spirit of the devil can only be unmasked through that medium, then it follows as a natural consequence that unless some person or persons have a communication, or revelation from God, unfolding to them the operation of the spirit, they must eternally remain ignorant of these principles; for I contend that if one man cannot understand these things but by the Spirit of God, ten thousand men cannot; it is alike out of the reach of the wisdom of the learned, the tongue of the eloquent, the power of the mighty. And we shall at last have to come to this conclusion, whatever we may think of revelation, that without it we can neither know nor understand anything of God, or the devil; and however, unwilling the world may be to acknowledge this principle, it is evident from the multifarious creeds and notions concerning this matter that they understand nothing of this principle, and it is equally as plain that without a divine communication they must remain in ignorance. ...

“A man must have the discerning of spirits, as we before stated, to understand these things, and how

is he to obtain this gift if there are no gifts of the Spirit? And how can these gifts be obtained without revelation? 'Christ ascended into heaven, and gave gifts to men; and He gave some Apostles, and some Prophets, and some Evangelists, and some Pastors and Teachers.'²⁰²

And how were Apostles, Prophets, Pastors, Teachers and Evangelists chosen? By prophecy (revelation) and by laying on of hands: —by a divine communication, and a divinely appointed ordinance—through the medium of the Priesthood, organized according to the order of God, by divine appointment. The Apostles in ancient times held the keys of this Priesthood—of the mysteries of the kingdom of God, and consequently were enabled to unlock and unravel all things pertaining to the government of the Church, the welfare of society, the future destiny of men, and the agency, power and influence of spirits; for they could control them at pleasure, bid them depart in the name of Jesus, and detect their mischievous and mysterious operations when trying to palm themselves upon the Church in a religious garb, and militate against the interest of the Church and spread of truth. ...

“... Our Savior, the Apostles, and even the members of the Church²⁰³ were endowed with this gift, for, says Paul, 'To one is given the gift of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discerning of spirits.'²⁰⁴ All these

²⁰² Ephesians 4:8,11

²⁰³ Not exclusive to church authority or gender.

²⁰⁴ 1 Corinthians 12:10

proceeded from the same Spirit of God, and were the gifts of God. ... No man nor set of men without the regularly constituted authorities, the Priesthood and discerning of spirits, can tell true from false spirits.”²⁰⁵

In my own experience, it was not until I was willing to overcome my fears, at the Lord’s timing and discretion, that He taught me about the Adversary and how to deal with this. I never did seek it for curiosity, but the Lord initiated my education; and I am forever grateful. The level to which you will ascend as a servant of God will be directly connected to the courage and willingness you show to engage the Adversary.²⁰⁶ Do not be afraid. Remember the comforting words of the prophet Mormon, “for perfect love casteth out all fear.”²⁰⁷

12) Gift of Prophecy

At first glance, this gift of the Spirit²⁰⁸ seems to imply that its purpose would be to foretell the future; to prophesy of things to come---but it is far more.

²⁰⁵ *History of the Church*, 4:571–75, 580; punctuation and grammar modernized; paragraph divisions altered; from “Try the Spirits,” an editorial published in *Times and Seasons*, Apr. 1, 1842, pp. 743–45, 747; Joseph Smith was the editor of the periodical.

²⁰⁶ Joseph Smith said, “The nearer a person approaches the Lord, a greater power will be manifested by the adversary to prevent the accomplishment of His purposes.” Orson F. Whitney, *Life of Heber C. Kimball*, Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1967, p. 132

²⁰⁷ Moroni 8:16-17, 1 John 4:18 This should be read: perfect love [for the Lord] casteth out all fear.

²⁰⁸ 1 Corinthians 13:2, Alma 9:21, 3 Nephi 29:6, Mormon 9:7

The Greek word *propheteuo* is translated as “prophecy” in the New Testament. It means to assert the mind of God, whether by reproving, admonishing, comforting, or revealing. The apostle Paul taught the following:

“Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy. For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.

4 He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.” 1 Corinthians 14:1-4

In these verses Paul emphasizes that after we receive charity (Gift of the Holy Ghost) and we desire more spiritual gifts, we should seek the gift of prophecy. Such a gift edifies, exhorts, and comforts those who are among the believers. He doesn’t mention anything about forecasting future events; although such revelations would fall under this gift.²⁰⁹ The emphasis of possessing charity first is strongly stated.

“And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and

²⁰⁹ Mosiah 8:15-17 “And the king said that a seer is greater than a prophet. And Ammon said that a seer is a revelator and a prophet also; and a gift which is greater can no man have, except he should possess the power of God, which no man can; yet a man may have great power given him from God. But a seer can know of things which are past, and also of things which are to come, and by them shall all things be revealed, or, rather, shall secret things be made manifest, and hidden things shall come to light, and things which are not known shall be made known by them, and also things shall be made known by them which otherwise could not be known.” [Seership is an extension of the gift of prophecy, which is given by the Lord.]

though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.” 1 Corinthians 13:22

If we do not know the Lord’s divine will and love toward others we are without power in the Holy Ghost. Sometimes in our zeal we can get ahead of ourselves. There is a progression in these gifts. An interesting insight can be found in the book of Revelation:

“And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” (Revelation 19:10)

John declares that the “testimony of Jesus” is the gift of prophecy. How do we interpret the “testimony of Jesus?” A testimony is another word for a “witness.” The Greek transliteration for “testimony” is *marturea*, which means “to give evidence.” **One who has the testimony of Jesus has a revelatory witness from Christ and they are commanded to share it.** When the angel appeared to John and he fell down at his feet, the angel rebuked him and said he was a fellow servant, that they both had the same witness of Jesus. To have the gift of prophesy is to bear the witness of Jesus, using His words as testimony by revelation to the people.

The following scripture identifies who are those who have this testimony of Jesus or the gift of Prophecy:

50 And again we bear record—for we saw and heard, and this is the testimony of the gospel of Christ **[testimony of Jesus / gift of prophecy]** concerning them who shall come forth in the resurrection of the just—

51 They are they who received the testimony of Jesus, **[gift of prophecy]** 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— **[were baptized by water]**

52 That by keeping the commandments they might be washed and cleansed from all their sins, **[baptism of fire]** and receive the Holy Spirit by the laying on of the hands of him who is ordained and sealed unto this power; **[Gift of the Holy Ghost]**

53 And who overcome by faith, **[by continually seeking God's will in life and in eternity]** and are sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise, **[have received the promise of exaltation]** which the Father sheds forth upon all those who are just and true.

54 They are they who are the church of the Firstborn. **[Fourth Estate]**

55 They are they into whose hands the Father has given all things—

56 They are they who are priests and kings, who have received of his fulness, and of his glory; **[Have received the Second Comforter, the calling and election made sure, and stood in everlasting burnings.]**

57 And are priests of the Most High, after the order of Melchizedek, which was after the order of Enoch, which was after the order of the Only Begotten Son.

58 Wherefore, as it is written, they are gods,²¹⁰ even the sons of God—**[from before the foundation of the world]**

59 Wherefore, all things are theirs, whether life or death, or things present, or things to come, all are

²¹⁰ Psalms 82:6

theirs and they are Christ's, and Christ is God's.
[pattern of ascension]
60 And they shall overcome all things. **[As did Jesus.]**
61 Wherefore, let no man glory in man, but rather let him glory in God, who shall subdue all enemies under his feet.
62 These shall dwell in the presence of God and his Christ forever and ever.
63 These are they whom he shall bring with him, when he shall come in the clouds of heaven to reign on the earth over his people. **[The 144 Thousand]**²¹¹
64 These are they who shall have part in the first resurrection. **[included among them]**
65 These are they who shall come forth in the resurrection of the just.
66 These are they who are come unto Mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly place, the holiest of all. **[Shall establish Zion.]**
67 These are they who have come to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of Enoch, and of the Firstborn. **[Have been a part of these three groups]**
68 These are they whose names are written in heaven, where God and Christ are the judge of all.
69 These are they who are just men made perfect²¹² through Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, who wrought out this perfect atonement through the shedding of his own blood.
70 These are they whose bodies are celestial, whose glory is that of the sun, even the glory of God, the highest of all, whose glory the sun of the

²¹¹ Revelation 19:14

²¹² Hebrews 12:22-23

firmament is written of as being typical. **[The sun is the closest visual thing to compare to the glory of God.]**

D&C 76:50-70

These verses are loaded with multiple layers of meaning. Who are those who are given the gift of Prophecy? Joseph Smith said the following:

“No man is a minister of Jesus Christ without being a Prophet. No man can be a minister of Jesus Christ except he has the testimony of Jesus; and this is the spirit of prophecy.”²¹³

“John the Revelator says that the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”²¹⁴ Now if any man has the testimony of Jesus, has he not the spirit of prophecy? And if he has the spirit of prophecy, I ask, is he not a prophet? And if a prophet, will he not receive revelation? And any man that does not receive revelation for himself must be damned, for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. For Christ says, ask and you shall receive; and if he happens to receive anything, I ask, will it not be a revelation? And if any man has not the testimony of Jesus or the spirit of God, he is none of his, namely Christ’s. And if not his, he must be damned.”²¹⁵

²¹³ *History of the Church*, 3:389; from a discourse given by Joseph Smith about July 1839 in Commerce, Illinois; reported by Willard Richards.

²¹⁴ Revelation 19:10

²¹⁵ Quoted by James Burgess, in compilation of excerpts from Joseph Smith’s discourses; James Burgess, *Journals*, 1841–48, vol. 2, Church Archives

All of us must at some point receive the spirit of prophesy,²¹⁶ which is the “testimony of Jesus” or we will be damned.²¹⁷ It is required in order to progress toward exaltation. A Boston reporter quoted Joseph Smith as saying the following:

“The Prophet Joseph [said that] ... to be a minister of Jesus, a man must testify of Jesus; and to testify of Jesus, a man must have the spirit of prophecy; for, according to John, the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”²¹⁸

As members of the LDS church each Fast Sunday we are given an opportunity to stand and bear testimony. How is this different from the spirit of prophesy, or the testimony of Jesus? Are these testimonies a true witness of Jesus? It would depend on what they witness of. When they say, “I know that Jesus is the Christ” are they saying they believe, or that they truly know Him?²¹⁹ The spirit of prophesy comes from first-hand knowledge as a witness.

“If a man professes to be a minister of Jesus and has not the spirit of prophecy, he must be a false witness, for he is not in possession of that gift which qualifies him for that office; and the difference

²¹⁶ “No man can be a minister of Jesus Christ except he has the testimony of Jesus; and this is the spirit of prophecy.” *History of the Church*, 3:389; from a discourse given by Joseph Smith about July 1839 in Commerce, Illinois; reported by Willard Richards.

²¹⁷ In relation to where we are in the estates of progression.

²¹⁸ *History of the Church*, 5:407–8; punctuation modernized; paragraph divisions altered; from instructions given by Joseph Smith about Jan. 1843 in Nauvoo, Illinois; reported in a letter by an unidentified *Boston Bee* correspondent, Mar. 24, 1843, Nauvoo, Illinois, published in *Times and Seasons*, May 15, 1843, p. 200.

²¹⁹ One can be a witness without a fullness of a Second Comforter experience. As we receive direct revelation from the Lord, to hear His voice, we become a witness to that degree.

between [Joseph Smith] and the clergy of this generation is, he claims to be in possession of that spirit of prophecy which qualifies him to testify of Jesus and the Gospel of salvation; and the clergy deny that spirit, even the spirit of prophecy, which alone could constitute them true witnesses or testators of the Lord Jesus, and yet claim to be true ministers of salvation.”²²⁰

At some point in your progression you must stand shoulder to shoulder with the angels, as did John, and possess the gift of prophesy; that you too may witness to the Lord’s people the words of God for their salvation. Those who bear the gift of prophesy can truly say with confidence, “Thus saith the Lord...”²²¹

13) Gift of Preaching

The gifts of the Spirit may be compared to the various talents we possess.²²² Each of us come with different aptitudes or propensities for skill. What interests us most is ultimately where we spend our time and focus, and inevitably leads to the development of that talent. Are some talents more valuable than others?

In the arena of talented people there are those who seem to have it all. They leave us in awe and admiration as we watch their physical abilities in professional sports, or musical performances of

²²¹ I have at times been overcome with the Spirit to say things that were not of my own thoughts. Usually, my words began with, “I say in the name of the Lord...” There is no doubt when spoken in this manner that the gift of prophesy is manifest. From that point, it is up to the recipient to receive a witness for themselves.

²²² How to Open Your Spiritual Eyes, Anonymous, Pg.

the great ones. But, what makes a talent truly valuable? I believe the answer to that question is the one which has the most positive impact upon people. In the grand scheme of eternity, I believe the greatest talent of all would be our ability to preach the gospel with power.²²³ Such a gift would have a farther reaching effect than anything. Even a single seed planted and nourished with care can grow into a mighty tree, which bears fruit and spreads its seeds until an entire forest develops. I would rather have the gift to preach the word of God with power than anything else!

“For many times you have desired of me to know that which would be of the most worth unto you. Behold, blessed are you for this thing, and for speaking my words which I have given unto you according to my commandments. And now, behold, I say unto you, that the thing which will be of the most worth unto you will be to declare repentance unto this people, that you may bring souls unto me, that you may rest with them in the kingdom of my Father. Amen.” D&C 16:4-6

“Remember the worth of souls is great in the sight of God; For, behold, the Lord your Redeemer suffered death in the flesh; wherefore he suffered the pain of all men, that all men might repent and come unto him. And he hath risen again from the dead, that he might bring all men unto him, on conditions of repentance. And how great is his joy in the soul that repenteth! Wherefore, you are called to cry repentance unto this people. And if it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring, save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father!

²²³ Alma 29:1-9

And now, if your joy will be great with one soul that you have brought unto me into the kingdom of my Father, how great will be your joy if you should bring many souls unto me!” D&C 19:10-16

Joseph Smith and other prophets were shown the importance and joy that came from receiving the gift of Preaching. It was indeed a gift,²²⁴ not something which we could take upon ourselves except commanded of the Lord.

“Behold, I command you that you need not suppose that you are called to preach until you are called. Wait a little longer, until you shall have my word, my rock, my church, and my gospel, that you may know of a surety my doctrine. And then, behold, according to your desires, yea, even according to your faith shall it be done unto you.” D&C 11:15-17

“And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

“And it came to pass that none received authority to preach or to teach except it were by him from God. Therefore he consecrated all their priests and all their teachers; and none were consecrated except they were just men.” Mosiah 23:17

How does someone receive the gift of Preaching? “Therefore, if ye have desires to serve God ye are called to the work.” D&C 4:3 As with all gifts of the Spirit, it begins with our desires, as we ask God to serve Him. A man or woman may be called of God directly,²²⁵ or

²²⁴ Alma 9:21, Ephesians 3:7-8, 1 Peter 4:10

²²⁵ Jonah 3:1-4

one of the Lord’s anointed may ordain them²²⁶ to be a teacher or priest unto the people:

“The manner which the disciples, who were called the elders of the church, ordained priests and teachers—After they had prayed unto the Father in the name of Christ, they laid their hands upon them, and said: In the name of Jesus Christ I ordain you to be a priest (or if he be a teacher, I ordain you to be a teacher) to preach repentance and remission of sins through Jesus Christ, by the endurance of faith on his name to the end. Amen.’

