

CHAPTER 5. THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

A. INTRODUCTION TO THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. The Holy Spirit cannot be separated from the gifts of the Spirit
 - a. These gifts are the manifestations of Holy spirit.
 - b. They are the real benefits.
 - c. They are given to every man, *to profit withal* **1 Corinthians 12:7**
 - 1) It would be foolish to SEEK for the Holy Spirit yet IGNORE its extraordinary manifestations of power.
 - 2) If the Holy Spirit is present, so also are its gifts.
 - 3) The two can no more be separated than fire and heat, wind and force.
2. The apostle Paul, concerned about the new Gentile converts.
 - a. He spoke to those who ignorantly followed speechless idols. He knew how important it was that they become informed; thus he spoke boldly. *Now concerning spiritual gifts brethren, I would not have you ignorant. 1 Corinthians 12:1*
 - b. In spite of this, we find today there are many professing Christians who are ignorant of the spiritual gifts; MANY EVEN DENY THEY EXIST.

WHY THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

A. THE HOLY SPIRIT AND ITS GIFTS TESTIFY OF CHRIST,

1. Spiritual gifts give us POWER TO WITNESS
 - a. They teach us all things, and give us strength—this that we might witness for Christ unto all men.
 - b. Evidences of the POWER TO WITNESS are found in these examples:
 - 1) Peter at Pentecost **Acts 2:4, 6, 17-18, 21** *And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, (Power of Spiritual Gifts) as the Spirit gave them utterance. ... the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. ... And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this? ... (Peter spoke) But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy; ... (Power to Witness for Christ) And it shall come to pass, that **whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.***
 - 2) Peter and the apostles before the council and the high priest **Acts 5:27-32** *... the high priest asked them, Saying, Did not we straitly*

command you that ye should not teach in this name? ... Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Savior, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. (Power to Witness for Christ) **And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.**

- 3) Philip at Samaria **Acts 8:5-8** Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, **hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.** (Power of Spiritual Gifts) For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them; and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. (Power to Witness for Christ) **And there was great joy in that city.**
2. Many gifts, but from One source.
The apostle Paul wrote, Now there are **diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.** And there are **differences of administrations, but the same Lord.** And there are **diversities of operations, but it is the same God** which worketh all in all **1 Corinthians 12:4-6**

B. GOD'S DIVINE DISTRIBUTION OF GIFTS WITHIN THE BODY

1. Paul then enumerates some of the gifts: the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, divers kinds of tongues, and interpretation of tongues.
2. Then he explains that while it is the same Spirit that gives all of these gifts, **not every man receives every gift**, for God divides **to every man severally as he will (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)**. God distributes His gifts for His divine purposes.
3. In the scripture above, Paul mentions NINE SPIRITUAL GIFTS.
 - a. This does NOT limit the manner in which God can manifest Himself through the Holy Spirit.
 - b. It says simply that there are MANY SPIRITUAL GIFTS.
 - c. Paul's admonition is to covet earnestly the best gifts. **1 Corinthians 12:31**
4. Earl R. Currie states the following in his book, "The Endowment."
<https://centerplace.org/library/books/theendowment.htm>
 - a. **You are therefore on the threshold of a time of mighty spiritual outpouring. God will use the many marvelous gifts of His spirit to help quality His ministers and His people, thus pulling them upward with His great hands of love and with His marvelously intelligent spiritual gifts toward those higher levels of understanding, of consecration to great tasks, and to levels of very great spiritual insight, whereon they may function in mighty demonstration of His great power to heal and bless and lift up mankind.** ~ Currie
 - b. **There are many more gifts of the Spirit than you ordinarily consider. These you ought to know about and understand their operation. If you will think and pray and meditate about these hidden gifts, you will find there are many more ways than you have perceived.** ~ Currie

am I; in labors more abundant, **in stripes** above measure, **in prisons** more frequent, **in deaths oft.** Of the Jews five times received I **forty stripes** save one Thrice was I **beaten with rods**, once was I **stoned**, thrice I suffered **shipwreck**, a night and a day I have been in the deep; **In journeyings often**, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren. **In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.** Beside those things that are without, **that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.**

