

Handout for Class 2 on the
Virtuous Woman
by Pat Chadwick

THE HOLY SPIRIT

In John 14:16-20 Jesus tells his disciples that He will not always be with them in the flesh, but that He will send a Comforter to abide with them forever. In John 14:26 Jesus goes on to say that this Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, will continue to teach them and bring all things to their remembrance. Then in John 15:26 and John 16:7-13 He explains that He has not been able to share all the enlightenment that He desired with them. The time has been too short and some things they were not ready to understand. He assures them that this Comforter would continue to teach them, leading them into all truth. In Acts 2:38-39 we find that the promise of the gift of the Holy Ghost is given to all generations. Even those yet afar off in birth. So it is that we can, in our day and age, receive this wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit.

What a wonderful gift is offered to us. Let us take a closer look at this gift so that we might more fully desire it to be a daily part of our lives. The Holy Spirit is a very deep subject, and a true in depth look would require a full class. This is just a quick overview or brief glance, but I hope it will encourage you to have the Holy Spirit walking with you through your daily activities.

The Holy Spirit is divine and a member of the godhead.

Matt. 28:18 "The name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost"

II Nephi 13:32 "...This is the doctrine of Christ, and the only and true doctrine of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is one God, without end."

Alma 8: 104 "...Christ the Son, and God the Father, and the Holy Spirit, which is one eternal God..."

III Nephi 5:27&38 "...Verily I say unto you, that the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost are one; and I am in the Father, and the Father in me, and the Father and I are one.....for the Father, and I, and the Holy Ghost, are one."

These scriptures help us to understand that when the Holy Spirit dwells within us, Jesus and God are also there. It is as if we walked the roads and pathways of Jerusalem with Jesus, just as the disciples of old. Through the Holy Spirit, He can give us daily words of council, guide and direct us, comfort us and be a constant and continual source of help and strength. When we have the Holy Spirit functioning in our lives, we have Jesus as a daily companion and friend.

There is an on-going discussion in the church as to whether or not the Holy Spirit is a person, as God and Christ are persons. The Spirit certainly has many of the qualities of a person such as knowledge, will and emotion. The Spirit can be grieved, offended and quenched. Nephi's encounter with the Holy Spirit was as if he was speaking to a person. I Nephi 3:50 "I spake unto him as a man speaketh; for I beheld that he was in the form of a man; yet nevertheless, I knew that it was the Spirit of the Lord: and he spake unto me as a man speaketh with another."

I try to refer to the Holy spirit as he, rather than it, because the Holy Spirit has so many qualities of a person. Since he is a part of the Trinity, he is certainly a part of the personality of God, who is the infinite person.

Some of the attributes powers and functions of the Holy Spirit are as follows :

Alma 5:23 - **Knowing** "The Spirit knoweth all things"

I Nephi 1:106 - **Leading** "I was led by the Spirit"

Alma 10:50 - **Constraining** "The Spirit constraineth me."

Ether 1:106 - **Persuading** "It persuaeth men to do good."

Mosiah 1:120 - **Enticing** "The enticings of the Holy Spirit."

II Nephi 3:40- **Transporting** "upon the wings of his Spirit hath my body been carried away upon exceeding high mountains."

John 14:26 - **Teaching and bringing things to your remembrance** "He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

John 15:26 - **The spirit of truth and witness of the Father** "even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me."

Acts 16:6-7 - **Warns us** "And they were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia.....the Spirit suffered them not."

Alma 12:5 - **prophecy and revelation** "they had given themselves to much prayer, and fasting, therefore they had the spirit of prophecy and revelation.

Romans 8:26 - **Helps us to pray** "for we know not what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us"

Gal. 5:22-23 - **Produces the fruits of the Spirit** "love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance"

I Cor 12:7-11 - **Produces the gifts of the Spirit** "for to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faithto another the gifts of healing...to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy" list continues.

III Nephi 13:59 - **Works by it** "The Lord worketh....by the power of the Holy Ghost."

III Nephi 5:33 - **Bears witness**

I Nephi 1:83 - **Inspires Scripture**

Alma 10:4 - **Sanctifies**

Jacob 5:20 - **Reveals**

I Nephi 3:30 - **Unfolds the mysteries**

Moroni 10:7 - **Empowers**

I Nephi 3:36 - **Commissions**

Moroni 6:9 - **Directs**

II Nephi 12 :39 - **Gives precepts**

Mosiah 2:5 **Gives joy**

I Cor 12:7,25 - **No schism in the body**

Eph.4:12-13 - **edifying of the body and perfecting of the saints**

D.C.10:7 - **enlighten your mind and fill your soul with joy**

Romans 5:5 - **vehicle of God's love**

I Nephi 3:187 - **For building the kingdom**

This is not a full list of all the functions of the Holy Spirit. Hopefully, what is listed will encourage all of us to desire the Holy Spirit to be functioning in our lives, on a daily basis. The very word comforter means (with strength). The Holy Spirit not only comforts, but is ever a source of strength to each and every one of us.

This wonderful gift of the Spirit is given to all men, as we see in D.C. 83:7c "The Spirit giveth light to every man that cometh into the world..." However, there is a special manifestation that is given to those who have made themselves ready by faith, repentance, baptism and the laying on of hands. They are given the "gift" of the Holy Spirit. Yet many times those who receive the gift do not unwrap the gift and allow that special Spirit to function in their daily lives. It is kept in the original gift box in a closet. Then occasionally they might take it out and briefly lift the lid, but it is not used on a daily basis. Let us allow the Holy Spirit to function daily in our lives. Let us invite him into our lives on a daily basis through prayer, study and fasting. Sec. 63:16 "...and ye receive the Spirit through prayer..." Acts 4:31 "And when they had prayed.....they were all filled with the Holy Ghost..." If we have the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us, warn us, enlighten us, empower us, comfort and strengthen us every day, how different our lives would be.

Recently in the ice storms that swept through Missouri many of us lost our electrical power. I found that without power life was darker, more difficult and I quickly grew weary trying to meet the daily tasks of life. That is how it is to live without the Holy Spirit. We lack light, life is more difficult and we grow weary. Let each of us invite the Holy Spirit to be a part of our daily lives. The Holy Spirit is the ultimate power source. It is by the power of the Holy Spirit that the creation took place, Ps.104:30, Gen. 1:5. It is by the power of the Spirit that Jesus was resurrected, II Nephi 1:73-74. Jesus was conceived by the power of the Spirit, Luke 1:35. Sec.85:1c-3 tells us that the Holy Spirit is the light of Christ which is in the sun, moon and stars. The Holy Spirit gives life to all things and is the law by which all things are governed. Yes, the Holy Spirit is truly the ultimate power source. Make sure that each day you are connected to this wonderful source of power.