“And after this manner did they ordain priests and teachers, according to the gifts and callings of God unto men; and they ordained them by the power of the Holy Ghost, which was in them.” Moroni 3:1-4

Even the Lord Himself was ordained to preach to a specific people. As He began His ministry the Lord read from Isaiah in the synagogue:²²⁷

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.” Luke 4:18-19

²²⁶ Alma 37:33-34

²²⁷ Here the Lord is reading from Isaiah 61:1. Some are commanded to preach in all places; which was the case when the Gospel was sent to all the gentiles. Acts 5:42

Those who are ordained with the gift of Preaching sometimes wonder, “what do I do next?” The Lord said, “Seek not to declare my word, but first seek to obtain my word, and then shall your tongue be loosed; then, if you desire, you shall have my Spirit and my word, yea, the power of God unto the convincing of men.”²²⁸ As with all gifts of the Spirit, you begin with a desire to serve, then you are required to exercise faith and effort toward receiving and developing the gift.²²⁹

“Behold, I send you out to prove²³⁰ the world, and the laborer is worthy of his hire. And any man that shall go and preach this gospel of the kingdom, and fail not to continue faithful in all things,²³¹ shall not be weary in mind, neither darkened, neither in body, limb, nor joint; and a hair of his head shall not fall to the ground unnoticed. And they shall not go hungry, neither athirst.”²³² D&C 84:79-80

The Lord will stand behind His servants as they are faithful. For those who have desires to preach the Gospel there are many great joys and blessings in store for them. I served as a missionary in the church. It was difficult, and my heart ached as I struggled to share the Gospel with many people. It’s not uncommon to be rejected; however, I now wonder why so much time is spent covering certain topics: trying to explain the Word of Wisdom, tithing, the temple, and other non-essential questions which prevented many from

²²⁸ D&C 11:21

²²⁹ D&C 6:1-17

²³⁰ This is an interesting promise from the Lord. The word “prove” has two meanings. First, to demonstrate the existence of something; and second, to raise the dough, like when leaven permeates a batch of dough.²³⁰ The Lord infers that the small, insignificant beginnings of God's kingdom will grow and triumph. See: Matthew 13:13, Luke 13:20-21

²³¹ Faith: seeking the Lord’s revelation and acting upon it.

²³² These are spiritual promises, for they shall be glorified in the Father’s kingdom.

conversion.²³³ Recently, I wondered why we don't simply preach the Doctrine of Christ: repentance, baptism, and the Gift of the Holy Ghost. These are what the Lord commanded us to preach when He came among the people of Bountiful.²³⁴ This has been referred to as the Gospel of Repentance.²³⁵

“And I command you that you preach naught but repentance,²³⁶ and show not these things unto the world until it is wisdom in me.” (D&C 19:21)

“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.”
(Galatians 1:8-12)

“And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations,

²³³ These topics, their acceptance and application should not be requirements for baptism. There is a long list of things that should be voluntary to those after baptism as a means to help and bring additional blessings, but not as a price of admission to baptism.

²³⁴ 3 Nephi 11:13-40 “The Doctrine of Christ”

²³⁵ D&C 13:1, D&C 19:21, D&C 84:26-27,

²³⁶ Repentance is turning one's heart to God. The fruits of repentance are baptism for the remission of sins. Changing our wicked ways comes after one repents and desires only to please God. Too many think that to repent is to become perfect without sin; that is incorrect.

beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things.” (Luke 24:47-48)

“And now I say unto you that this is the order after which I am called, yea, to preach unto my beloved brethren, yea, and every one that dwelleth in the land; yea, to preach unto all, both old and young, both bond and free; yea, I say unto you the aged, and also the middle aged, and the rising generation; yea, to cry unto them that they must repent and be born again.” (Alma 5:49)

The Lord specifically instructed that they were are only to preach His Gospel,²³⁷ not the mysteries²³⁸ or commandments of men.²³⁹

“For they cannot bear meat now,²⁴⁰ but milk they must receive; wherefore, they must not know these things, lest they perish.”²⁴¹ (D&C 19:22)

“I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. (1 Corinthians 3:2)

I sometimes wonder if the modern church has ever offered any meat; perhaps only scriptures pointing to where meat can be found. Many of Joseph Smith’s revelations pointed to meat. The temple ceremonies point to the meat. But the meat can only be truly found by experiencing the gifts of the Spirit. All those who are

²³⁷ 1 Nephi 13:34-36

²³⁸ Matthew 13:11, Mark 4:11, Luke 8:10, 1 Nephi 10:19, Jacob 4:8, Mosiah 2:9, Alma 12:9, D&C 63:23, D&C 76:5-7, D&C 107:18-19

²³⁹ D&C 46:7, Matthew 15:8-9, Mark 7:6-8

²⁴⁰ This “meat” spoken of are the mysteries of God. Such mysteries can only be understood in their fullness by experiencing the gifts of the Spirit; particularly that which requires ascension.

²⁴¹ Jacob 5:48

reading this now are seeking the meat, which is to say experiencing the deeper mysteries of the kingdom. Such topics are not anything we should avoid or shun; they are beautiful and the Lord wishes us to learn and understand them as quickly as possible. The reason they are discouraged for new converts is that we cannot run faster than we have strength.²⁴² As we mature in spiritual things more is given, until we are standing with God in His Throne of everlasting burnings. How can that ever happen if we are not given the meat? As you receive the gifts of the Spirit you will have all the meat you can eat, and you will be full.²⁴³

There is a tremendous amount of joy that comes from preaching the Gospel to people, especially when you see the fruit of your labors.

“Yea, and that same God did establish his church among them; yea, and that same God hath called me by a holy calling, to preach the word unto this people, and hath given me much success, in the which my joy is full.” Alma 29:13

In my experiences with the Lord I have been blessed to see the lives of many prophets. Many had ascended to the Throne and given the opportunity to ask and learn whatever they wished. The Apostle Paul was one of the greatest missionaries of the Lord.²⁴⁴ He desired the gift of preaching more than any other and reveled in his affliction and sacrifice. Where many suffer through the challenge of preaching to a stiff-necked generation, Paul dove in with an unprecedented zeal. When I first asked the Lord about Paul his first words to me touched my heart. He said, “My servant Paul, I love him.”

²⁴² Mosiah 4:27

²⁴³ Alma 12:10, 3 Nephi 12:4

²⁴⁴ A Witness of the Temporal Dispensations, Anonymous, pg. 181-185

Every person who will be a servant of the Lord, or a Gatherer in these last days will be given a fullness of the Gift of Preaching, that will prepare them to go and find the Elect before the second coming of Christ.²⁴⁵ “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world²⁴⁶ for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”²⁴⁷

14) Gift of Translation

The word “translation” comes from the Greek transliteration of the word “metatithemi” in the New Testament; which means to change, transfer, or remove to a place.

There are two kinds of gifts of translation that can be given to a servant of the Lord. First, the ability to change the language of one record into the known language of another.²⁴⁸ The second, is to be changed from a mortal to an immortal body.²⁴⁹

The gift of record translation has occurred in scripture, to our written knowledge on three occasions. First, when King Mosiah translated the Plates of Zeniff, which contained the record of the

²⁴⁵ Moses 7:18-19 “And the Lord called his people Zion, because they were of one heart and one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there was no poor among them. And Enoch continued his preaching in righteousness unto the people of God. And it came to pass in his days, that he built a city that was called the City of Holiness, even Zion.” [Before Zion can be established, the people of God must receive the Lord’s preaching in righteousness.]

²⁴⁶ Joseph Smith - Matthew 1:31 “And again, this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world, for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come, or the destruction of the wicked;”

²⁴⁷ Matthew 24:14

²⁴⁸ Alma 9:21, Ether 5:1, This gift is required when no understanding of the language is available to interpret.

²⁴⁹ Ether 15:34

Jaredites;²⁵⁰ Second, when Joseph Smith translated the Book of Mormon from the abridged language of Mormon.²⁵¹ Third, when Joseph Smith translated the Book of Abraham from the Egyptian papyri.²⁵² In the future, there will be other records hidden in the Hill Shim, which will be also translated. Usually the Lord provides the two stones, the Urim and Thummim, to help with this process.²⁵³

Joseph Smith has truly been the translator of this sixth dispensation.²⁵⁴ During the time he was translating the Book of Mormon the Lord was firm that Joseph was to only focus on what He was ordained to do.

“And you have a gift to translate the plates; and this is the first gift that I bestowed upon you; and I have commanded that you should pretend to no other gift²⁵⁵ until my purpose is fulfilled in this; for I will grant unto you no other gift until it is finished.” (D&C 5:4)

Translating records is much like the gift of tongues. It is relegated by the Spirit of the Lord, but in this case, for the purpose of directly translating the written word. Often the words are translated according to the vocabulary of the one possessing the gift. Joseph Smith said to me the following when I asked him regarding the translation of the Book of Mormon:

²⁵⁰ Mosiah 28:13-17

²⁵¹ D&C 1:29, Testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith

²⁵² *The Book of Abraham, Pearl of Great Price* – Introduction, “An inspired translation of the writings of Abraham. Joseph Smith began the translation in 1835 after obtaining some Egyptian papyri. The translation was published serially in the *Times and Seasons* beginning March 1, 1842, at Nauvoo, Illinois.”

²⁵³ Mosiah 8:13, 1 Samuel 28:6, D&C 130:10

²⁵⁴ D&C 21:1

²⁵⁵ Meaning no other project to be undertaken.

“He said that it was a great experience translating the Book of Mormon. He didn’t use the Urim and Thummim much, it gave him a headache. The seer stone helped him to focus, but the Lord had him use the Urim and Thummim to prepare his mind leading up to when he started the translation. He said the words came easily to his mind just like we were talking now.²⁵⁶ He said sometimes the words he chose, based on his vocabulary, were a little misconstrued, but that when anyone reads the Book of Mormon led by the Spirit they would understand the true meaning by synonym or other way.”²⁵⁷

Joseph Smith’s scribe, Oliver Cowdery, desired the gift of Translation and was given counsel from the Lord by revelation:

1 Behold, I say unto you, my son, that because you did not translate according to that which you desired of me, and did commence again to write for my servant, Joseph Smith, Jun., even so I would that ye should continue until you have finished this record, which I have entrusted unto him.

2 And then, behold, other records have I, that I will give unto you power that you may assist to translate. **[Oliver would have been involved with other translations in the future.]**

²⁵⁶ Emma Smith said regarding Joseph’s translation: “No man could have dictated the writing of the manuscripts unless he was inspired; for, when [I was] acting as his scribe, [Joseph] would dictate to me hour after hour; and when returning after meals, or after interruptions, he would at once begin where he had left off, without either seeing the manuscript or having any portion of it read to him.” Emma Smith, interview by Joseph Smith III, Feb. 1879, *Saints’ Herald* (periodical published by the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, now called Community of Christ), Oct. 1, 1879, p. 290.

²⁵⁷ A Witness of the Temporal Dispensations, Anonymous, pg. 206

3 Be patient, my son, for it is wisdom in me, and it is not expedient that you should translate at this present time.

4 Behold, the work which you are called to do is to write for my servant Joseph. **[scribe]**

5 And, behold, it is because that you did not continue as you commenced, when you began to translate, that I have taken away this privilege from you. **[The gift of translation was taken away.]**

6 Do not murmur, my son, for it is wisdom in me that I have dealt with you after this manner.

7 Behold, you have not understood; you have supposed that I would give it unto you, when you took no thought save it was to ask me. **[faith requires us to seek revelation and act upon it. Joseph spent almost a year preparing himself, using the Urim and Thummim before he commenced translating.²⁵⁸ One must grow into the gift of revelation; even translation]**

8 But, behold, I say unto you, that you must study it out in your mind; **[The process first requires us to think, to ponder, to receive a clear vision of the words.]** then you must ask me if it be right, **[seek confirmation from the Lord]** and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you;²⁵⁹ therefore, you shall feel that it is right. **[The “burning bosom” description has cause much confusion among people seeking spiritual witnesses. For most, it is a steady feeling of confidence; like clear thoughts that settle in the mind like the dews from Heaven.]**

²⁵⁸ D&C 20:7-8

²⁵⁹ For Oliver Cowdrey specifically, he would feel a burning sensation in his chest.

9 But if it be not right you shall have no such feelings, but you shall have a stupor of thought²⁶⁰ that shall cause you to forget the thing which is wrong; therefore, you cannot write that which is sacred save it be given you from me.

10 Now, if you had known this you could have translated; nevertheless, it is not expedient that you should translate now.

11 Behold, it was expedient when you commenced; but you feared, **[Fear usually leads to a lack of faith, which will prevent us from receiving any spiritual gift.]** and the time is past, and it is not expedient now;

12 For, do you not behold that I have given unto my servant Joseph sufficient strength, whereby it is made up? **[The time was made good.]** And neither of you have I condemned.

13 Do this thing which I have commanded you, and you shall prosper. Be faithful, and yield to no temptation.

14 Stand fast in the work wherewith I have called you, and a hair of your head shall not be lost, and you shall be lifted up at the last day. Amen. (D&C 9)

It is good to know that the Lord is merciful in our weaknesses. When opportunities are missed, often new ones will arise. Joseph was far from perfect and upon losing the original manuscript he feared the Lord would abandon him.

“Now, behold, I say unto you, that because you delivered up those writings which you had power given unto you to translate by the means of

²⁶⁰ A “stupor” is the opposite of a clearness of thought, which is a sign that it is from God. This often cause one to lose focus and for the mind to drift.

the Urim and Thummim, into the hands of a wicked man, you have lost them.²⁶¹ And you also lost your gift at the same time, and your mind became darkened. Nevertheless, it is now restored unto you again; therefore see that you are faithful and continue on unto the finishing of the remainder of the work of translation as you have begun. Do not run faster or labor more than you have strength and means provided to enable you to translate; but be diligent unto the end.” D&C 10

The Lord answered more questions for me regarding the process of translating records:

How was the Book of Abraham translated?

“The Lord said that Joseph could not read Egyptian well. He translated it similar to how he did the Book of Mormon. The record was laid near him as the power of translation revealed to him the words. He never looked at the Egyptian writing as he translated. He made some notes regarding the Egyptian Facsimiles, but these were attempts to interpret the pictures using his language skills, not the actual translations.’

Would Joseph have translated a Book of Joseph?