3. Behind Daniel's visions was a concern which led him to study, prayer, and fasting
Daniel 9:2-5 ... I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes; And I prayed unto the Lord my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments; We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments; ... and he goes on pleads with God.
4. The same is true of the sons of Mosiah.
Alma 12:4-13 For they were men of a sound understanding, and they had searched the scriptures diligently, that they might know the word of God But this is not all: they had **given themselves to much prayer, and fasting, therefore they had the spirit of prophecy, and the spirit of revelation,** and when they taught, **they taught with power and authority,** even as with the power and authority of God ... Now these are the circumstances which attended them in their journeyings, **for they had many afflictions;** They did **suffer much, both in body and in mind;** such as hunger, thirst, and fatigue, and also much labor in the spirit. Now these were their journeyings: Having taken leave of their father Mosiah, in the first year of the reign of the Judges; **having refused the kingdom** which their father was desirous to confer upon them; and also this was the mind of the people; ... And thus they departed into the wilderness, with their numbers which they had selected, to go up to the land of Nephi, **to preach the word of God unto the Lamanites.**

C. FINALLY, WE MUST NOT IGNORE THE LORD ON THIS SUBJECT.

1. **John 14:23** If a man love me, he will keep my words; and my Father will love him; and we will come unto him and make our abode with him.
2. Only as we are obedient to the commandments of Christ can we receive of Him, including receiving revelations both individually and as a body.

C. REVELATION IN ITS TRUEST MEANING POINTS TO CHRIST.

1. This is true of the prophets who came before Christ as well as of those who appeared after His advent.
 - a. Christ and His teachings have become an experience in history as well as in the lives of noble individuals.
 - b. If we depart from Him and His message, we cannot enjoy the fullness of life.
 - c. This has been true of revelation through individuals and the group.
2. Credibility of revelation in the Restoration also depends on experience.
 - a. In its predictions, as well as in its moral teachings, the revelation that came to Joseph Smith is true.
 - b. There was—and still is—a need for the credibility of revelation.

CONDITIONS FOR REVELATION

A. WE MAY BELIEVE THAT LIVING A SAINTLY LIFE IS ALL WE NEED, BUT THAT WOULD BE AN OVER-SIMPLIFICATION.

1. There are certain qualities in the saintly life that need to be present.
 - a. Seeking to live in obedience to the commandments of Jesus is critical to our condition to receive personal revelation.
 - b. It is also important as a member of the body that we live in that same condition to edify the body and the condition of the church to receive revelation for all.
2. We tend to limit the receiving of revelation to a prayer service or a conference.
3. We need to seek to discover **the revelation of God that surrounds us, in all times and in all places**. This creates in us a condition for such revelation to come.

B. PROPHETS THROUGH THE AGES HAVE SOUGHT GOD'S WORD.

1. John's revelation came as the result of his suffering for the Word of God and concern over the seven churches which were located on the mainland.
 - a. **Revelation 1:9-10** *I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet ...*
 - b. It is obvious that he was in prayer and fasting on Sunday, the Lord's day. How else could he be *in the spirit on the Lord's day*?
 - c. He certainly gave heed to the command to *Be still, and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10*
 - d. The intensity of His concern, suffering, service, and prayer led the Spirit to show John that the seven churches and their ministers were in the hand of God (*see Revelation 1:11-20*).
2. Paul was zealous for the Word of God for all the churches, even receiving stripes and being put in prison.
2 Corinthians 11:23-28 *Are they ministers of Christ (I speak as a fool.) So*

- c. The following list was developed by Brother Currie to supplement his writing, "The Endowment." Its intent is to help us consider potential spiritual gifts given to us by God in addition to those specifically written in Scripture.

Have you experienced any of these in your own life?

