

Podcast 001 the Holy Spirit

by Mike Stroud

Mike: Well tonight you guys, unless any of you have a particular question or comment, then it's been quite a while since we've done this. Do any of you have any particular question or comment that you like to bring up before we start a discussion?

Okay, what I would like to do is... I'd like to go into a review of something that I think is really important. I'm finding out... I taught a couple classes in church this last week... I'm finding out that this is a doctrine that is not well understood. Today in our church the Melchizedek priesthood were asked to administer the sacrament. And, I had the opportunity to bless the bread, and an other older high priest, that even older than I am, blessed the water. A bunch of elders and high priest past it. In the prayer again, I noticed that there is something in the prayer that we do not understand. For example it says: "... *That they are willing to take upon them the name Christ [of thy son], and always remember him and keep his commandments which he has given them, that they may have his spirit has given them; that they*", meaning us, "*that may always have HIS spirit*", that Christ's spirit, that is not the Holy Ghost, "*that they may have his spirit to be with them.*" So I'm finding out... And maybe a quick review... and we will delve into other things. But, I just felt a quick review on the Holy Ghost, and the Holy Spirit, and how Angels, and the spirits of just men made perfect, fit in this whole scheme of Revelation for mortals in a telestial world. What is it were trying to do? What is it were seeking for when we partake of the sacrament each week? The most frequent covenant that we enter into, a weekly covenant. All other covenants we do just once. The sacrament we do every week. And I think what we're wanting to do... the promise blessing is to have the spirit of the Lord – and that is Christ, that is the spirit of Christ, with us as a result of.. taking upon as his name, always remember him and keeping his commandments." So let's talk just a few minutes and kind of review of these two things and how they fit in with each other.

Let's talk about this spirit of Christ. It has many names; many names. Here are a few of them: the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of Christ, the Light of Christ, the Holy Spirit, and others, the Spirit of Truth, the Light of Truth. All these things are referring to this same thing. We're just going to collect it 'The Holy Spirit'. Now, this can get confusing because when we read the Scriptures it is difficult unless we have this doctrinal understanding. It's difficult to understand if when it mentions the Holy Spirit... are we talking about the Light of Christ, which is not a person; or are we talking about the Holy Ghost which is a man? And to some this may not seem like a very important distinction or something to dwell on. But it's really important because this is the mode, this is the median, this is the channels that Father in Heaven has given us while we are strangers and sojourners in this telestial world or us to receive information from them to help that to help us complete our journey successfully.

So, I think we should just talk about that... the Spirit of Christ, the Light of Christ, the Holy Spirit in man is also referred to as man's conscience. In the animal kingdom it is referred to as instinct... in animals. The things that animals do instinctively. They don't need to be taught. They do remarkable things almost immediately after birth. This is all a part of the Light of Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, etc., etc. Now, lets go over to section 88 of the Doctrine and Covenants. Lets us go over their... section 88... Probably is the one section in the Doctrine and Covenants that has the greatest treatise on the Holy Spirit that there is. Section 88... and we want to start at the end of verse six, the last four words, talking about Christ and calles it the Light of Truth, see that's another name. See the bottom of verse six, verse 88 verse 6, see the last four words... says that "*he*", talking about Christ, you can see up in the bottom of verse 5, through Jesus Christ, then it says, "*he had ascended...*" This is talking

about Christ.... *“on high, also he descended below all things, that he might comprehend all things, that he might in and through all things, the Light of Truth.”* Now, that's the same thing that we're promised every Sunday when we receive the sacrament. That is what were promised. Okay, *“which truth shineth,”* this is the light of Christ, *“he is also in the sun and the light of the sun...”* so when you're outside on a June day at noon and you feel that heat and you see that brightness coming from that planet up in the sky, the greater light to rule the day, that is a lesser, ketch this, that is a lesser manifestation of the Light of Jesus Christ. That light and that power, that heat, come from him... and through him. The moon, inverse 8; the stars, verse 9; verse 11. 88 verse 11, *“it's the light which shineth, which giveth you light... is through him who enlighteth your eyes, which is the same light that quicketh and your understanding.”* The fact that we can reason for example... animals can't reason... this is one of the differences between God's children and the lesser creations. Man has this capability to reason. Animals do not. Animals function at a lower level. Your ability to reason, as a child of God, comes to you because of the Holy Spirit. That's the reason that you can have a mind capable of expansion; you can comprehend things; you can reason; you can think things out. Of all the creation, man is the one that has the greatest ability to do that, that is because of the Holy Spirit that is in him. You see it says, *“He gives you life, it quick and your understanding.”*

Verse 12, *“this light proceeds forth from the presence of God and fills the immensity of space.”* So, if we are to talk about the spirit... See when we talk about it as a spirit, we want to attach arms and legs, a head and body and hands, fingers and toes. And, we get a little confused there because we talk about the Holy Ghost, which is a spirit, who is a spirit, then we attach those physical things like a body. But this doesn't have a body and can be more likely as in it, rather than a he. Does that make sense? So we start to get a feel for this, in other words we can use, the prophets have used, is a channel. It's a channel through which information can flow from God to his children... its a medium, it is the agent of God. Whatever gods want to accomplish anything, whether it's creation, or whether its giving revelation, or whatever it is... he uses the Holy Spirit as the median, or channel, or the agent of his works.