²⁶¹ “I asked about the Lehi manuscript, the 116 pages that were taken by Martin Harris and lost. The Lord said the would have added about 35 pages to the Book of Mormon. They included the items the Lord revealed to me at another visit. He said that Martin’s wife knew where he had placed them and made arrangements for wicked men to come into her home and take them. She denied any involvement to her husband, although she knew full well what happened. It was a plan of the Adversary. Today, the documents are hidden up in a box somewhere out East. When the translating begins, these plates will be retranslated and the record will be restored. At that point, it will not matter if the original manuscript is revealed.” (Personal Journal)

“No. Much of the history of the Old Testament that is attributed from Moses came through the Book of Joseph. Not all of the records survived, but much is there. The story of Job was also handed down through Joseph.”²⁶²

In the near future, a select number of the Lord’s servants will be called of the Lord to bear the gift of translation to undergo the great task of translating the many records deposited in the Hill Shim, where also is laid the Urim and Thummim today.²⁶³

These are all major blessings and gifts that the Lord bestows upon His servants for the purpose of building the Kingdom; but this gift has a personal application in a lesser form. The gift of Translation is helpful when studying scripture. For instance, many have struggled with Isaiah. Using this gift, asking the Lord in faith for permission to understand the intent of the words, can lead to your personal spiritual translation of these books. Put away your study manuals and lean upon the Lord for revelation. This gift, used for personal use is appropriate when the Lord has given express permission and not for the purpose of simply sharing your opinions. In this case, it would be taking the Lord’s name in vain. As with all gifts of the Spirit we must seek permission from the Lord.

The Urim and Thummim were particularly prepared by the Lord for the translating of sacred scripture. Each of us can also prepare our minds to translate by receiving a seer stone if it is the Lord’s will.²⁶⁴ The Lord’s gifts and blessings are astonishing.²⁶⁵

²⁶² A Witness of the Temporal Dispensations, Anonymous, pg. 214

²⁶³ A Witness of the Temporal Dispensations, Anonymous, pg. 84

²⁶⁴ Go to the following link:

<https://pure Revelations.wordpress.com/2014/12/20/do-you-have-a-seer-stone/>

²⁶⁵ There is an adversarial counterpart to seer stones. As with all gifts of the spirits they can be used by those who seek power through Satan. This is where

A far greater number of the Lord's servants will be "called and chosen"²⁶⁶ to participate in the second kind of translation. This gift is one that the Lord bestows upon those whose bodies must be changed. Peter inquired of Jesus regarding John's mission,²⁶⁷ which would have him continue upon the earth:

"I say unto thee, Peter, this was a good desire; but my beloved has desired that he might do more, or a greater work yet among men than what he has before done. Yea, he has undertaken a greater work; therefore I will make him as flaming fire and a ministering angel; he shall minister for those who shall be heirs of salvation who dwell on the earth."
(D&C 7:5-6)

"I asked John what happened. Why was he translated? I saw in vision and as he spoke I saw the process. He was taken away in the spirit to see the Father and Mother. First his body was touched and ascended. He was literally changed with fire. His flesh is not the same, as it is a tabernacle clothed in fire and everlasting burnings. His bodily age and was where it was when he was changed. This allows him to more easily mingle among men. He can do what a

some of the negative stereotypes of using crystal balls and other seeing devices to gain knowledge. Be careful you always seek these gifts through the Lord and no other spirit.

²⁶⁶"If they are fourth estate, they have been "called and chosen" to condescend among men to save souls. The Calling and Election occurs as they are about to be awakened to their mortal ministry." (Personal Journal)

Go to: How To Open Your Spiritual Eyes, Anonymous, pg.

²⁶⁷ D&C 7:1-4

resurrected man can do, but more easily serve among the living. He is a being of light that can walk among the living.”²⁶⁸

Other people, since the first dispensation of the world, have experienced the gift of translation of their bodies. Enoch and his people,²⁶⁹ which were of the City of Holiness, were all taken to heaven.²⁷⁰ Also, those of the City of Peace, or Salem, were taken up.²⁷¹ This is the city that was led to righteousness under the great High Priest Melchizedek.²⁷² Elijah was translated²⁷³ when he

²⁶⁸ From my personal journal.

²⁶⁹ “It took many hundreds of years, but under the direction of Enoch they were taken to the Lord in the Terrestrial realm of Glory; translated because of their purity.” (Personal Journal)

²⁷⁰ Moses 7:19-21, Hebrews 11:5

²⁷¹ Psalm 76:2

²⁷² JST, Genesis 14:30-36 *“For God having sworn unto Enoch and unto his seed with an oath by himself; that every one being ordained after this order and calling should have power, by faith, to break mountains, to divide the seas, to dry up waters, to turn them out of their course;*

31 To put at defiance the armies of nations, to divide the earth, to break every band, to stand in the presence of God; to do all things according to his will, according to his command, subdue principalities and powers; and this by the will of the Son of God which was from before the foundation of the world.

32 And men having this faith, coming up unto this order of God, were translated and taken up into heaven.

33 And now, Melchizedek was a priest of this order; therefore he obtained peace in Salem, and was called the Prince of peace.

34 And his people wrought righteousness, and obtained heaven, and sought for the city of Enoch which God had before taken, separating it from the earth, having reserved it unto the latter days, or the end of the world;

35 And hath said, and sworn with an oath, that the heavens and the earth should come together; and the sons of God should be tried so as by fire.

36 And this Melchizedek, having thus established righteousness, was called the king of heaven by his people, or, in other words, the King of peace.”

Also, Alma 13:14-19, D&C 76:57, D&C 84:14

²⁷³ “Elijah walks out into the center of the river. At that moment, a strong wind descends upon the group and Elisha’s spiritual eyes are opened. A portal of light opens up and a chariot, similar to the one in my previous visit, descends. There are angels accompanying Elijah and a sound of rushing waters is heard as

ascended into heaven in the chariot of fire.²⁷⁴ The three Nephite apostles,²⁷⁵ and Moroni was also translated.²⁷⁶

One of the most detailed accounts of the process of the gift of translation is described in 3 Nephi 28:

1 And it came to pass when Jesus had said these words, he spake unto his disciples, one by one, saying unto them: What is it that ye desire of me, after that I am gone to the Father? **[A question the Lord always asks His anointed.]**

2 And they all spake, save it were three, saying: We desire that after we have lived unto the age of man, that our ministry, wherein thou hast called us, may have an end, that we may speedily come unto thee in thy kingdom.

3 And he said unto them: Blessed are ye because ye desired this thing of me; therefore, after that ye are seventy and two years old ye shall come unto me in my kingdom; and with me ye shall find rest.

4 And when he had spoken unto them, he turned himself unto the three, and said unto them: What will ye that I should do unto you, when I am gone unto the Father?

5 And they sorrowed in their hearts, for they durst not speak unto him the thing which they desired. **[In**

Elijah is taken up with fire and light. He is translated. Not everyone sees this, as most see only light, and wind.” (Personal Journal)

²⁷⁴ 2 Kings 2:11,

²⁷⁵ 3 Nephi 28

²⁷⁶ “Moroni was translated and brought the plates and sacred relics to the Hill Cummorah near Palmyra, NY by means of translated travel.” (Personal Journal)

The word “cummorah” means to “seal up.” There are more than one Hill Cummorah.

fact, it was by revelation that the Spirit put the thought in their hearts.²⁷⁷]

6 And he said unto them: Behold, I know your thoughts, and ye have desired the thing which John, my beloved, who was with me in my ministry, before that I was lifted up by the Jews, desired of me.

7 Therefore, more blessed [**more spiritual power**] are ye, for ye shall never taste of death;²⁷⁸ but ye shall live to behold all the doings of the Father unto the children of men, even until all things shall be fulfilled according to the will of the Father, when I shall come in my glory with the powers of heaven.

8 And ye shall never endure the pains of death; [**no pain associated with a translated body**] but when I shall come in my glory ye shall be changed in the twinkling of an eye from mortality to immortality; [**from translation to resurrected body of glory**] and then shall ye be blessed in the kingdom of my Father.

9 And again, ye shall not have pain while ye shall dwell in the flesh, neither sorrow save it be for the sins of the world; and all this will I do because of the thing which ye have desired of me, for ye have desired that ye might bring the souls of men unto me, while the world shall stand. [**This is the desire that brings translation, if it is what you have been foreordained to do.**]

10 And for this cause ye shall have fulness of joy; and ye shall sit down in the kingdom of my Father; yea,

²⁷⁷ Ether 12:17

²⁷⁸ “He said all who are translated receive the fullness of the sealing power. It is a type of resurrection. We have the capacity to be marred if we choose. The three Nephites were both given sealing power and translated in the flesh, whereas the others only had the sealing power and died at the age of 72.” (Personal Journal)

your joy shall be full, even as the Father hath given me fulness of joy; and ye shall be even as I am, and I am even as the Father; and the Father and I are one; [**Fullness of the Sealing Power**]

11 And the Holy Ghost beareth record of the Father and me; and the Father giveth the Holy Ghost unto the children of men, because of me.

12 And it came to pass that when Jesus had spoken these words, he touched every one of them with his finger save it were the three who were to tarry, and then he departed. [**The sealing power requires a touching ordinance of the Lord to our physical bodies. The three apostles were touched later after their ascension.**²⁷⁹]

13 And behold, the heavens were opened, and they were caught up into heaven, and saw and heard unspeakable things.²⁸⁰ [**Were taken to the Throne of God.**]

14 And it was forbidden them that they should utter; neither was it given unto them power that they could utter the things which they saw and heard; [**Many mysteries revealed**]

15 And whether they were in the body or out of the body, they could not tell; for it did seem unto them like a transfiguration of them, that they were changed from this body of flesh into an immortal state, that they could behold the things of God. [**A**

²⁷⁹ "When touched in the flesh by ordinance it will be activated. It will take a few weeks to be fully realized or developed and this is when those will be fasting as a way of cleansing themselves. He said all who are translated receive the fullness of the sealing power. It is a type of resurrection." (from personal Journal)

²⁸⁰ "The Three Nephites were translated and taken up to Heaven both physically and spiritually. Their bodies were changed. They were met by the Father and Mother and spent time with Elijah where they were trained in how to be Servants while translated. (Personal Journal)

spiritual ascension. Hyper-real, yet out of the physical body. This is the most preferred form of a Second Comforter experience.]²⁸¹

16 But it came to pass that they did again minister upon the face of the earth; nevertheless they did not minister of the things which they had heard and seen, because of the commandment which was given them in heaven. **[Commanded to only teach the doctrine of Christ.]**²⁸²

17 And now, whether they were mortal or immortal, from the day of their transfiguration, I know not;²⁸³ **[They went through a process of cleansing that within a short time were immortal.]**

18 But this much I know, according to the record which hath been given—they did go forth upon the face of the land, and did minister unto all the people, uniting as many to the church as would believe in their preaching; baptizing them, and as many as were baptized did receive the Holy Ghost.

²⁸¹ Go to this link to learn more: <https://pure Revelations.wordpress.com/the-second-comforter/>

²⁸² I am also commanded not to teach anything other than the Doctrine of Christ, except to those who are led to learn how to prepare to be a Servant.

²⁸³ “Nephi said that when they were first translated they noticed more. There perceptions of those around them were heightened. They could perceive thoughts. They could see the light from others. He said that their need for sleep and food was diminished. They only slept a few hours if any and it was more like a nap. (They kind of acted like that was one of the great parts.) Nephi said that they were advised to fast often, that it would help them to more fully change their bodies. They fasted for forty days after being translated. They allowed evil people to bury them or try and harm them, and then they could come forth unharmed and bear testimony of God’s truth and baptize. I can’t remember everything that was said. They seemed very excited for what was coming.” (Personal Journal)

19 And they were cast into prison by them who did not belong to the church. And the prisons could not hold them, for they were rent in twain.

20 And they were cast down into the earth; but they did smite the earth with the word of God, insomuch that by his power they were delivered out of the depths of the earth; and therefore they could not dig pits sufficient to hold them.

21 And thrice they were cast into a furnace and received no harm.

22 And twice were they cast into a den of wild beasts; and behold they did play with the beasts as a child with a suckling lamb, and received no harm.

23 And it came to pass that thus they did go forth among all the people of Nephi, and did preach the gospel of Christ unto all people upon the face of the land; and they were converted unto the Lord, and were united unto the church of Christ, and thus the people of that generation were blessed, according to the word of Jesus.

24 And now I, Mormon, make an end of speaking concerning these things for a time.

25 Behold, I was about to write the names of those who were never to taste of death, but the Lord forbade; therefore I write them not, for they are hid from the world.

26 But behold, I have seen them, and they have ministered unto me.

27 And behold they will be among the Gentiles, and the Gentiles shall know them not.

28 They will also be among the Jews, and the Jews shall know them not.

29 And it shall come to pass, when the Lord seeth fit in his wisdom that they shall minister unto all the scattered tribes of Israel, and unto all nations,

kindreds, tongues and people, and shall bring out of them unto Jesus many souls, that their desire may be fulfilled, and also because of the convincing power of God which is in them.

30 And they are as the angels of God, and if they shall pray unto the Father in the name of Jesus they can show themselves unto whatsoever man it seemeth them good.

31 Therefore, great and marvelous works shall be wrought by them, before the great and coming day when all people must surely stand before the judgment-seat of Christ;

32 Yea even among the Gentiles shall there be a great and marvelous work wrought by them, before that judgment day.

33 And if ye had all the scriptures which give an account of all the marvelous works of Christ, ye would, according to the words of Christ, know that these things must surely come.

34 And wo be unto him that will not hearken unto the words of Jesus, and also to them whom he hath chosen and sent among them; for whoso receiveth not the words of Jesus and the words of those whom he hath sent receiveth not him; and therefore he will not receive them at the last day;

35 And it would be better for them if they had not been born. For do ye suppose that ye can get rid of the justice of an offended God, who hath been trampled under feet of men, that thereby salvation might come?

36 And now behold, as I spake concerning those whom the Lord hath chosen, yea, even three who were caught up into the heavens, that I knew not

whether they were cleansed from mortality to immortality—

37 But behold, since I wrote, I have inquired of the Lord, and he hath made it manifest unto me that there must needs be a change wrought upon their bodies, or else it needs be that they must taste of death;²⁸⁴

38 Therefore, that they might not taste of death there was a change wrought upon their bodies, that they might not suffer pain nor sorrow save it were for the sins of the world.

39 Now this change was not equal to that which shall take place at the last day; but there was a change wrought upon them, insomuch that Satan could have no power over them, that he could not tempt them; and they were sanctified in the flesh, that they were holy, and that the powers of the earth could not hold them.

40 And in this state they were to remain until the judgment day of Christ; and at that day they were to receive a greater change, and to be received into the kingdom of the Father to go no more out, but to dwell with God eternally in the heavens.²⁸⁵

The Gift of Translation, for a select few, is a precursor to a full resurrection of the spirit body. These beings are not subject to the physics of our world. They can move through walls, travel vast

²⁸⁴ “The Lord said that when translated we will look our normal selves, but have the ability to do more with a translated body. More time will be spent preparing them to return to Zion.” (Personal Journal)

²⁸⁵ “The same thing occurs with translated beings, but their body keeps the blueprint of their age, which is helpful to conceal their glorified nature and allows them to more easily walk among lower beings. The Lord said that as one ascends in glory, the less they walk among lower beings. (Edit) It is a type of resurrection. We have the capacity to be marred if they choose.” (Personal Journal)

distances according to their faith, and allow their bodies to be marred without pain, and then restore them. They wield the full sealing power of the Lord and are as the angels of God. The advantage of being translated is that they can mingle among mortals and appear in their mortal state. It seems impossible and fantastic, but it is true. I have seen them. These books I have written are for those who will awake and arise;²⁸⁶ both to receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost, and to prepare to gather Israel. Those who will gather will all receive the gift of Translation while in mortality.