Gifts and Ways of Spiritual Blessing, by which God Speaks To Men

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| 1. To know that Jesus is Christ. | 36. Lofty perceptions of truth |
| 2. Wisdom | 37. Lofty generalizations in study |
| 3. Knowledge | 38. Gifts of remembrance when needed |
| 4. Faith | 39. Patriarchal Blessings |
| 5. Faith to heal | 40. Gift of exaltation |
| 6. Faith to be healed | 41. Gift of Counseling |
| 7. Faith to work miracles | 42. Gift to guide prayer meetings |
| 8. Prophecy | 43. Perceptions during sleep |
| 9. Speaking in tongues | 44. Hearing voice from heaven |
| 10. Interpreting tongues | 45. Blessings in surgery |
| 11. Inspired hymns, as Admonition | 46. Guidance in scriptural study |
| 12. Gift to believe | 47. Seeing and talking with Jesus |
| 13. Ministry of angels | 48. Guidance in matters of deep concern |
| 14. Ministry of those who have tarried | 49. Sealing up unto eternal life |
| 15. Special gifts of prayer | 50. Experiences outside our bodies |
| 16. Gift to administer affairs | 51. Gift of semi-immortality |
| 17. Diversity of ways to do same | 52. Gift to tell gospel story |
| 18. Gift of discernment | 53. Gift of insensibility to pain |
| 19. Inspired dreams | 54. Gift of health-Word of Wisdom |
| 20. Interpreting dreams | 55. Discern signs of Christ's second coming |
| 21. Gift to see vision | 56. Bosom burning witnessing correct decisions |
| 22. Gift of inspired study | 57. Gift of Aaron-use of Urim and Thummim |
| 23. Gift of inspired writing | 58. Understand mysteries of the Kingdom gift |
| 24. Gift of inspired preaching | 59. Gift to have heavens opened and to see within |
| 25. Gift of spiritual impressions | 60. Communion with God's servants of the past |
| 26. Prophetic insight and foresight | 61. There is the gift of spiritual quickening |
| 27. Discernment of true values | 62. There is the gift of spiritual energizing |
| 28. Peace beyond understanding | 63. God can extend and magnify our sense of vision |
| 29. Gift of extraordinary love | 64. Paul blessed a handkerchief for healing |
| 30. Gift of spiritual radiancy | |
| 31. Interpreting scriptural prophecy | |
| 32. Writing inspired music | |
| 33. Blessing in developing talents | |
| 34. Special gift of Mighty prayer | |
| 35. Convincing power in preaching | |

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| 65. Laws of space and time may be set aside | 81. There is the gift of God covenanting with those who will covenant |
| 66. Past historical events may be seen in vision | 82. There can be power given over the elements |
| 67. When needed, God can send manna | 83. There can be spiritual enrichment of voices |
| 68. There can be grand apocalyptic vision | 84. Likewise with dedicated instrumental music |
| 69. Some have special gift to inspire people | 85. The Spirit will help solve daily problems |
| 70. Others to discern unique potentials in people | 86. God has special ways of opening doors for us |
| 71. Forces of nature have been commanded by faith | 87. There is the gift of Spirit-Blessed homes |
| 72. Armies of nations have been defied | 88. At special times God witnesses to his being and His WORK in extraordinary ways |
| 73. There can be gift of new heart and mind | 89. Special gifts prepare us for life beyond |
| 74. There is the gift of transfiguration | 90. There is gift of getting translated without tasting death. |
| 75. Rare personalities can be discovered and nurtured | 91. There is the marvelous gift of resurrection |
| 76. Rare spiritual capacities can also be discovered and nurtured | 92. There is the gift of spirit-blessed marriage |
| 77. Likewise for statesmanlike qualities | 93. There is the gift of Super-charged transferable Spiritual Energy |
| 78. There is the spiritual gift to describe the otherwise indescribable | 94. Some of God's servants have been seen in rich spiritual blessing though hundreds of miles away |
| 79. A more than apocalyptic experience is possible and desirable | |
| 80. There is the gift of inspired imagination | |

C. IMPORTANCE OF A FEW OF THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

In **1 Corinthians 12**, did Paul list the gifts in order of their importance? Perhaps not, but the first three are of MAJOR IMPORTANCE.

1. WISDOM

- Of all gifts, this is most precious.
 - A wise man judges according to moral and spiritual truth.
 - The gift of wisdom is more than a knowledge of truth; it is also the ability to APPLY this knowledge.
- James says, *The wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.* **James 3:17**
- Wisdom permits us to interpret revelation to better understand God.

(see **Acts Chapter 10**) opened the doors of the Church for the reception of the Gentiles and settled an important controversy.

- The apostle Paul was so careful in his teachings on doctrinal matters that he nearly always attributed them to the Lord.
 - When he had no revelation, he said so plainly.*
 - Corinthians 7:25** Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord; yet **I give my judgment**, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful.