Now, this next verse is the probably the greatest of all of them on the Holy Spirit, verse 13, I call it the three 'L's... the three 'L's of the Holy Spirit. *“The light which is in all things.”* Now stop and think about that for a minute. Without light there can be no life. So, if you're going to have anything that is living; and is going to prosper; and grow; and increase you must have the element of light. *“It is the Life which is in all things.”* There is your first 'L' is Light. *“That which giveth Life to all things, Light and Life,”* see, the two things are married together, light and life. Can't have one without the other. And then the third one which is *“the Law by which all things are governed, Light, Life, and Law... the power of God.”* So, if you want to know what God's power is according to this verse, you simply say the power of God is his Holy Spirit. And it's made up of at least three things: Light, Life, and Law. Notice that it says that its the Law which governs all things.

So, let's take some physical things on this earth. Let's take the law of gravity... the law of gravity is a part of, and is in place, because of the Holy Spirit. If there was no Holy Spirit, there could be no physical laws. Any laws in our world or in the universe that take the chaos and bring them into order are laws that come into being through the Holy Spirit. Anything that holds anything in order, any law, electromagnetism, electricity, is a part of the Holy Spirit. Interesting that something that we use so much... I mean it is all pervasive, it is ubiquitous, it's everywhere, and yet if you're to ask people what electricity is... you'd be hard-pressed to get a definition of what it is. We can tell what it does; we can tell how we can generate it; but to give a definition of what it is you would be hard-pressed to do it. Electricity is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit. Gravity, magnetism, any of the physical laws,

thermodynamics, all have to do with the Holy Spirit. Because it says, *"it is the law by which all things are governed, even the power of God, who sitteth upon his throne, who is in the bosom of eternity, who is in the midst of all things."* Now, lets Just stop here a second there. Do you have any questions or comments about this thing called the Holy Spirit?

Student: I read that Catherine Thomas... and I'll have to go find it exactly... but she said something like, "God couldn't perform the work without the Holy Spirit."

Mike: That's exactly right.

Student: "That the Holy Spirit could use.... Could not be used without God. I have to find it exactly what it says... but, they are hand-in-hand. And she did say that Jesus Christ; the Holy Ghost; and God, Elohim, are using this Holy Spirit for the process function.

Mike: Very good, I love Catherine Thomas' works. I've read several of them. They are really good. Thank you, <student>. Anybody else you want to comment on that?

Student: Is it... is that why the unison of mind over matter, which allows man to... Really get it out of that... To control things but... they allow their their mind and their spirit to connect that they gain power... I can't find the right words to say it.

[14:13]

Mike: Anything that has miracles, and anything that controls element, anything that man does that goes beyond the common understanding is probably going to be through this channel. Angels work through this. The Holy Ghost works through this. The spirits just men made perfect work through this. So, everything that is godly, whether it is father in heaven, mother in heaven, grandfather in heaven, angels, spirits anything that is in the employ of the gods use this channel, this agent, to perform their ministry. So, yes <Student>, I would not be a bit surprised. Now, you and I as mortals can align ourselves in a godly way through our obedience and righteousness; Then we can also use this channel, just like the gods do, to do things. I believe that this is the channel for which prayers are answered. I believe this is the channel through which God can hear and answer all prayers. I believe this is the medium through which he is everywhere at once. I believe this is also the power that he is in the past, present, and future all at once... is through this channel. Now, that science is so far beyond man, it's way beyond us, but if we were to take a scientific course in how the gods performed their ministry, I believe we would find this spirit, the Holy Spirit, is the vehicle which they accomplish everything they do.

Student: [15:42] Wow! I just listen to... I'm a little confused. When you talk about the Holy Spirit, It is not the Holy Ghost?

Mike: No, we are going to talk about the Holy Ghost in a minute, so, two different things. The Holy Spirit is not a man. Let me read to you something here from brother McConkey. This is in his book 'A New Witness for the Articles of Faith', on page 257 through 259. This is one of the best contemporary definitions of this I've heard. *"There is a Spirit, the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of Christ, the Light of Truth, the Light of Truth, the Light of Christ,"* see, there are 4 names which will mean the same thing, *"which defies description is beyond mortal comprehension. It is in us and in all things."* Now, remember back in section 88, remember that this is the thing that gives life to all things. So if you're alive... which we are... We have life because of this spirit that is in us is. Here is another thing, the involuntary things that are physical body does, like breathing, like exhaling, inhaling, the movement of the diaphragm, the beating of the heart, all these involuntary human physical things are caused by the Holy Spirit.

Student: WOW!

Mike: It's a programming that's in you that gives you life. Now, brother McConkey goes on it says this,

“it is in us, in all things, and is around us and around all things, it fills the earth and the heavens and the universe, it is everywhere in all intensity, without exception, it is an indwelling, imminent, ever present, never absent, spirit.”