15) Working of Miracles

The Lord delights in blessing us with miracles according to our faith. I have had the opportunity to witness many miracles. I don't understand the science behind much of it,²⁸⁷ but I know the Lord's power was manifest. I have seen the creation of worlds, the raising of the dead, the taming of lions, the ability to walk on water and pass through the fiery furnace; and so much more; but the greatest miracle of all was that the Father sent His Only Begotten to overcome death and atone for us, that we could be raised up in immortal glory. How blessed we are!

Miracles are plentiful for those who establish a relationship with the Lord. Seek Him with all your heart and you will be a witness to this wonderful gift. Most of the Lord's gifts are specific to a type of spiritual application; whereas, the gift of the Working of Miracles²⁸⁸ are endless in their possibilities.²⁸⁹

²⁸⁶ "A Witness of the End of Times," Anonymous, pg. 26-39

²⁸⁷ I do understand the principles by which miracles occur, but not the language of science.

²⁸⁸ 1 Corinthians 12:10, D&C 46:21

²⁸⁹ Matthew 19:26, Mark 9:23, Mark 10:27, Luke 18:27

Have you witnessed a miracle before? I would define a “miracle” as any action or event which we cannot explain, created by the power of God according to our faith. Joseph Smith said, “Miracles are the fruits of faith.”²⁹⁰ We cannot expect to witness a miracle until we have done our part.²⁹¹

And now, I, Moroni, would speak somewhat concerning these things; I would show unto the world that faith is things which are hoped for and not seen; wherefore, dispute not because ye see not, for ye receive no witness until after the trial of your faith. (Ether 12:6)

The world of modern science attempts to test and theorize how nature and the unseen world operates; to explain what the faith believer calls a miracle. But to those whose eyes are closed to the Spirit, miracles are of no value.²⁹² Joseph Smith said the following:

“The Lord cannot always be known by the thunder of His voice, by the display of His glory or by the manifestation of His power; and those that are the most anxious to see these things, are the least prepared to meet them, and were the Lord to manifest His power as He did to the children of Israel, such characters would be the first to say, ‘Let not the Lord speak any more, lest we His people die.’ [See Exodus 20:19]”²⁹³

²⁹⁰ Joseph Smith, April 13, 1843, Source: Joseph Smith Diary by Willard Richards
The Words of Joseph Smith: Page 191

²⁹¹ Ether 12:12, 31

²⁹² 3 Nephi 19:35

²⁹³ *History of the Church*, 5:26–31; bracketed words in second paragraph in original; punctuation and grammar modernized; paragraph divisions altered; from “Gift of the Holy Ghost,” an editorial published in *Times and Seasons*, June 15, 1842, pp. 823–25; Joseph Smith was the editor of the periodical.

Without faith, it is impossible to please God.²⁹⁴ We are left to our devices, and people wonder why God doesn't intervene more in their lives. The false tradition that declaring your belief in Jesus is enough will surely damn you.²⁹⁵ We must seek after Him in all holiness of heart.

“And that he manifesteth himself unto all those who believe in him, by the power of the Holy Ghost; yea, unto every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, working mighty miracles, signs, and wonders, among the children of men according to their faith.”
(2 Nephi 26:13)

“For behold, I am God; and I am a God of miracles; and I will show unto the world that I am the same yesterday, today, and forever; and I work not among the children of men save it be according to their faith.” (2 Nephi 27:23)

I have written extensively about the definition of faith – “to seek revelation and then to act upon it.” The apostle Stephen had great faith among those he served: “And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.”²⁹⁶ The prophet Moroni also wrote about many examples of great faith that brought forth miracles:²⁹⁷

“Behold, it was the faith of Ammon and his brethren which wrought so great a miracle among the Lamanites. Yea, and even all they who wrought miracles wrought them by faith, even

²⁹⁴ Hebrews 11:6

²⁹⁵ 2 Peter 2:1, D&C 58:28-29, D&C 63:11, James 2:14-26

²⁹⁶ Acts 6:8

²⁹⁷ Ether 12:6-41,

those who were before Christ and also those who were after. And it was by faith that the three disciples obtained a promise that they should not taste of death; and they obtained not the promise until after their faith. And neither at any time hath any wrought miracles until after their faith; wherefore they first believed in the Son of God.” Ether 12:15-18

“And Christ hath said: If ye will have faith in me ye shall have power to do whatsoever thing is expedient in me.” Moroni 7:33

“Behold I say unto you, Nay; for it is by faith that miracles are wrought; and it is by faith that angels appear and minister unto men; wherefore, if these things have ceased wo be unto the children of men, for it is because of unbelief, and all is vain.” Moroni 7:37

I do not know of any scripture that limits what a servant of the Lord cannot do in the name of the Lord if they exercise faith in Him.²⁹⁸ Remember, faith is more than believing, but actually receiving the Lord’s will.²⁹⁹ This may often leave room for creative solutions, as the Lord doesn’t always tell us all things which we should do.³⁰⁰ Those who are afraid to seek revelation and step outside their comfort of expectations³⁰¹ will rarely experience such things. The Apostle Paul said, “He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the

²⁹⁸ 4 Nephi 1:5 “The Lord told me that if I did not doubt and was filled with the Spirit of revelation, I could heal and perform miracles. The sealing power simply amplifies that ability.” (Personal Journal)

²⁹⁹ Hebrews 2:4

³⁰⁰ D&C 58:26-27

³⁰¹ The sacred imagination is the fertile soil for all faith, as we learn to see first, and then to create.

law, or by the hearing of faith?”³⁰² Even at the time of Paul there were Christians afraid to exercise the gifts of the Spirit because they could not find a scriptural justification that suited them. The key is to trust in the Lord and seek His word by revelation. This is particularly critical for those who would be His servants.

It is interesting to read the account of how the family of Lehi used the divine compass in their journey to the promised land. Eight years of traveling in the wilderness taught them how to lean upon the Lord for answers in times of trouble. The Lord was merciful in giving them the Liahona to help them in this process.³⁰³

“And it did work for them according to their faith in God; therefore, if they had faith to believe that God could cause that those spindles should point the way they should go, behold, it was done; therefore they had this miracle, and also many other miracles wrought by the power of God, day by day. Nevertheless, because those miracles were worked by small means it did show unto them marvelous works. They were slothful, and forgot to exercise their faith and diligence and then those marvelous works ceased, and they did not progress in their journey;” (Alma 37:40-41)

The Lord laid out a pattern to performing miracles for those who are to preach the Gospel: “Require not miracles, except I shall command you, except casting out devils, healing the sick, and

³⁰² Galatians 3:5

³⁰³ “I asked about the Liahona that was given to Lehi when he was in the wilderness. It said that it was left at the door of the tent. The Lord said it was left there by a translated angel. The ball was like a strange toy. It had two spindles which would move. One pointed to letters around the circumference, which would spell out words, and the other spindle would point the direction they should travel. It was a brown brass color and ancient in its design.”
(Personal Journal)

against poisonous serpents, and against deadly poisons;”³⁰⁴ If we replace the word “except” with the words “except first...” there is a clearer understanding of this instruction from the Lord. Before any miracle is performed, the servant of the Lord must do four things. They must first, seek permission of the Lord.³⁰⁵ Second, Cast out any devils [evil spirits]. Third, be sure those participating are healed if physically suffering from illness or poison. There is wisdom in this counsel, as we make the space holy before the Lord.

In the following verse the Lord makes another important point: “And these things ye shall not do, except it be required of you by them who desire it, that the scriptures might be fulfilled; for ye shall do according to that which is written.”³⁰⁶ Here, we are told to perform the miracle at the request of those who are afflicted. The Lord’s servants are not to simply pass around miracles. It requires the faith of those present to ask for them.

Often miracles are seemingly caused by simple acts which originate from small impressions. These thoughts are direct revelations through the Holy Ghost that are often unrecognized by us, but the results can be miraculous.

I remember a cowboy poet who once recited the poem of how a cowboy was rounding up cattle along a ravine when his horse was scared by a rattlesnake. The cowboy was bucked off his horse and went flying over the cliff. As he fell he called out to God, “Please save me! I will give up all my evil ways and be good from here on, just don’t let me die!” Suddenly, from nowhere, his hand grabbed hold of a tree root, which he used to save him from falling and climb out to safety. When he reached the top, he paused to pray, “Never mind Lord, I took care of it myself.”

³⁰⁴ D&C 24:13

³⁰⁵ D&C 63:10

³⁰⁶ D&C 24:14

This is much how the Israelites reacted after being led out of Egypt. They witnessed great miracles, but were slow to remember their Lord.

“And Moses called unto all Israel, and said unto them, Ye have seen all that the Lord did before your eyes in the land of Egypt unto Pharaoh, and unto all his servants, and unto all his land; The great temptations which thine eyes have seen, the signs, and those great miracles: Yet the Lord hath not given you an heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day.” (Deuteronomy 29:2-4)

The great miracles of Egypt were epic in scale, but many profound miracles take place around us. Although they may be less noticeable, do we, like the Egyptians, choose to not see them³⁰⁷ or to simply shrug our shoulders and count it as coincidence. “Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign;”³⁰⁸ The Lord will not provide miracles if the people become wicked.³⁰⁹

“But wickedness did prevail upon the face of the whole land, insomuch that the Lord did take away his beloved disciples, and the work of miracles and of healing did cease because of the iniquity of the people.” (Mormon 1:13)

³⁰⁷ Mark 6:49-52, the disciples quickly forgot the miracle of the loaves and were afraid when they saw Jesus walking upon the water.

³⁰⁸ Matthew 12:38-39,

³⁰⁹ Mormon 1:13

It is a sad time when miracles are absent among the people who claim to be followers of Christ. The Apostle Paul wrote regarding faith and miracles:

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. **[Recipe for miracles.]**

2 For by it the elders obtained a good report. **[good results]**

3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. **[God's word, by faith, made things appear.]**

4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, **[Received revelation and acted upon it.]** by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, **[Second Comforter]** God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. **[Eternal Life]**

5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, **[Witness of Jesus, Second Comforter]** that he pleased God.

6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: **[Unless we learn how to receive revelation and act we will not succeed in miracles.]** for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, **[Another wording for act in faith.]** prepared an ark to the saving of his

house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. **[Not always knowing the outcome or how things will go.]** (Hebrews 11)

The Prophet Moroni gives us his final words of warning regarding miracles:

“And if there were miracles wrought then, why has God ceased to be a God of miracles and yet be an unchangeable Being? And behold, I say unto you he changeth not; if so he would cease to be God; and he ceaseth not to be God, and is a God of miracles. And the reason why he ceaseth to do miracles among the children of men is because that they dwindle in unbelief, and depart from the right way, and know not the God in whom they should trust. Behold, I say unto you that whoso believeth in Christ, doubting nothing, whatsoever he shall ask the Father in the name of Christ it shall be granted him; and this promise is unto all, even unto the ends of the earth.” (Mormon 9:19-21)

Miracles are a two-way street. Not only must the faith of the people be sufficient, but the servant of the Lord must be worthy too.

“And now it came to pass that according to our record, and we know our record to be true, for behold, it was a just man who did keep the record—for he truly did many miracles in the name of Jesus; and there was not any man who could do a miracle

in the name of Jesus save he were cleansed every whit from his iniquity—(3 Nephi 8:1)

According to the Nephites' record, these servants performed many miracles. The caveat was they were cleansed of all iniquity. "Iniquity" is a word that means sinfulness, immorality, and impropriety. This requirement to access great spiritual power is consistent, because many of the great gifts of the Spirit invite a baptism of fire,³¹⁰ as the Lord's glory settles upon you, and the one being blessed. This baptism of fire will immediately cleanse the recipients of all sin, but cannot be received if the heart is unclean.

"I came unto mine own, and mine own received me not; but unto as many as received me [The gifts of the Spirit] gave I power to do many miracles, and to become the sons of God; [the Gift of the Holy Ghost] and even unto them that believed on my name gave I power to obtain eternal life." (D&C 45:8)

Christ came among His own people and performed many miracles, yet they still did not receive Him. The few who did were given the Holy Ghost, which gives us the power to obtain Eternal Life.³¹¹ Miracles have a purpose; not to be a sign for those who have not faith, but are simply the fruit of our faith. The greatest fruit we can partake of is Eternal Life.³¹²

³¹⁰ The "baptism of fire" is the Lord's glory enveloping the space. It is a cleansing power of holiness. This may and should occur many times during a worthy person's life; however, when accompanied by the Gift of the Holy Ghost it is empowering to our spirits.

³¹¹ John 3:3-15, The reference to being born again is to receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost. John 6:54 The Sacrament is the promise to receive the Holy Ghost and Eternal Life. 2 Nephi 31:18

³¹² D&C 14:7

The Lord has promised us that if we have faith in Him, doubting nothing,³¹³ anything we ask the Father in His name shall be granted.³¹⁴ This does not mean the answer or miracle comes that moment; faith, again, is seeking revelation and acting upon it. Sometimes the miracle is like the seed planted which grows into a tree and eventually bears fruit. But, sometimes the miracle comes like a shaft of lightning, depending on the Lord's will and situation. We must remember to trust in the Lord that we might receive the gift of the Working of Miracles.

16) Word of Knowledge

When Adam and Eve walked amongst the angels in the temple of Eden they were given specific commandments. One, was that they could eat of all the trees, including the Tree of Life, but were forbidden to eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.³¹⁵ Why would God call it that? Why was this particular tree forbidden? Why would they die if they partook of this fruit?

In my experiences, the Lord has shown me that the fruit was the "word of knowledge"³¹⁶ of their former priesthood and glory,³¹⁷ which by transgression, was disclosed prematurely by the temptation to Eve and then to Adam. There were indeed many

³¹³ Ether 3:19

³¹⁴ John 14:12-14, John 15:16, John 16:23-26, 3 Nephi 18:19-20, 3 Nephi 27:28-29, Moroni 7:26, D&C 18:18, D&C 88:64

³¹⁵ Moses 4:8

³¹⁶ 1 Corinthians 12:8, Ephesians 1:17, D&C 46:18

³¹⁷ "And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they had been without higher knowledge. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons. (An emblem of their former priesthood powers.)" Translation of the Book of Moses, Moses 4:13, Anonymous, Accessible through Purerevelations.wordpress.com

trees in the Garden, but the Lord was speaking of the Angels of God; which were sent to teach them.³¹⁸ Eden was a terrestrial earth, which was a starting point for the condescension of Adam and Eve.³¹⁹ Here they were given all kinds of knowledge; however, in God's wisdom He had not disclosed everything until it was their time to go into the world.³²⁰

I am sharing this information and knowledge regarding the Garden of Eden because it reflects a pattern by which the Lord reveals knowledge to us. At every stage of our lives we are offered knowledge, but the Lord is careful how and when such knowledge is given.

