

The Gift of the Holy Ghost



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The Holy Ghost

The Holy Ghost is a member of the Godhead. He is “a personage of Spirit” (D&C 130:22, page 265), which means that He does not have a body of flesh and bones. His influence can be everywhere at once. The Holy Ghost’s mission is to bear witness of Heavenly Father, of Jesus Christ, and of all truth. Furthermore, the Holy Ghost purifies, or sanctifies, our desires so that we want to do good, and He prepares us to dwell in God’s presence.

There is a difference between feeling the influence of the Holy Ghost and receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost.

The Gift of the Holy Ghost

The gift of the Holy Ghost is the privilege to receive guidance and inspiration from the Holy Ghost not just temporarily but continually. This privilege is given to people who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ, been baptized, and been confirmed as members of the Church.

A person may be temporarily guided by the Holy Ghost without receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost (see D&C 130:23, page 265). However, the influence of the Holy Ghost does not remain with the person unless he or she is baptized and receives the ordinance of the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Receiving the Gift of the Holy Ghost

After people are baptized, they are confirmed members of the Church and given the gift of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands. The Lord said, “Whoso having faith you shall confirm in my church, by the laying on of the hands, and I will bestow the gift of the Holy Ghost upon them” (D&C 33:15, page 57).

Every worthy elder of the Church, when authorized, may give the gift of the Holy Ghost to another person. However, there is no guarantee that the person will receive inspiration and guidance from the Holy Ghost just because the elders have laid their hands on his or her head. Each person must “receive the Holy Ghost.” This means that the Holy Ghost will guide us only when we are faithful and follow the promptings we receive.

To be worthy to have the help of the Holy Ghost, we must seek honestly to obey the commandments of God. We must keep our thoughts and actions pure. You will be able to obtain the blessings of the gift of the Holy Ghost in your life as you continue to repent and keep the Lord’s commandments.





One of God's Greatest Gifts

Through the Holy Ghost we may know that God lives, that Jesus is our Savior, and that His Church has been restored to the earth. We may have the promptings of the Holy Ghost to show us all the things we should do. The Holy Ghost sanctifies us to prepare us for God's presence. He also comforts us in times of suffering or sorrow. At other times He may warn us of danger or sin. We may enjoy the gifts of the Spirit, which are blessings and abilities that strengthen our character and help us to serve others. This great gift from our Heavenly Father can also bring peace to our hearts and an understanding of the things of God.

Take some time to think about what you can do now to prepare to receive all the blessings of the gift of the Holy Ghost.



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Additional Scriptures

- **Acts 19:1–7, pages 1398–99** (gift of the Holy Ghost given anciently)
- **Mosiah 5:2, page 157** (the Holy Ghost changes hearts)
- **3 Nephi 27:20, page 459** (the Holy Ghost sanctifies)
- **Moroni 8:25–26, pages 526–27** (how to receive the Holy Ghost)
- **Moroni 10:5, page 529** (the Holy Ghost is a witness to truth)



“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

John 14:26, page 1353



Personal Experience

I have been a devoted Church member all my life. Due to some business transactions, I spent time in federal prison. One of my greatest fears as I approached incarceration was that I would not feel the guiding influence of the Holy Ghost. I could not have been more wrong.

I found that the blessing of the Holy Ghost is much broader than I ever expected. Not only was I blessed with peace and comfort as needed, but I also found that the Holy Ghost made me aware of the needs and welfare of my wife and family during my absence.

For instance, I knew when my wife had arrived home safely after a 10-hour drive in a raging snowstorm. She knew when I was ill and later recovered, before I had been released from quarantine and was able to communicate with her. These are but two of several experiences.

I learned that the greater the spiritual darkness and adversity faced by the individual, the stronger and more obvious the impressions from the Holy Ghost. Prison is a place of spiritual darkness. For those who strive to live worthy in spite of their confinement, the influence of the Holy Ghost may become stronger and more obvious, precisely because of their incarceration.

“I learned that the greater the spiritual darkness and adversity faced by the individual, the stronger and more obvious the impressions from the Holy Ghost.”



What can you do to prepare to receive the Holy Ghost in your life when you are no longer an inmate?

How can the Holy Ghost help you become clean from all your previous sins, addictions, and bad habits?

What can you do now to help other inmates feel the influence of the Holy Ghost?

Is there anything else that you have learned from this lesson that you would like to share?

Name _____ Offender # _____

Please answer the questions on this response form, detach, and return to the address below:

Correctional Services
50 East North Temple Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84150
1-801-240-2644

Please request the next lesson you would like to study: _____