- The heavenly light which comes to the Church through seers and revelators distinguishes her wisdom from worldly wisdom.
1 Corinthians 2:7-14 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, ... 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. But **God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit**; for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. ... 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. ... 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.
- This prophetic gift through seers and revelators is **the property of the Church for all time**, providing the Church is faithful to her mission.
 - 1 Corinthians 12:28** 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.
 - Ephesians 4:11-13** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; **For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ**; Till we, in the unity of the faith, all come to the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

THE CREDIBILITY OF REVELATION

A. EXPERIENCE IS ONE TEST FOR CREDIBILITY OF REVELATION

The high moral precepts taught by the prophets of the Old Testament could not have survived until our day had they been empty words.

- Experience has told us to depart from them meant ruin.
- When prophecy foretells the future, experience again is the standard of its truthfulness. **Matthew 24:35** Verily I say unto you, this generation, in which these things shall be shown forth, shall not pass away until all I have told you shall be fulfilled.

B. GRANDEUR AND NECESSITY OF GOD'S REVELATION EXPRESSED.

Behold, great and marvelous are the works of the Lord! How unsearchable are the depths of the mysteries of him; and it is impossible that man should find out all his ways! And no man knoweth of his ways, save it be revealed unto him; wherefore, brethren, despise not the revelations of God. **Jacob 3:9-11**

- a. The Lord said, *Blessed are all they that do **hunger and thirst after righteousness**; for they shall be filled. **Matthew 5:8***
 - b. This hunger led Peter to say, *Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. **Matthew 16:17***
 - c. There was a hunger in the souls of the early followers of Jesus for the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel. We have a glimpse of this hunger in the joyous announcement of Philip to Nathaniel.
We have found him**, of whom Moses in the law and the prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. **John 1:45
2. Paul made the emphatic statement: *No man can know that Jesus is the Lord, **but by the Holy Ghost. 1 Corinthians 12:3***
- a. This revelation comes to the individual, to be convinced of the divinity of Christ.
 - b. When the individual accepts the redeeming message, we are entitled to further revelation as the adopted child of God.
***Romans 8:14-17** For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption; whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God; And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*
 - c. This individual revelation may come in response to help needed in a particular case, or it may come to the individual as part of the body of Christ.

REVELATION TO PROPHETS AND SEERS

A. REVELATION THAT COME TO PROPHETS AND SEERS ADDRESSES THE NEEDS OF THE CHURCH.

1. "Top-down" revelations coming from church leadership generally don't concern the personal needs of an individual but the needs of the Church.
2. When it is given to an individual, it is given in consideration to the part he may play in the greater movement.

B. REVELATIONS GIVEN TO INDIVIDUALS IN SCRIPTURE.

1. Paul's revelation experience on his way to Damascus to persecute the young Church is found in ***Acts 22:1-15***.
 - a. This was not given for the sole purpose of edifying Paul.
 - b. Revelations to both Saul and Ananias were given in view of the need of the Gospel work.
2. Revelation to John on the Isle of Patmos was given for the benefit of the whole Church. Seven churches of Asia are symbolic of the universal Church.
3. Revelation was also given to seers and prophets for the clarification of doctrine and policy.
 - a. The vision to Peter while in prayer on the housetop of Simon, the tanner,

2. KNOWLEDGE

- a. Spiritual knowledge results from inspiration and instruction given by the Holy Spirit.
 - 1) It may come by the literal APPEARANCE OF JESUS CHRIST
 - 2) by the AUDIBLE VOICE
 - 3) by VISIONS
 - 4) by the MINISTRY OF ANGELS
 - 5) the VOICE OF INSPIRATION, to name a few
- b. ***John 8:31-32** Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*
- c. The TRUTH of God is obtained through His Spirit.
 - 1) Spiritual knowledge permitted Peter to proclaim, *Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. **Matthew 16:17***
 - 2) Spiritual knowledge is sure and unmovable—***Matthew 16:19** And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter; and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*
 - 3) Spiritual knowledge brought only through the Spirit of God allowed Christ to say *And this is life eternal, that they might **KNOW** thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. **John 17:3***