“For there is a time appointed for every man, according as his works shall be. God shall give unto you knowledge by his Holy Spirit, yea, by the unspeakable gift of the Holy Ghost, that has not been revealed since the world was until now;” (D&C 121:25-26)

³¹⁸ “And out of the mortal experience made I, the Lord God, to grow every great kind of knowledge naturally, (Learning line upon line) that is pleasant to the sight of my children; and they could behold their glory and knowledge. And these exalted beings were resurrected and had been exalted, for they were spiritual in the day that I created them; for they remaineth in the degree of glory in which I, God, created them, yea, even all things which I prepared for the benefit of my children; and they saw that it was good for learning. And I, the Lord God, placed Jesus Christ also in the midst of the temple and also the forbidden knowledge offered by Satan.” Spiritual Translation of the Book of Moses, Moses 3:9, Anonymous, Accessible through Purerevelations.wordpress.com

³¹⁹ The Earth is a fourth estate world, following the same pattern as the noble and great ones who condescend, leaving behind their glory to save souls. Because of its anointed status, it will be exalted and receive Celestial glory. This is not something every planet will have.

³²⁰ Genesis 2:17

God is very careful when and how He bestows knowledge. We are to be given line upon line until we are ready to receive a fullness. To receive too much, too early, can be detrimental to those unprepared.

“Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:” (Isaiah 28:9-10)

Joseph Smith said, “It is not wisdom that we should have all knowledge at once presented before us; but that we should have a little at a time; then we can comprehend it.”³²¹ In my own personal experience I could see the pattern for this. Each step forward was a huge leap for me; from recognizing the Lord’s voice, seeing a glimpse of a vision, conversing with angels, my baptism of fire and gift of the Holy Ghost, to finally having my Second Comforter. But, there was so much more. Receiving the Gift of the Holy Ghost was like graduating from high school. Having the Second Comforter experience was like showing up for college on the first day; I felt like the freshman student poking his head into classrooms curious what was going on, and with no clue whatsoever. Every experience with the Lord adds additional knowledge and understanding to how the Lord blesses us. It is beyond words to try and exclaim His glory and power!

The Apostle Peter said, “But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”³²² The word “grace” means

³²¹ *History of the Church*, 5:387; from a discourse given by Joseph Smith on May 14, 1843, in Yelrome, Illinois; reported by Wilford Woodruff.

³²² 2 Peter 3:18

glory or stage of our progression. It is a gift given from God to man. Our knowledge of the Lord will grow grace for grace, little by little.

“If thou shalt ask, thou shalt receive revelation upon revelation, knowledge upon knowledge, that thou mayest know the mysteries and peaceable things—that which bringeth joy, that which bringeth life eternal.” (D&C 42:61)

The prophet Alma compared the development of the knowledge of God to the cultivating of a seed.

“21 And now as I said concerning faith—faith is not to have a perfect knowledge of things; therefore if ye have faith ye hope for things which are not seen, which are true.

26 Now, as I said concerning faith—that it was not a perfect knowledge—even so it is with my words. Ye cannot know of their surety at first, unto perfection, any more than faith is a perfect knowledge. **[Knowledge comes in increments. At first, we only read or study, and are preached to by others.]**

34 And now, behold, is your knowledge perfect? Yea, your knowledge is perfect in that thing, and your faith is dormant; and this because you know, for ye know that the word

hath swelled your souls, and ye also know that it hath sprouted up, that your understanding doth begin to be enlightened, and your mind doth begin to expand.” **[We judge the knowledge by the light that it brings to us. This requires the gift of Discernment. Many spiritual gifts are utilized as we receive the word of knowledge.]**

42 And because of your diligence and your faith and your patience with the word **[requirements to**

receive a fullness of the gift] in nourishing it, that it may take root in you, behold, by and by ye shall pluck the fruit thereof, which is most precious, which is sweet above all that is sweet, and which is white above all that is white, yea, and pure above all that is pure; and ye shall feast upon this fruit even until ye are filled, that ye hunger not, neither shall ye thirst. **[A fullness of the gift of Knowledge.]**

43 Then, my brethren, ye shall reap the rewards of your faith, and your diligence, and patience, and long-suffering, waiting for the tree to bring forth fruit unto you.

(Alma 32)

The Tree of Life symbol is an eternally profound metaphor. It represents the “love of God,” and its fruit is the knowledge that we receive from Him.³²³ It is the most desirable above all things . . . the most joyous to the soul.”³²⁴ It is important to understand that it is a real tree, which exists in the realms of Heaven. Each of us will someday, as we are worthy, partake of its fruit.³²⁵

There are different kinds of knowledge that God imparts to His children. His Gospel contains the rudimentary layers of His doctrine;³²⁶ namely, faith, repentance, baptism of water, and the gift of the Holy Ghost. This knowledge has come to the world through His commandments. From here we are commanded to seek after Him and receive more knowledge until we have received all things. Every soul of this world is given a choice to choose the

³²³ 1 Nephi 8:10-18

³²⁴ 1 Nephi 11:22-23

³²⁵ There is a connection between the Tree of Life and the Everlasting Covenant, but it is contained within the mysteries of godliness. To partake of the fruit is to have a fullness of the Second Comforter and Eternal Life.

³²⁶ 3 Nephi 11:28-40

Everlasting Covenant,³²⁷ either before they came here, now, or after.³²⁸ Joseph Smith said, “It is impossible for a man to be saved in ignorance.”³²⁹ Our task is to gain knowledge, and overcome our ignorance of God’s laws.

“And if a person gains more knowledge and intelligence in this life through his diligence and obedience than another, he will have so much the advantage in the world to come.” (D&C 130:19)

“Ye were also in the beginning with the Father; that which is Spirit, even the Spirit of truth; And truth is knowledge of things as they are, and as they were, and as they are to come; And whatsoever is more or less than this is the spirit of that wicked one who was a liar from the beginning. The Spirit of truth is of God. I am the Spirit of truth, and John bore record of me, saying: He received a fulness of truth, yea, even of all truth; And no man receiveth a fulness unless he keepeth his commandments. He that keepeth his commandments receiveth truth and light, until he is glorified in truth and knoweth all things.” (D&C 93:22-28)

The “spirit of truth” is another way to say the “knowledge of God.” This knowledge is communicated to us through His light, which is His Holy Spirit. The glory of God in its fullness cannot be learned from books, ceremony, or any other way than directly through Him.³³⁰ “I will fetch my knowledge from afar, and will ascribe

³²⁷ Genesis 9:16, Genesis 17:7, 2 Samuel 23:5, 1 Chronicles 16:17, Jeremiah 32:40, D&C 22:1, D&C 45:9, D&C 49:9, D&C 66:2, D&C 101:39

³²⁸ Moroni 8:22, Alma 13:3-5 “A Witness of the Heavenly Realm,” Anonymous, pg. 87-89

³²⁹ D&C 131:6

³³⁰ Hosea 6:6

righteousness to my Maker.”³³¹ The great depositories of God are many light years away, yet immediately available to us through His Spirit, according to His will. His light and glory, like the spiritual fiber optics of the Spirit; they carry all light and truth to us.

The spiritual gift of the Word of Knowledge is important, but we are reminded that it is secondary to the gift of Charity:

“And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.” (1 Corinthians 13:2)

Without a clear connection to the Lord, His divine will, such knowledge cannot save us. There are many mysteries that can be found through careful study, but where are we without a relationship with the Lord?³³²

“Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth. And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know. But if any man love God, the same is known of him.” (1 Corinthians 8:1-3)

Our love for the Lord will be a driving force toward receiving more knowledge of Him.

The prophet Abraham loved the Lord and sought diligently to find Him and gain knowledge.³³³

³³¹ Job 36:3

³³² Matthew 7:21-23

³³³ Abraham 2:12, Proverbs 8:17, 21, D&C 46:9

“And, finding there was greater happiness and peace and rest for me, I sought for the blessings of the fathers, and the right whereunto I should be ordained to administer the same; having been myself a follower of righteousness, desiring also to be one who possessed great knowledge, and to be a greater follower of righteousness, and to possess a greater knowledge, and to be a father of many nations, a prince of peace, and desiring to receive instructions, and to keep the commandments of God, I became a rightful heir, a High Priest, holding the right belonging to the fathers.” (Abraham 1:2)

The “blessings of the fathers” is the Everlasting Covenant, which Abraham sought.³³⁴ He first received knowledge from his association with his father-in-law, then Melchizedek, administering angels, and then the fullness of the greater knowledge when he had his Second Comforter and his calling and election was made sure. Abraham had been foreordained for his calling,³³⁵ but had to struggle to gain the knowledge he needed just as we do. The “fathers,” whose priesthood he sought were the great patriarchs before the flood of Noah.

Nephi also had a great desire to know the Lord and acquire knowledge. He was taught the scriptures by his father Lehi, and after exercising sufficient faith he was able to receive great knowledge, even that the mysteries were unfolded to him.

“I, Nephi, having been born of goodly parents, therefore I was taught somewhat in all the learning of my father; and having seen many afflictions in the course of my days, nevertheless, having been highly

³³⁴ D&C 84:19

³³⁵ Abraham 3:23

avored of the Lord in all my days; yea, having had a great knowledge of the goodness and the mysteries of God, therefore I make a record of my proceedings in my days.” (1 Nephi 1:1)

What are the first steps we must take to prepare ourselves to receive greater knowledge? In Proverbs it reads, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”³³⁶ What does it mean to fear the Lord?

“And now, it came to pass that when king Benjamin had made an end of speaking the words which had been delivered unto him by the angel of the Lord, that he cast his eyes round about on the multitude, and behold they had fallen to the earth, for the fear of the Lord had come upon them. And they had viewed themselves in their own carnal state, even less than the dust of the earth. And they all cried aloud with one voice, saying: O have mercy, and apply the atoning blood of Christ that we may receive forgiveness of our sins, and our hearts may be purified; for we believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who created heaven and earth, and all things; who shall come down among the children of men.” (Mosiah 4:1-2)

“And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord; and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears.” (2 Nephi 21:2-3)

³³⁶ Proverbs 1:7

To “fear the Lord” is to be overcome with the Spirit, to see yourself as God sees you, to understand the significance of the atoning blood of Christ, a great desire to be made clean and to come unto Him. The fear we feel is the possibility that we cannot obtain forgiveness and come to Him.³³⁷ This overcoming of fear may require the Lord to bless us with other gifts of the Spirit.³³⁸

Along with great desire and “the fear of the Lord” there are other attributes that can lead to greater knowledge in the Spirit.

“Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.”
(Proverbs 2:3-6)

As we pray and ask fervently,³³⁹ like seeking for the greatest of treasure, the Lord will provide great knowledge and understanding.³⁴⁰ Joseph Smith said to a man who had recently joined the Church:

³³⁷ D&C 76:5

³³⁸ We may receive the gift of forgiveness, or the gift of a new heart, or even a gift to see ourselves as we truly are. There is no limit to the different kinds of gifts the Lord can bestow upon us.

³³⁹ Proverbs 23:12

³⁴⁰ “The exaltation and happiness of any community, goes hand in hand with the knowledge possessed by the people, when applied to laudable ends; whereupon we can exclaim like the wise man; righteousness exalteth a nation; for righteousness embraces knowledge and knowledge is power.” Times and Seasons, City of Nauvoo, August 15, 1842, pg. 889

“You remember the testimony which I bore in the name of the Lord Jesus, concerning the great work which He has brought forth in the last days. You know my manner of communication, how that in weakness and simplicity, I declared to you what the Lord had brought forth by the ministering of His holy angels to me for this generation. I pray that the Lord may enable you to treasure these things in your mind, for I know that His Spirit will bear testimony to all who seek diligently after knowledge from Him.”³⁴¹

As we seek the knowledge of the Lord fervently, like digging for treasure, we may be tempted to run faster than we have strength.³⁴² I have personally seen many do this as they seek their Second Comforter. They become frustrated that they have not seen visions or heard the voice of the Lord, when they are only beginning the process. There is a good council from the book of Proverbs: “The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.”³⁴³ To be prudent is to be cautious and wise. Understand that these gifts are given to us according to the Lord’s wisdom. He will give them to us as quickly as we can bear. It is a good rule to seek to understand the gift of discernment and revelation before anything else; always asking the Lord for permission and confirmation as we move forward.

“... Let honesty, and sobriety, and candor, and solemnity, and virtue, and pureness, and meekness, and simplicity crown our heads in every place; and in fine, become as little children, without malice, guile or hypocrisy. And now, brethren, after your

³⁴¹ *History of the Church*, 1:442; from a letter from Joseph Smith to Moses Nickerson, Nov. 19, 1833, Kirtland, Ohio.

³⁴² Mosiah 4:27

³⁴³ Proverbs 18:15

tribulations, if you do these things, and exercise fervent prayer and faith in the sight of God always, He shall give unto you knowledge by His Holy Spirit, yea by the unspeakable gift of the Holy Ghost [see D&C 121:26].”³⁴⁴

One of the greatest examples of one who received the gift of Knowledge was the brother of Jared. Few have received a knowledge of the Lord to the degree he was blessed.³⁴⁵ This verse provides clues as to why that occurred.

“And because of the knowledge of this man he could not be kept from beholding within the veil; and he saw the finger of Jesus, which, when he saw, he fell with fear; for he knew that it was the finger of the Lord; and he had faith no longer, for he knew, nothing doubting. Wherefore, having this perfect knowledge of God, he could not be kept from within the veil; therefore he saw Jesus; and he did minister unto him.” (Ether 3:19-20)

What was the “knowledge” that the Brother of Jared possessed that opened the veil? The verse says that it was “perfect knowledge.” To have a perfect knowledge is to know God, to see Him, and be administered by Him.³⁴⁶ The pursuit of revelation, or greater knowledge, requires us to hear and then to see in the Spirit. This man had developed these gifts to the point where he would seek inspiration for how to solve problems. How would he provide light for the people while in the barges? The brother of Jared used

³⁴⁴ *History of the Church*, 3:295–96; paragraph divisions altered; from a letter from Joseph Smith and others to Edward Partridge and the Church, Mar. 20, 1839, Liberty Jail, Liberty, Missouri; parts of this letter were later included in the Doctrine and Covenants as sections 121, 122, and 123.

³⁴⁵ Ether 4:4,7

³⁴⁶ A Witness of the Temporal Dispensations, Anonymous, pg. 81-87

his imagination and was led by the spirit of revelation to molten the stones from the mountain. When he presented the sixteen stones to the Lord and asked Him to touch each stone, again, in his mind, he saw the Lord's finger as the stones lit up. Thinking that he had an impure thought he recoiled knowing that any impurity would shut off His communication between the Lord. The Lord required him to declare his faith in Him, and thereafter revealed himself to the brother of Jared in His fullness.

What can we learn from this story? First, the brother of Jared was not a perfect person. He was distracted by life and had sinned in that he went a long period without seeking revelation and coming to the Lord.³⁴⁷ Second, he repented and the Lord forgave and gave great revelations to him, which he listened to and obeyed.³⁴⁸ Third, he used his imagination to see and allow the Spirit to reveal to Him the truth.³⁴⁹ Fourth, once he had proven his heart to the Lord and his level of faith was fully mature, the Lord revealed Himself.³⁵⁰

What was it about the brother of Jared that so impressed the Lord? Was it his creativity in gathering the stones? Was it how high and difficult the mountain climb was? Was it the sincerity and emotion for which he did "cry unto the Lord?" No, as good as these are, what the brother of Jared was able to do is "see" with an eye of faith,³⁵¹ without any prior knowledge or encouragement. He used his divine imagination to part the veil,³⁵² and the windows of Heaven blew

³⁴⁷ Ether 2:14-15 Even this prophet of the Lord greatly sinned, but the Lord forgave him, as He will also do to us in our weakness.

³⁴⁸ Ether 2:5 He kept the Lord's commandments. There is the general commandment given to Moses, which the brother of Jared had never seen because he lived long before Moses' time. But the commandments we receive personally by revelation are the ones we are bound to keep if we wish to progress spiritually.

³⁴⁹ Ether 3:3-4

³⁵⁰ Ether 3:13

³⁵¹ D&C 88:67-68, Alma 32:40, Ether 12:19, Mormon 8:15,

³⁵² 1 Chronicles 28:9, Alma 5:15-18, Alma 32:33, 40-41, Ether 12:18-19

right open.³⁵³ This is how it can work for you, as you follow the gift of knowledge, revelation, and faith.

This is not “conjuring;”³⁵⁴ but learning to focus our imagination towards divinely given revelation. After we initiate a visual in our mind, the Spirit can be the visual guide as our eyes and ears begin to open, and eventually with the Lord’s permission we are caught up to Heaven. As you may have noticed, he saw the Lord’s finger, but not his full personage until permission was given. The Lord often reveals himself to us incrementally; beginning with dreams, visions, and sometimes only seeing His hands or feet first. Each person’s experience may be different, but the gift of knowledge is available to all who exercise sufficient faith.

The gift of the Word of Knowledge is also a powerful force against the Adversary. God placed enmity between Satan and the seed of the woman, which means that the Seed of Adam would be in continual opposition to Satan. The knowledge that we receive from God gives us additional power over him and his angels. Without our knowledge of the Lord, Satan has power over us.³⁵⁵

“Knowledge does away with darkness, suspense and doubt; for these cannot exist where knowledge is. ... In knowledge there is power. God has more power than all other beings, because He has greater knowledge; and hence He knows how to subject all other beings to Him. He has power over all.”³⁵⁶

³⁵³ Numbers 24:16, D&C 93:1

³⁵⁴ “Conjuring” implies creating a vision using tricks or magic, often utilizing the power of the adversary. Refer to the gift of discernment.

³⁵⁵ Jeremiah 4:22

³⁵⁶ *History of the Church*, 5:340; capitalization modernized; paragraph divisions altered; from a discourse given by Joseph Smith on Apr. 8, 1843, in Nauvoo, Illinois; reported by Willard Richards and William Clayton.

“Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.” (Isaiah 5:13)

“As far as we degenerate from God, we descend to the devil and lose knowledge, and without knowledge we cannot be saved, and while our hearts are filled with evil, and we are studying evil, there is no room in our hearts for good, or studying good. Is not God good? Then you be good; if He is faithful, then you be faithful. Add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, and seek for every good thing [see 2 Peter 1:5]. ... A man is saved no faster than he gets knowledge, for if he does not get knowledge, he will be brought into captivity by some evil power in the other world, as evil spirits will have more knowledge, and consequently more power than many men who are on the earth. Hence it needs revelation to assist us, and give us knowledge of the things of God.”³⁵⁷

Peter’s advice to have faith, and then to seek virtue before knowledge is a good direction for us to take. Virtue is all things that are beautiful, inspiring, Christ-centered, and lead to our Lord. Knowledge is gained as we allow virtue to fill our hearts; for virtue is the platform for all revelation.

“Let thy bowels also be full of charity towards all men, and to the household of faith, and let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God; and the doctrine of the priesthood shall distil

³⁵⁷ *History of the Church*, 4:588; from a discourse given by Joseph Smith on Apr. 10, 1842, in Nauvoo, Illinois; reported by Wilford Woodruff.

upon thy soul as the dews from heaven.” (D&C 121:45)

Receiving a fullness of the gifts of the Spirit requires us to gain confidence in the Lord. This is directly related to the power of faith and revelation. There is no greater way to gain this confidence than to keep the Lord’s commandments and seek virtue always. To garnish ourselves with virtue is to have it around us everywhere we go and think. It is a beautiful way to live your life.

Once we have received knowledge of the Lord, how do we know when to share it? From the time of my first experiences with the Lord I have had a constant anxiety for how much I am allowed to share and not offend the Lord. I have chosen to error on the side of revealing too little than too much.³⁵⁸ I know this sounds odd considering how much I have shared in my writings. The Lord has given me three distinct commandments regarding what I can share. First, He said that He would stop my utterance if I am not to share something. I have had this occur on many occasions. Often, it is simply because it was inappropriate timing for the person to hear the information. What may be helpful for one, may be hurtful for another. Second, I was to make my blog public, but to create it in a way that would be discouraging to those who were unprepared to receive the knowledge. The first book was written in a way that it would do this. It is very offensive to people who see the book as not in harmony with their view of Church authority. Third, I was not to write about the “mysteries.” The mysteries are not to simply mean things that are unknown to the world, but much more. Joseph Smith shared this piece of knowledge:

“God himself, finding he was in the midst of spirits and glory, because he was more intelligent, saw proper to institute laws whereby the rest could have a privilege to advance like himself. The relationship

³⁵⁸ Proverbs 17:27

we have with God places us in a situation to advance in knowledge. He has power to institute laws to instruct the weaker intelligences, that they may be exalted with Himself, so that they might have one glory upon another, and all that knowledge, power, glory, and intelligence, which is requisite in order to save them in the world of spirits." ³⁵⁹

The kind of knowledge the Lord has allowed me to share are things such as Adam and Eve, the flood, the Nephilim, angels, etc. These are mysterious topics, but the kind of mysteries I am referring to are the details regarding the Everlasting Covenant which are related to our eternal progression. The Lord will reveal the fullness of this knowledge to you when you have your calling and election made sure and ask all the questions for yourself. Nephi experienced a similar admonishment from the Lord:

“Behold, he hath heard my cry by day, and he hath given me knowledge by visions in the night-time. And by day have I waxed bold in mighty prayer before him; yea, my voice have I sent up on high; and angels came down and ministered unto me. And upon the wings of his Spirit hath my body been carried away upon exceedingly high mountains. And mine eyes have beheld great things, yea, even too great for man; therefore I was bidden that I should not write them.” (2 Nephi 4:23-25)

We live in a time when the “word of knowledge” is increased in the world more than any other time in over four thousand years. I asked the Lord once if there were many others like me that are

³⁵⁹ This is at the conclusion of the King Follett Sermon, delivered by the Prophet Joseph Smith at the April 7, 1844, conference of the Church in Nauvoo, Illinois.

meeting with Him. He said there were more now than ever before, but that we all have different experiences depending upon the questions that we ask. Those who will experience the Lord will continue to increase until the time when the earth is cleansed and His knowledge shall fill the world.

“But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” (Daniel 12:4)

“They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” (Isaiah 11:9)

“And also that of element shall melt with fervent heat; and all things shall become new, that my knowledge and glory may dwell upon all the earth.” (D&C 101:25)

My dear brothers and sisters, seek the gifts of the Spirit with all your heart and all things shall be added unto you. There is no question whether the Lord will answer you – He will! The knowledge you receive will help you in your journey as you grow grace for grace until the perfect day.

17) Word of Wisdom

How do we acquire wisdom? Can a person be smart and not wise? Being smart or loaded with knowledge has little to do with wisdom. Most would answer that wisdom is an attribute that would require a deep understanding of the world around them; taking many years

of earthly experience to study and develop.³⁶⁰ This is not how the Lord's servants acquire wisdom. It is a gift of God that grows through our spiritual maturity and relationship with Him.³⁶¹

What is this spiritual gift, the "Word of Wisdom?"³⁶² In the Church it is often attributed to section 89 of the Doctrine in Covenants;³⁶³ but the gift is broader and applies to many aspects of the Lord's kingdom. It is a gift which brings balance and harmony to God's works.³⁶⁴ The Lord is careful to whom it is given.³⁶⁵ Usually, it witnesses to future events and an understanding to their final purpose and judgement.³⁶⁶ To have wisdom is to have the knowledge of God and to understand its full application.

There are three pillars that support the Patriarchal Priesthood; which are the foundation for all God's works: Charity, Knowledge, and Wisdom.³⁶⁷ Each of these attributes must be acquired in order to receive exaltation.³⁶⁸ We begin to receive a portion of these as we draw closer to the Lord, beginning in mortality. When these

³⁶⁰ Job 32:7-9

³⁶¹ Psalm 37:30-31

³⁶² Isaiah 11:2, D&C 46:17, 1 Corinthians 12:8

³⁶³ D&C 89:1-2 "A Word of Wisdom, for the benefit of the council of high priests, assembled in Kirtland, and the church, and also the saints in Zion—To be sent greeting; not by commandment or constraint, but by revelation and the word of wisdom, showing forth the order and will of God in the temporal salvation of all saints in the last days—Given for a principle with promise, adapted to the capacity of the weak and the weakest of all saints, who are or can be called saints. Behold, verily, thus saith the Lord unto you: In consequence of evils and designs which do and will exist in the hearts of conspiring men in the last days, I have warned you, and forewarn you, by giving unto you this word of wisdom by revelation—" [This revelation was prophetic in nature, the Lord's wisdom was a word of warning to His Church, but not by commandment.]

³⁶⁴ D&C 88:40

³⁶⁵ Proverbs 14:6-8, 33

³⁶⁶ 1 Kings 3:28

³⁶⁷ Colossians 2:2-3, refer to *How To Open Your Spiritual Eyes*, Anonymous, pg.

³⁶⁸ D&C 11:7

gifts are received in a fullness, we will have overcome all things and have all wisdom and understanding,³⁶⁹ and a full knowledge of God.³⁷⁰

Without divine wisdom, we cannot have the power and understanding to implement the Lord's commands. Sometimes this is relayed to the Lord's servants by revelation, but often the Lord only commands us to do things, without knowing beforehand the full knowledge and wisdom behind it.³⁷¹

6 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:

7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

13 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 Corinthians 2:6-7, 13)

This divine wisdom, which understands the Lord's purposes in their fullness, is often completely hidden from the world. Some of these mysteries are touched upon lightly in the scriptures, left to the secular authorities to scoff and attempt to interpret. The world was created in six days? How could Adam and Eve have been the first man and woman? How could there have been a world flood and only eight people survived?

³⁶⁹ 1 Kings 4:29-30, 1 Kings 7:14, 1 Chronicles 22:11-12

³⁷⁰ Proverbs 16:16 "How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!"

³⁷¹ 1 Nephi 4:6 Like driving the horse and carriage blindfolded.

What do people do when the stories of the Bible or Book of Mormon don't support the popular scientific viewpoints? Did the Lord reveal all the facts surrounding these events? Many are incredulous, because they do not have the Lord's wisdom and understanding.

“For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.” (1 Corinthians 3:19-20)

“We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.” (1 Corinthians 2:6-7)

The fact is that we can know for ourselves the Lord's purposes and understand why things occur and to what end. It is a gift to the Lord's servants. You have barely begun to scratch the surface of the knowledge and wisdom available to you. Where does one start? To understand how we are to possess the gift of the word of wisdom we must learn to “fear the Lord.”³⁷²

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.”
(Proverbs 9:10)

As I wrote earlier, to “fear the Lord” is to be overcome with the Spirit, to see yourself as God sees you, to understand the significance of the atoning blood of Christ, a great desire to be made

³⁷² Psalm 111:10, Proverbs 8:11-14, Proverbs 15:33, Isaiah 33:6

clean and to come unto Him.³⁷³ As we begin to receive revelation we are given knowledge concerning that which is holy.

“And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.” (Job 28:28)

Wisdom is a gift the Lord bestows upon those who ask Him in faith,³⁷⁴ without reservation.³⁷⁵ Those who doubt the Lord, or whether He would bestow such a gift upon them, are likely to have no gift given. Often our unbelief is the poison that prevents us from receiving the gift.

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.” (James 1:5-6)

It is interesting that the Lord said, “if you lack wisdom.” He did not say, “If you lack knowledge,³⁷⁶ or if you lack money, or anything material. This scripture had a profound impact on Joseph Smith as a young boy seeking to know which Church to join.³⁷⁷ It was directed toward receiving knowledge and wisdom, as Joseph went seeking to know what he should do. He then was given wisdom; to

³⁷³ D&C 76:5 Begin with the Doctrine of Christ, 3 Nephi 11:28-40

³⁷⁴ D&C 109:7

³⁷⁵ D&C 42:68

³⁷⁶ If you lack anything you can ask God and the same rule applies. I believe the Lord usually imparts an equal degree of wisdom to the same degree of knowledge that is given.

³⁷⁷ The answer that none of them were true was knowledge, the answer to join none of them was wisdom.

know a course of action.³⁷⁸ Joseph said, “The best way to obtain truth and wisdom is not to ask it from books, but to go to God in prayer, and obtain divine teaching.”³⁷⁹

“We . . . must be under [God's] guidance if we are prospered, preserved and sustained. Our only confidence can be in God; our only wisdom obtained from Him: and He alone must be our protector and safeguard, spiritually and temporally, or we fall.”³⁸⁰

Joseph Smith learned to lean on the Lord in all things; therefore, he was taught much wisdom in things spiritual. Did the Lord give him all knowledge and wisdom the first time He appeared in the grove near Joseph’s home? No, it came to him incrementally.

“For behold, thus saith the Lord God: I will give unto the children of men line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little; and blessed are those who hearken unto my precepts, and lend an ear unto my counsel, for they shall learn wisdom; for unto him that receiveth I will give more; and from them that shall say, We have enough, from them shall be taken away even that which they have.” (2 Nephi 28:30)

The Book of Proverbs is a book in the Bible devoted much to the topic of wisdom. It is attributed to King Solomon, considered the wisest man of his time. He ruled over the construction of the Jerusalem temple and despite all his wisdom, in the end became a

³⁷⁸ The course of action is received as we exercise faith or revelation. Sometimes we receive knowledge and sometimes also wisdom. The understanding that comes with wisdom makes it possible to know how to proceed properly. Otherwise, you cannot move forward.