3. FAITH

- a. *Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. **Hebrews 11:1*** He further emphasizes the importance of faith:
 - 1) *Without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. **Hebrews 11:6***
 - 2) A modern writer proclaims that faith is a "dynamic of action."
- b. It is FAITH that moves men forward toward the divine possibilities that we believe exist. ***Without faith, we would simply BELIEVE but never ACHIEVE.***

4. REMAINING GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

- a. All Spiritual Gifts are important and show the outreach of God to man.
- b. Christ demonstrated the gift of healing often.
- c. James instructed the Saints, ***Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. **James 5:14-15*****

D. SHOULD MIRACLES CONTINUE AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE?

1. MIRACLES: Jesus performed many in his life and ministry.
 - a. These were NOT done by **BREAKING** God's laws but by **PUTTING INTO EFFECT** laws which man does not know.
 - b. Anything is miraculous if it is beyond man's understanding or his ability to perform without divine aid.
 - c. That miracles should continue among God's people is evidenced by the very **UNCHANGABLE** nature of God. Moroni said, *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. **Mormon 4:82***

2. GIFT OF PROPHECY

- a. Prophecy is found among God's people **whenever they have served Him in righteousness.**
 - 1) He placed prophets within the Church of Jesus Christ
 - a) **1 Corinthians 12:28** And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, **secondarily PROPHETS**, thirdly teachers, ...
 - b) **Ephesians 4:11** And he gave some, apostles; **and some, PROPHETS**; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
 - 2) **Amos 3:7** Surely the Lord God will do nothing, until **he revealeth the secret unto his servants the PROPHETS.**
 - 3) Prophecy makes it **possible for God to speak to His people**
 - a) Admonishing them
 - b) Counseling them
 - c) Encouraging them.
 - 4) Through prophecy, man is given opportunity to **understand that which has happened in the past and to look into the future—inasmuch as GOD SEES IT IS WISDOM for him.**
- b. However, **beware** of FALSE PROPHECY and FALSE PROPHETS.
 - 1) John admonishes us to “try the spirits whether they are of God” (1 John 4:1).
 - 2) The Scriptures give us **tests** for judging both prophets and prophecy.
 - a) **Deuteronomy 18:21-22** And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? **When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously; thou shalt not be afraid of him.**
 - b) **Matthew 7:24-26** And, again, **beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing; but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits; for do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.**
 - c) **Galatians 1:8-9** 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.**
 - d) **2 John 1:7-9** For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. **Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.**

3. GIFT OF DISCERNMENT

- a. The Holy Spirit gives the gift of discernment is given, not leaving man entirely to himself in judging prophecy and trying the spirits.
- b. False spirits will try to deceive us. **Matthew 24:23** For in those days, **there shall also arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show**

- 2) **Alma 3:80** And now I do know of myself that they are true; for the Lord God hath **made them manifest unto me by his Holy Spirit; and this is the SPIRIT OF REVELATION which is in me.**

B. REVELATION COMES TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE

1. Do I believe?
 - a. **Mosiah 3:1-3** when King Benjamin had thus spoken to his people, he sent among them, desiring to know of his people, **if they Believed the words which he had spoken unto them** And they all cried with one voice, saying,
 - 1) **Yea, we BELIEVE** all the words which thou hast spoken unto us;
 - 2) **And also, we know of their surety and Truth, because of the Spirit of the Lord Omnipotent, which has wrought a mighty change in us, or in our hearts.**
 - 3) **that we have no more disposition to do evil, but to do good continually.**
2. If I believe, can God reveal Himself to me?
 - a. **Mosiah 3:4** And we, ourselves, also, through the infinite goodness of God, and **the manifestations of his Spirit,** have great views of that which is to come; and were it expedient, **we could prophesy of all things.**
 - b. Apparently, this Holy Spirit also opened them up to revelation from God. It is profoundly important that we realize the phrase “we walk under an open heaven” means God's revealing Spirit is open to ALL of us who choose to follow Jesus.

REVELATION AND THE SAINTS

A. THROUGH REVELATION, THE SAINTS RECOGNIZE JESUS CHRIST.

1. It is possible to be quickened by the Spirit of Christ and yet not recognize Jesus. John made that very clear when he wrote in **John 1:10** “The world was made by him, and **the world knew him not.**”
2. To those who recognize Him and receive Him **John 1:12** gave he power to become the sons of God.
3. As sons (and daughters), we have access to the intimacy of the heavenly family circle.
Ephesians 3:14-19 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom **the whole family in heaven and earth is named,** That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, **to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;** That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, **May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;** And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.