³⁷⁹ *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 191

³⁸⁰ Joseph Smith, *History of the Church*, 5:64.

wicked man and lost the gift which the Lord had given him.³⁸¹ The Lord is no respecter of persons,³⁸² and divine wisdom is only given to the humble and meek who serve the Lord.³⁸³

Those who have the gift of the Word of Wisdom are blessed with an understanding of the Lord's purposes, and His future plans for how these purposes are to be brought to pass.³⁸⁴ Where the gift of prophesy is to speak the word of the Lord, the gift of Wisdom does not necessarily mean it is to be shared. Often such things are kept silent and only shared as the Lord permits.³⁸⁵ If you are a seeker of the gift of Knowledge, seek also for the gift of the Word of Wisdom that you may see clearly what the Lord would have you to do.

18) To Know the Diversities of Operations

Every gift of the Spirit is related to priesthood.³⁸⁶ When the Lord gives you a gift, it is in direct proportion to your relationship with Him.³⁸⁷ Many in the church are unfamiliar with this definition, as they see priesthood as a passing of privilege and holiness from one Melchizedek priesthood bearing man to another within the Church, as it is administered by proper authority.³⁸⁸ Such ordinations and confirmations are appropriate, but not binding in holiness unless

³⁸¹ 1 Kings 11

³⁸² D&C 1:34-35, Acts 10:34-35

³⁸³ Alma 32:12, D&C 97:1

³⁸⁴ Revelation 13:18

³⁸⁵ Proverbs 11:12

³⁸⁶ D&C 124:95,

³⁸⁷ Helaman 10:4-5

³⁸⁸ There are certain priesthood duties which require a delegated stewardship or "office" in the priesthood, in order to perform Church ordinances or leadership. These operations are administered through the Church hierarchy. Someone with this spiritual gift will know the diversities of operations, and comprehend the Lord's light when priesthood is used or darkness when it is not.

sealed by the Lord.³⁸⁹ Church organizational priesthood conducts perfunctory duties within various offices; and will only account for higher priesthood operations when the Lord's hand is upon it.³⁹⁰

The word "priesthood" has become a word synonymous with status and leadership. But, it's true nature is one of relationship with God, with charity, without any pride or compulsion.³⁹¹ We should not seek priesthood status, but priesthood relationship.³⁹² The Lord is eager to bring each of us closer to Him, and as we do this we are numbered among His' servants.³⁹³

To know the "Diversities of Operations"³⁹⁴ is to understand and see with clarity the Lord's works in action. It is to discern institutional behavior, whether it be religious or governmental; whether it is of God or the Adversary.³⁹⁵ Both men, women, and even children are capable of receiving this gift; usually, after having received the gift of the Holy Ghost.³⁹⁶ There are groups outside the LDS church who

³⁸⁹ D&C 84:33-40

³⁹⁰ Only the Lord knows the true worthiness of individuals administering priesthood functions. Earthly ordinances performed by those with lower Aaronic priesthood can provide the temporal ordinances necessary to point to the higher spiritual ordinances that are administered under the Lord's direction and are received in the heavenly realm.

³⁹¹ D&C 121:37

³⁹² The Lord doesn't distinguish priesthoods by offices or names. He is no respecter of persons, but sees us according to our closeness to Him. The trust He has in us determines how much light and power we are able to use in His name. If you have any desire to know Him, and serve Him, you are called to the work. (D&C 4:2-3)

³⁹³ 1 Nephi 14:2, 3 Nephi 15:24, 3 Nephi 16:3, 3 Nephi 21:6, Mormon 7:10

³⁹⁴ D&C 46:16

³⁹⁵ D&C 101:95

³⁹⁶ Without the gift of charity, it would be difficult to know the Lord's will. Moroni 10:5

exercise many of the gifts of the Spirit.³⁹⁷ To discern what is true requires a relationship with the Lord.

“Behold, this is my doctrine—whosoever repenteth and cometh unto me, the same is my church. Whosoever declareth more or less than this, the same is not of me, but is against me; therefore he is not of my church.” (D&C 10:67-68)

Any priesthood we wish to acquire can only come if we join His Church. The Lord clearly states that His doctrine contains two requirements only: to repent and come unto Him.³⁹⁸ Wherever this occurs, these individuals will be classed among the Saints of God.

“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 every one that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit cometh unto God, even the Father. And the Father teacheth him of the [gospel] covenant which he has renewed and confirmed upon you” (D&C 84:46–48).

There are many people spread throughout the world today³⁹⁹ who have qualified to be counted among the Lord’s Church. They come from various backgrounds and denominations.⁴⁰⁰ Some are more knowledgeable of these gifts; but all denominations suffer from

³⁹⁷ 1 Corinthians 14:12, the early Christian church was seven separate churches or denominations, all independent of each other, but all worshipping Christ. (Revelation 1:4)

³⁹⁸ 3 Nephi 11:26-40, Doctrine of Christ: repent, be baptized, and receive the Holy Ghost.

³⁹⁹ People of many races and Christian denominations; however, they are not mixed with other religious philosophies. If their heart is divided and repentance is not complete it will not serve them well.

⁴⁰⁰ Moroni 7:16,

unbelief in one degree or another. The LDS Church has much truth, as it was revealed through Joseph Smith; and also, much unbelief.⁴⁰¹

“If I esteem mankind to be in error shall I bear them down? No. I will lift them up, and in their own way too, if I cannot persuade them my way is better; and I will not seek to compel any man to believe as I do, only by the force of reasoning, for truth will cut its own way. Do you believe in Jesus Christ and the Gospel of salvation which he revealed? So do I. Christians should cease wrangling and contending with each other, and cultivate the principles of union and friendship in their midst.”⁴⁰²

When Christ came to America he had to settle some disputations among believers of different denominations.⁴⁰³ There are many that love the Lord as much as you or me; and some of the least likely people have more relationship with the Lord than you would imagine. I have seen prophets in other denominations preach repentance with the power of God.⁴⁰⁴ I have seen other Christians use the gifts of the Spirit; and I know the Lord was with them. This particular gift, to know the Diversities of Operations, can help you to discern when it is real or false.⁴⁰⁵

⁴⁰¹ D&C 84:54-57

⁴⁰² Smith, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 313–14.

⁴⁰³ 3 Nephi 11:22, 18:34, 27:3-7 In June 1829, Oliver Cowdery and David Whitmer were instructed to “contend against no church, save it be the church of the devil” (D&C 18:20)

⁴⁰⁴ Samuel the Lamanite: Helaman 13, Helaman 14:10

⁴⁰⁵ People wonder why I don’t endorse or condemn the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The fact is that there are many righteous servants and also those who are wicked. The Lord allows the wheat and tares to grow together. (Matt. 13:25, D&C 86, D&C 101:65-67) It is your responsibility to know where to find the light. This gift of the Spirit can help in this regard.

“I cannot believe in any of the creeds of the different denominations, because they all have some things in them I cannot subscribe to, though all of them have some truth. I want to come up into the presence of God, and learn all things; but the creeds set up stakes, and say, ‘Hitherto shalt thou come, and no further’; which I cannot subscribe to.”⁴⁰⁶

We must discern the truth wherever it may be. This spiritual gift can extend beyond the church to other institutions. To discern what is happening in governments, religions, and other organizations, which are often operated in a manner that is contrary to God’s laws. To clearly see the hand of God or the Adversary as it operates openly or in secret is a part of this gift.

Some examples from scripture of how this gift alerted the Lord’s servants to the Adversary’s operations:

- When the prophet Abraham was journeying to Egypt, the Lord instructed him how to conceal the true identity of his wife to avoid a conflict with Pharaoh’s court.⁴⁰⁷
- Moses knew the mind and heart of Pharaoh and how he planned to deal with the Israelites.⁴⁰⁸
- The prophet Daniel was shown the thoughts and dreams of the King, that he was able to preserve the lives of his associates.⁴⁰⁹
- Jesus and also Paul were fully aware of the plots against them by the Pharisees and Saducees.⁴¹⁰

⁴⁰⁶ Smith, *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 327. One can gain a deeper insight into the Prophet’s frustration and pain concerning the negative impact of religious creeds in his letter to the Saints from Liberty Jail (see D&C 123:7).

⁴⁰⁷ Abraham 2:21-25

⁴⁰⁸ Exodus 7:14

⁴⁰⁹ Daniel 2:30

⁴¹⁰ Matthew 22:18, Acts 23:6

- Nephi knew the corruption and secret combinations that had infected the judgment seat of the land.⁴¹¹

Joseph Smith also knew the level of corruption that would infect our land in the last days:

Behold, verily, thus saith the Lord unto you: In consequence of evils and designs which do and will exist in the hearts of conspiring men in the last days, I have warned you, and forewarn you, by giving unto you this word of wisdom by revelation—⁴¹²

It is by both revelation and discernment that the Lord will show us these things. Those who hold the gift to know the Discerning of Operations have the responsibility to reveal truth as the Lord commands them.

12 For there are many yet on the earth among all sects, parties, and denominations, who are blinded by the subtle craftiness of men, whereby they lie in wait to deceive, and who are only kept from the truth because they know not where to find it—

13 Therefore, that we should waste and wear out our lives in bringing to light all the hidden things of darkness, wherein we know them; and they are truly manifest from heaven—

14 These should then be attended to with great earnestness.

15 Let no man count them as small things; for there is much which lieth in futurity, pertaining to the saints, which depends upon these things.

⁴¹¹ Helaman 8:27-28

⁴¹² D&C 89:4

16 You know, brethren, that a very large ship is benefited very much by a very small helm in the time of a storm, by being kept workways with the wind and the waves. (D&C 123:12-16)

May you be blessed to partake of this gift, that you may be wise to what the Lord is doing in the churches, the governments of our land, and abroad. His works are many, and cannot always be perceived, because by small means great things are brought to pass. The gift will also provide discernment to the cunning plans of the Adversary as he works among men and the leaders of the earth to destroy the children of God and usurp control over this world. As servants of the Lord we must be prepared and aware.

19) To Know the Differences of Administration

What is your role and mission in the Kingdom of God? Whereas the previous gift opened a view of what is happening with the priesthood around you, this spiritual gift⁴¹³ will show you your foreordained mission and how the Lord desires you to accomplish it.⁴¹⁴ Every spiritual gift usually comes in increments, not always knowing a fullness until we are sufficiently prepared.

Many of you have read my books which touch upon the “estates of progression.”⁴¹⁵ It is not useful to be too preoccupied with where you are in the ladder of progression. The Lord is sufficiently pleased with a soul who comes to Him from a second estate and accepts the New Covenant; as He is with a soul who is awakened to perform

⁴¹³ 1 Corinthians 12:5, D&C 46:15

⁴¹⁴ Jeremiah 1:5, Romans 8:29-30, Romans 9:11, 17, Ephesians 1:4-13, Alma 13:3-12

⁴¹⁵ Available at <http://pure Revelations.wordpress.com>, PDF files

a mission.⁴¹⁶ All are made perfect through their called missions for the Lord.⁴¹⁷

The purposes of the gifts of the Spirit are to bring you to Christ, and then He will help you know how you are to administer to others. All are important to the Lord.⁴¹⁸ As you receive this gift you will not only more clearly understand your mission, but see with the Lord's eye the callings of others around you. There is no room for jealousies, as all are blessed according to their faith and works.⁴¹⁹

The mission of our Lord is a good example: For the first thirty years of Jesus' life he was an unknown carpenter from Nazareth. He rarely spoke in the synagogue and lived a life of anonymity. The details regarding His mission came to Him in stages. First, the Spirit confirmed the words of scripture; then the words of His mother, and then rabbis of the synagogue. Heavenly Father gave Him sacred dreams and visions throughout His life, and when the proper time had arrived, Jesus knew exactly what needed to be done and where to go.⁴²⁰ Depending upon your mission and what you were foreordained to do, a path will also open up for you to follow. There are many types of missions. Think of the word "administration" as a mission of the Lord.

Types of Missions:

To strengthen a family:

These are those who are sent to break the generational chains of abuse and addiction that may have afflicted a family for many

⁴¹⁶ Alma 29:1-9

⁴¹⁷ Hebrews 5:8-10

⁴¹⁸ 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

⁴¹⁹ John 21:21-23, D&C 67:10

⁴²⁰ A Witness of the Life of Christ, Anonymous, pg. 8-11

years.⁴²¹ Such brave souls save countless other spirits who would have been born to dire circumstances. Their sacrifices are precious to the Lord and a way is prepared for them by the angels of God and the Atonement.

To bear great physical burdens:

How many people do we know who seem to be born to horribly unfair circumstances? Children with autism, Downs Syndrome, and other physical disabilities that prevent them from having a normal life. Their sacrifices are great, but their joy in heaven is greater. They know full well coming into mortality what they will face. Many of them have the opportunity to teach love and selflessness to family and those they come in contact with. It is considered an honor in the Spirit World to receive such a calling and mission.

To experience the good and the evil that you may choose the good:

These souls, those who have made the Everlasting Covenant before birth, are sent with the express mission to find and choose the Lord.⁴²² They are guided by the angels of God according to their desires. Their lives are like a monument in the eternities for their personal sacrifices toward righteousness. If they do not receive the Holy Ghost in this life, they will have an opportunity in the next

⁴²¹ 2 Nephi 26:9, Normally it takes several generations to change the tradition the fathers. Mosaih 13:13, Alma 45:12, Helaman 6:30, Helaman 13:10, 3 Nephi 27:32, D&C 98:28-30, D&C 103:26

⁴²² "There are two other kinds of family units. These are those of the seed of men who have expressed a desire to receive the blessings of Abraham, to become the House of Israel. These are placed in humble circumstances where they can be born on earth and receive the gospel. Such will be the case with many before the end comes.'

"The last category are the literal seed of Adam. These spirits are escorted by the angels, both the powers (warriors) and the guardians to their homes where they are protected and nurtured to have an experience that will lead them to the truth. As long as their desires are to find God, they are placed in such families. Once a second estate being is quickened in the spirit (Gift of the Holy Ghost) they do not come down again in this world in the flesh." (Personal Journal)

according to their desires. These are the second estate, seeking to come into their third estate and be received by the Lord.⁴²³

To sacrifice their glory to save souls for the Father:

These are the fourth estate, Just Men and Women Made Perfect,⁴²⁴ Saviors on Mount Zion,⁴²⁵ the 144 Thousand,⁴²⁶ they are prophets and prophetesses, priests and priestesses to the Most High. They do not live lives of comfort and plenty. Often, they are despised and hated by the people, considered peculiar and without merit to those not familiar with the Lord's Spirit.⁴²⁷ Each have a specific mission to build the Lord's Kingdom. Those of this new dispensation that are among this group will gather Israel and help prepare for the Lord's return.⁴²⁸

Not everyone who enters mortality has a mission bestowed by the Lord. The vast majority of the "children of men" come to life with no intention of choosing either God or Satan. They follow their familial social structures for the purpose of experiencing the flesh.⁴²⁹ They are saved because they don't have the law,⁴³⁰ but do

⁴²³ How to Open Your Spiritual Eyes, Anonymous, pg.