B. THE BEGINNING OF REVELATION IS FOUND IN THE REACHING OUT OF BOTH MAN AND GOD.

1. This **outreach must be with intensity** or else it will be unproductive.

through Jesus Christ, his Son; he that ascended up on high, as also he descended below all things, in that he comprehended all things, that **he might be in all and through all things, the light of truth, which truth shineth. This is the light of Christ.**

And the light which now shineth, which giveth you light, is through him who enlighteneth your eyes, which is **the same light that quickeneth your understandings**; which light proceedeth forth from the presence of God, to fill the immensity of space.

3. A spirit of revelation has always been working in man.
 - a. Knowledge unfolding in multiple discoveries in the physical world, is the result of that spirit of revelation.
 - 1) Most often, man attributes his increase of knowledge to natural causes and evolutionary processes.
 - 2) The germ thought for every major invention is revelation of things unknown to man before.
 - a) We may dismiss it as an “idea” or a “hunch”
 - b) Where does an idea or hunch come from?
 - b) It comes from that light “which lighteth every man who cometh into the world.”

B. WE WALK UNDER AN OPEN HEAVEN

1. One of the more significant truths of the Restoration is that the spirit of revelation is once again found among men and is the rock upon which the Restored church is built.
 - a. **Matthew 16:19** And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jona; for **flesh and blood hath not revealed this unto thee, but my Father** who is in heaven. 19 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter; and **upon this ROCK** (of revelation) **I will build my church**, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
 - b. **D&C 10:11b** Build upon **my ROCK, which is my gospel**; deny not the spirit of REVELATION, nor the spirit of prophecy, for woe unto him that denieth these things;
2. “We walk under an open heaven” means ALL of us have access to God’s revelation.
 - a. This spirit of revelation may be found in multiple circumstances.
 - 1) Given to God’s prophets, both past and present day.
 - 2) Given to individual priesthood to benefit a congregation.
 - 3) Given to whomever God chooses without regard to gender, age or position of authority: “your sons and your daughters shall prophesy **Acts 2:17**.”
 - b. This spirit of revelation lives in each of us as the Holy Spirit reveals Himself to us personally. Here are examples found in scripture.
 - 1) **Luke 2:26** And it was **revealed unto him by the HOLY GHOST**, that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.
 - 2) **1 Corinthians 2:10-11** But **God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit**; for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 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, **except he has the Spirit of God.**

great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if possible, **they shall deceive the very elect**, who are the elect according to the covenant.

- c. Not everyone has the gift of discernment
 - 1) However, it is found within the Church ... by God’s promise!
 - 2) We can seek this gift of discernment and follow its leadings.
 - 3) If discernment is not ours to have, we should look to those who do have it and heed their advice and counsel.
4. GIFT OF DIVERS KINDS OF TONGUES
 - a. APOSTLES: **Acts 2:4-6** And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to **speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance** And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. ... the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that **every man heard them speak in his own language**.
 - b. NEPHI: **2 Nephi 14:2-3** ... 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.**
 - c. PAUL warns about unwise uses of the spiritual gifts and insists that there should be no exercise of the gift of tongues without an interpretation (**see 1 Corinthians 14:26-33**).

ARE THE GIFTS TO BE FORGOTTEN?

A. MANY CHRISTIANS SAY, “THERE IS NO LONGER ANY NEED FOR THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

1. Some say that Paul substituted charity for these gifts. He wrote: *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*
2. He did NOT say the GIFTS ARE NOTHING.
 - a. He DID emphasize the fact that these gifts must be used with CHARITY. **Moroni 7:52** ... **charity is the pure love of Christ**, and it endureth for ever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with them.
 - b. Without charity, we are as nothing—regardless of what else we have or do. In a further effort to clarify, Paul said, *Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts. 1 Corinthians 14:1*

B. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE RESTORED

1. Excerpts from an article “Use and Abuse of Spiritual Gifts” written by Elbert A. Smith in THE PRIESTHOOD JOURNAL, Vol 6 No 2 April, 1940
2. Christian Church leaders lamenting the loss of Spiritual Gifts in the church.
 - a. John Calvin, founder of Calvinism circa 1500s