⁴²⁴ Hebrew 12:23, D&C 76:64-70

⁴²⁵ Obadiah 1:21, Isaiah 7:32, Joel 2:32, Revelation 14, 2 Nephi 18:18, D&C 76:66, D&C 84:2

⁴²⁶ Revelation 7, D&C 77:11

⁴²⁷ The Lord describes the life of a servant: 3 Nephi 12-14, Matthew 5:1-29, Luke 6

⁴²⁸ Revelation 7:3-4

⁴²⁹ Romans 9:6-8, "People dwell there in peace and rest from their cares of the world. In the Nexus (Spirit world) there are billions of spirits of the seed of men. I saw that most of their family units protect their seed and are born again into families, often bringing the same sins generation after generation. There are also families protected by sons of perdition that provide bodies for evil spirits. There are thousands of such seed in the world today." (Personal Journal)

⁴³⁰ Romans 8:7, Moroni 8:22

not inherit eternal life.⁴³¹ These beings are forever telestial unless they embrace the Everlasting Covenant.⁴³²

If you are Called, and Chosen⁴³³ to receive your “calling and election made sure,”⁴³⁴ then you will know a fullness of your mission in this life. Until that time, seek to know the Lord intimately. Seek all the gifts of the Spirit, beginning with the gift of discernment and revelation. All things will be added unto you until you know Him; because you will see Him as He is, and He will teach you what you are to do.

20) Knowing that Jesus is the Christ

To know something is different than to just believe in something. It implies a familiarity that only comes through intimately interacting with, physically touching, and communicating directly.

I know my wife, because we spend time together - face to face. I know what she likes, her ambitions, hobbies, favorite foods, etc. Christ compared himself to the Bridegroom coming for His bride.⁴³⁵ The Israelites were forbidden to truly know their God because of refusing Him at Mount Sinai, so the lesser covenant was made and only the High Priest was allowed to approach the Holy of Holies

⁴³¹ Luke 10:25-28, John 3:15, John 5:39-47, John 6:54, John 10:27-28, John 17:3, Romans 2:7, 2 Nephi 2:27-28, 2 Nephi 10:23, 2 Nephi 31:18-21, Jacob 6:11, Mosiah 5:15, Mosiah 15:23-27, Alma 7:15-16, Alma 11:40, Alma 22:15-16, 3 Nephi 9:14, D&C 20:14-15, D&C 45:8-9, D&C 50:5-6

⁴³² Genesis 9:15-16, 1 Chronicles 16:17, Isaiah 24:5, Isaiah 55:3, Isaiah 61:8, Jeremiah 32:40, Ezekiel 16:60, Ezekiel 37:26, D&C 1:15-16, D&C 22:1-2, D&C 45:9, D&C 49:9-10, D&C 66:2, D&C 76:101, D&C 78:11-12, D&C 101:39-40

⁴³³ Matthew 20:16, 1 Corinthians 1:25-31, Revelation 17:14, Alma 13:3, D&C 24:1, D&C 52:1, D&C 95:5, D&C 105:35-37, D&C 121:34-40

⁴³⁴ 2 Peter 1:10, *How to Open Your Spiritual Eyes*, Anonymous, pg.

⁴³⁵ Isaiah 62:5, Matthew 9:15, Matthew 25:1-13, Mark 2:19-20, Luke 5:34-35, D&C 33:17-18, D&C 65:3, D&C 88:92

each year to come to Him.⁴³⁶ Jesus instituted the New Covenant which would allow us finally to “know” our Lord.⁴³⁷ We partake of His Sacrament, taking His name upon us, eating of His flesh, and drinking His blood; symbolizing our covenant relationship with Him. We are invited to “know Him.”⁴³⁸

The Lord desires for us to have the kind of life He possesses, which is called Eternal Life. As we move in that direction we can grow in priesthood until we receive all that the Father has. The Lord said, “And, if you keep my commandments and endure to the end you shall have eternal life, which gift is the greatest of all the gifts of God.”⁴³⁹

The Throne of God, with its infinite glory, beauty, and magnitude, is so far beyond the scope of the imagination; and to try and explain in words what I have seen is utterly impossible.

I remember watching a video of a deaf person hearing for the first time. The reaction of surprise and joy in their face reminded me of how I feel when I see the Lord. My heart wants to leap for joy and never return to this dark world. But, this life makes it possible for us to enjoy the eternities with Him. Those who walk among the courts of heaven fondly refer to what we consider as an overwhelming sacrifice to be the greatest blessing. To know the Lord is to know Life Eternal.

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

⁴³⁶ Hebrews 8, Hebrews 9:7, D&C 84:18-27

⁴³⁷ Jeremiah 31:31-34, Matthew 26:28, Mark 14:24 Luke 22:20, 2 Corinthians 3:6, Hebrews 8:8-13, Hebrews 12:24, D&C 76:69, D&C 84:57, D&C 107:19

⁴³⁸ John 17:3, 2 Corinthians 5:17

⁴³⁹ D&C 14:7

10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. **[Can only be seen with the spiritual eyes and body.]**

11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

12 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.

[They are given to us to know.]

13 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. **[You cannot learn in school, only from the Lord.]**

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. **[Those who cannot see past the flesh.]**

15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. **[To have charity is to have the mind of Christ.]**

1 Corinthians 2:9-16

In the link, *Our Spiritual Progression*,⁴⁴⁰ I write more about the process and ascension to the Throne of Heaven and the details related to the Second Comforter. You must continue to press forward seeking all the gifts of the Spirit until you finally receive the

⁴⁴⁰ <https://purerevelations.wordpress.com/our-temporal-progression/>

gift of “knowing that Jesus is the Christ.”⁴⁴¹ You will know Him, because you will see, touch, smell, speak to, communicate, and be a witness of Him. He will answer your questions as one person speaks to another. You will be so taken back by the gentleness and yet utter majesty of His presence. Do not think for a moment you cannot experience this for yourself.

“God hath not revealed anything to Joseph, but what He will make known unto the Twelve, and even the least Saint may know all things as fast as he is able to bear them, for the day must come when no man need say to his neighbor, Know ye the Lord; for all shall know Him ... from the least to the greatest [see Jeremiah 31:34].”⁴⁴²

The Apostle Paul received this gift, to know that Jesus was the Christ. He ascended to the Third Heaven and saw unspeakable things.⁴⁴³ He often admonished the Saints of his day to seek the same.

10 For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. **[You are His’ servants.]**

11 And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end:

12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. **[We desire all of you to inherit and witness the same blessings.]**

⁴⁴¹ D&C 46:13, 3 Nephi 5:26, Ether 12:39

⁴⁴² *History of the Church*, 3:380; from a discourse given by Joseph Smith on June 27, 1839, in Commerce, Illinois; reported by Willard Richards.

⁴⁴³ 2 Corinthians 12:2

13 For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, **[God Himself came to Abraham to make an oath, his Second Comforter.]**

14 Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.

15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. **[We too must patiently endure and wait for the proper time.]**

16 For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. **[The Second Comforter]**

17 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:

18 That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: **[We were both called and chosen, an heir and a promise.]**

19 Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; **[Our confidence in the presence of God is strengthened.]**

20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. **[We will follow the pattern and guidance of Him who goes before.]**

(Hebrews 6)

Our greatest desire is to know Him, to be with our Lord and Savior. It happens to be His greatest desire as well; therefore, trust in Him to make it happen when the timing is perfect. I have learned that the Second Comforter will not come one minute sooner than it is appointed. The experience you will have is not some

accomplishment based on your reaching a summit of righteousness. It will come at the exact moment you are to begin your mission. It will be an anchor to your soul in the times ahead as the Lord reclaims the House of Israel and establishes Zion.

Conclusion

There is nothing more important than developing the Gifts of the Spirit in order to become a Servant of the Lord. It is the basis of the Doctrine of Christ;⁴⁴⁴ namely repentance, baptism and the Holy Ghost. As we direct our hearts to Him and we seek this relationship, the light within us is magnified.

All spiritual gifts should be the focus of our practice, efforts, teaching, and Sabbath worship. When we decide to remove all our unbelief and are willing to be schooled by angels, the floodgates begin to open.⁴⁴⁵ Joseph Smith said,

“The things of God are of deep import; and time, and experience, and careful and ponderous and solemn thoughts can only find them out. Thy mind, O man! if thou wilt lead a soul unto salvation, must stretch as high as the utmost heavens, and search into and contemplate the darkest abyss, and the broad expanse of eternity—thou must commune with God. How much more dignified and noble are

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⁴⁴⁵ “I am like a huge rough stone...and the only polishing I get is when some corner gets rubbed off by coming in contact with something else, striking with accelerated force...thus I will become a smooth and polished shaft in the quiver of the Almighty.” *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, sel. Joseph Fielding Smith [1976], 304).

the thoughts of God, than the vain imaginations of
the human heart! ...⁴⁴⁶

Have you stretched your imaginations to the utmost heavens? Have you searched the darkest abyss? Have you reached for the furthest heights to commune with God? This is why you are here—to seek the Lord and to find Him.

⁴⁴⁶ *History of the Church*, 3:295–96; paragraph divisions altered; from a letter from Joseph Smith and others to Edward Partridge and the Church, Mar. 20, 1839, Liberty Jail, Liberty, Missouri; parts of this letter were later included in the Doctrine and Covenants as sections 121, 122, and 123.

Glossary of Terms

A helpful list of basic terms with simple definitions.

Angel – An exalted being of light and glory, anointed of the Lord to perform a mission.

Apostle – A personal witness of Jesus Christ with an anointed mission to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles.

Atonement – The act of providing redemption for those who would be spiritually begotten of the Father that they may be sons and daughters of God. Requires a blood sacrifice of the Temporal Son and a spiritual sacrifice of the recipient.

Baptism of Fire – The cleansing effect of the glory of God as it removes sin and prepares one to enter the presence of God.

Celestial - The state of light and glory where God resides; everlasting burnings.

Charity – The virtue of godliness that is received with the Gift of the Holy Ghost. A harmony that exists between the Spirit of the Lord and the recipient, as their spirit is made perfect, and they see themselves and others the way God sees them.

Church - Those who worship Jesus Christ in faith, repentance, baptism, and the receipt of the Holy Ghost.

Condescension – To leave behind one’s glory to come down to a lower sphere, usually to offer themselves as a sacrifice to save the souls of men.

Covenant - A binding agreement made by God to men, which guarantees our eternal progression as we grow in grace.

Devil - Evil spirits of various degrees that afflict the children of men.

Discernment – To know the intent and truth regarding people, doctrines, revelations, visions, and motivations of others.

Dispensation – A period of time which begins with a new establishment of priesthood and a gathering of God’s people.

Divine Imagination – The capacity to exercise faith, the foundational launching point for revelation and spiritual awakening as led by the Holy Spirit.

Estate – A level of glory and light, made by covenant, for the purpose of filling the measure of our creation.

Eternal Life – Eternal Increase and fullness of glory.

Everlasting Covenant – The agreement and requirements to ascend, grace for grace, until we receive all the blessings of the Father.

Old Covenant – The Mosaic Law and Sacrifices that prepared the House of Israel to receive the Holy Ghost and prepare for the Messiah.

New Covenant – The establishment of the Everlasting Covenant again, to know the Lord by entering His presence.

Faith – To seek revelation and act upon it.

Firmament – The barriers that separate the gates of Heaven.

Fruit – Knowledge of God

Gatherer – An anointed servant of the Lord with a mission to gather the House of Israel before the second coming of the Lord. These are the 144 thousand, both men and women, the fourth estate, foreordained before the foundation of the world.

Generation – A time which encompasses a dispensation, event, or life span.

Gentile – Not of the House of Israel or the Blood of Israel.

Gift of the Holy Ghost – The change of our spirit body from a telestial glory to a terrestrial glory; to be spiritually reborn again in Jesus Christ.

Gift of the Spirit – A spiritual bestowal of power for the purpose of building the Kingdom of God.

Glory – The energy and light that carries God's influence throughout all creation.

Grace – A level of glory associated with the estates, given according to the Everlasting Covenant.

Heaven – The various realms where God and His angels dwell between the firmaments.

Hell – The dominion and dwelling place of Satan and his angels.

Holy Ghost / Holy Spirit – The light and truth that is in all things, which acts according to the will of God.

Hope – A knowledge that our actions are in harmony with the will of the Father.

House of Israel – Those who have made a covenant with God to be His people and receive Him.

Intelligence – The initial beginning of life which cannot be created; only to act or be acted upon.

Israel – Means “To come to God.” God’s name for His covenant people.⁴⁴⁷

Knowledge – Truth regarding God’s laws, precepts, and mysteries.

Lucifer – The mentor and king over Satan.

Miracle - An act of God which cannot be explained by the understanding of men.

Offering – A sacrifice to the Lord by commandment, usually for the purpose of teaching a divine purpose.

Outer Darkness – The dominion of darkness separated from God.

Perdition – A covenant being of darkness.

Priesthood – The power of heaven bestowed upon servants of the Lord in incremental degrees according to their estate and relationship with God.

Aaronic – The Telestial level priesthood which prepares one to receive the Holy Ghost.

Melchizedek – The Terrestrial level priesthood which is administered by the fourth estate, those who are the Church of the Firstborn, for the purpose of gathering the House of Israel.

Patriarchal – The Celestial level priesthood which is administered by the higher estates. It is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscience.

Prophecy – to speak the words of the Lord, whether to reprove, admonish, expound, or speak of events in the past, present or future.

Prophet – One who has been called of God to preach repentance, and speak the Lord’s words.

⁴⁴⁷ This is the translation which the Lord gave to me.

Repentance – To turn one’s heart completely to the Lord, abandoning the desire to sin.

Resurrection – An increase in glory as the body is raised up to perfection.

Revelation – To receive the Lord’s pure intelligence and understanding regarding any topic.

Revelator – To reveal the Lord’s works regarding something hitherto unknown.

Righteousness – In harmony with God’s will.

Sacrifice – To offer something to God as a symbol, sign and witness in order to fulfill a divine purpose.

Satan – A presiding position of dominion among the dark realm of the Adversary over this world.

Scripture – A written record accepted as inspired of the Lord among a group of believers, or an individual.

Sealing – An ordinance which is sealed on earth and in Heaven according to the Lord’s word.

Seer – A prophet which sees and foretells the future.

Sin – A state of being which is out of harmony with God’s law. Prevents us from entering His presence.

Spirit Body – A tabernacle of light, element, and energy which is self-existing; more refined than the physical body. Many levels of glory. It is a body of flesh and bones, but of an element of light and energy not restricted to the physical elements of a temporal world.

Spirit of Promise – A sealing performed according to the edict of God, which cannot be broken.

Telestial – Of the temporal world.

Temple – A place where God dwells. Usually a place of learning and judgment.

Temporal – A realm of constant rejuvenation, birth, and decay. Where dust and matter form to create a temporary housing for the spirit.

Terrestrial – A realm of light and matter, which is not the same intensity of the Celestial.

Transgression – To deviate from God’s law.

Translation of Body – A type of resurrection where the body maintains its appearance of age and mortality, but has the abilities of a resurrected being.

Tree of Life – A glorified tree which bears fruit in the presence of God.

Wisdom – To know how to properly use knowledge in the past, present, and future.

Zion – To attain a Terrestrial state of existence in a temporal world.