“We may conjecture how very illustrious the early Christian church was in respect of an extraordinary variety and abundance of spiritual gifts ... we now see our leanness, nay, our poverty, but in this we have a just punishment sent to requite our ingratitude. For neither are the riches of God exhausted, nor his benignity lessened; but we are neither deserving of His bounty, nor capable to receive His liberality” (Calvin on Corinthians, Vol 1, page 765).

b. John Wesley, founder of Methodism circa 1700s

“It does not appear that these extraordinary gifts of the Holy Ghost were common in the (early Christian) church for more than two or three centuries. We seldom hear of them after the fatal period when the Emperor Constantine called himself a Christian ... from this time they almost entirely ceased. ... The real cause was that “the love of many had waxed cold” and the Christians had no more of the Spirit than the heathen. ... this was the real cause why the gifts of the Spirit were no longer retained in the church, because the Christians had turned heathen again, and had only a dead form left” (John Wesley, sermon 97)

c. A book published by the Methodist Book Concern in 1834 (just four years after the Restoration church was organized) intended for use in their theological schools states this concerning the gifts: “The gift of prophecy has passed away with the other miracles of the first age of Christianity” (Theological Institutes, page 575).

3. “The gifts were common in the church in the year 33 A.D. or very shortly thereafter, but in the year 1833 A.D. it was considered blasphemous to claim them for the church. ... It is significant that presently there came a very radical change. Whole churches were built up around the exercise of even one of these gifts. Christian Science developed largely around the gift of healing. Others grew up about the exercise of the gift of unknown tongues” (Elbert A. Smith, Use and Abuse of Spiritual Gifts, 1940).

C. THE RESTORATION “RESTORED” THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT TO MODERN CHRISTIANITY

1. In light of Albert A. Smith’s article on the Spiritual Gifts, it’s evident that prior to 1830, the Christian world had rejected or simply forgotten the power of the Holy Spirit and the Gifts of the Spirit.
2. **Are the gifts to be forgotten?** Moroni writes of a condition when miracles cease and the gifts of the Spirit are no longer found.
 - a. **Moroni 7:41-42** *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.*
 - b. **Moroni 10:18** *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.*
3. **MAY OUR FAITH FAIL NOT!**

Chapter 17. REVELATION

SALVATION

A. REVELATION AND MAN

1. Salvation is the chief objective of ALL Christian teachings.
 - a. Every religion—Christian, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism Hinduism, and others—holds out some hope of salvation.
 - b. Christianity, however, makes a bold claim.
John 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*
2. The Restoration presents a unique challenge to the religious world, including other Christians, in regard to the final destiny of the soul.
 - a. **FROM what** do we want to be saved?
 - b. **TO what** do we hope to be saved?
 - c. Salvation has these two sides from which it can be viewed— what we are saved from and what we are saved to.
 - 1) We may be saved from the burning house and still lose all our possessions.
 - 2) The criminal may be saved from the electric chair but still have a life sentence.
 - 3) In our spiritual warfare, we may be saved from everlasting torment but fall far short of celestial glory.
 - 4) We may be saved from the evils of society and yet fail completely to catch a glimpse of the Kingdom of God.
 - d. Jesus came preaching and teaching a way of life that would not only **save us FROM the terrible destruction** coming upon the earth but it would also **save us TO the Kingdom of God**.

REVELATION AND MAN

A. CONCEPT OF RECEIVING REVELATION FROM GOD.

1. We grew up believing that receiving of revelation was an exclusive practice of the Restoration movement.
 - a. Now the thought is rather widespread among many Christian sects.
 - b. This acceptance of modern revelation may well have spread from the Restoration source in the 1830s.
2. In its broadest sense, the revelation of God relates to the very life of man, regardless of his philosophy or geographical location.
 - a. As man looks upward, God looks downward.
 - b. That’s why prayer is universal.
 - c. John explained this when he called Jesus Christ “***the true light, which lighteth every man who cometh into the world***” **John 1:9**
 - c. Restoration scripture adds more understanding to the concept.
DC 85:2a-b, 3a *This Comforter is the promise which I give unto you of eternal life, even the glory of the celestial kingdom; which glory is that of the church of the Firstborn, even of God, the holiest of all,*