Now that's what we get into trouble. When we hear the word 'spirit' because we were conditioned by latter-day Saints to think of the word spirit as thinking of spirit as being a personal being... Either a spirit son or daughter of God, or spirit of the Holy Ghost, or the spirit of just men. See all of those have personalities. All of those are individual, unique, people. This is not! So if you could sum it up you can say, there is nowhere that this spirit isn't. If there is Life and Light and Order anywhere... anywhere there is Life, Light, Law and order, that's where the Holy Spirit is... or you would have those “L”s. Whether or not the Holy Spirit finds itself in outer darkness, whether it quickens sons of perdition, I don't know all that. The very fact that they live in a place where it says there is no light, outer darkness, seems to indicate that that spirit probably, but I don't know, is not present like it is everywhere else.

[18:44]

Continuing with Brother McConkey, he says, *“it is not a entity, nor a person, nor a personage”*, this is an interesting thing... listen to this, *“it has no agency, does not act independently, and exist not to act, but to be acted upon,”* now that's a major key. There's two things throughout the whole universe, that Lehi talks about, in 2 Nephi 2, *“things that are act, things that are acted upon”*. The Holy Spirit is only something to be acted upon. It does not act independently. It doesn't think. It has no agency. It doesn't make choices. It is a vehicle, medium, channel, the agent of God. Continuing on, *“as far as we know, it has no substance, it is not material, at least as we measure these things.”* I beg to differ on that, because Joseph Smith said, *“there's no such thing as a immaterial matter. Everything is made up of matter. Spirit is made up of matter, but it is more find, and more refined, and more pure. And can only be seen by purer eyes”*.

So, I would take a little bit different twist on that than brother McConkey. He says, *“it has no substance and is not material.”* That is not what the Joseph's prophet said, *“Everything is made up of matter. Everything, there is no such thing as immaterial matter.”* that's section 130 the Doctrine and Covenants. Let me finish this quote, then he goes on and he says, *“it is variously described as Light and Life, Law and Truth, and Power.”* Isn't it interesting, that over there in section 88 verse six where it said, when talking about the spirit of truth, and then it says *“which Truth shineth.”* Truth shineth... if you are to seek truth physically manifest itself. See we have to change your thinking on that too. If the truth were to physically manifest itself then it would shine, you would see it in light, and heat. So truth actually can manifest itself in light and heat. Going on he says this, *“it is the Light of Christ; it is the Life that is in all things; it is the Law by which all things are govern; it is the Truth shining forth in darkness; it is the Power of God, who siteth upon his throne,”* And this part right here is very interesting little statement, listen to this... *“it may be that it also Priesthood and Faith and Omnipotence for these two are the power of God.”* McConkey's comes out and says, that this thing we're talking about, the Holy Spirit, could be the very same thing as priesthood and faith and omnipotence of God. Isn't that fascinating, I personally have a tendency to lean toward the truth of that.

Faith, priesthood and the Holy Spirit, all being the same thing... maybe operating in different ways but the same thing. Then he goes on he says, *“for these two are the power of God. It is the agency of God's power. It is the means whereby he comprehends all things, so that all things are before him, all things are round about him, it is the way whereby he is above all things, in all things, through all things, and round about all things. Because of it all things are by him and of him; even God, for ever and ever.”* Questions and comments about that wonderful quote by brother McConkey?

[22:43]

Student: I have a question ... If the Holy Spirit is truth... Then Does the holy spirit also testify of truth? Or is that the Holy Ghost?

Mike: I'm having a hard time understanding your question. I'm not quite picking it up. Try that again.

Student: Does the holy spirit then testify of truth?

Mike: Yes.

Student: So, we testify by the truth by both the Holy Ghost and the Holy Spirit.

Mike: That's a great question. <student> I'm going to say... That the Holy Ghost testifies of truth through the Holy Spirit.

Student: I believe that, and then mentioned about Catherine Thomas... and she said you said something about, you know, this is acted upon... that's what she said... Gods have to act upon that, use that. You know?<?????>

Mike: That's exactly right.

Student: acted upon. Something like that. [24:07]

Mike: Right. Now that's my opinion. That's were going to go right now. We're going to to talk a few minutes... right now... What is the relationship between the Holy Ghost, which is a person, a man, and the Holy Spirit which is not a person. So we want to find out how these two things work.

Let's go over to Moroni 7 for just a minute and look at one other verse so we can find out what the Holy Spirit or the Light of Christ or the Spirit of Christ. Let's go to Moroni 7 Verse 16. Now one of the functions of the Holy Spirit, as <student> said, is you can receive truth through this channel. Truth is Light. It's interesting that, in section 93 of the Doctrine and Covenants, that the Lord says this, "*the glory of God's intelligence or in other words Light and Truth.*" We've read that 100 times, haven't we. "*The glory of God's intelligence or other words Light and Truth.*" Let's pick out the four words... Glory, Intelligence, Light and Truth. Now the way those four words are used in this sentence there, in that Scripture verse, shows that all four words are referring to the same thing. All four words are the same thing. So, if you wanted definition of Intelligence, the definition is the Glory of God, Light and Truth. If you wanted definition of Truth... Here is the definition... Intelligences, Glory and Light.

Student: I... you... looking at Moroni 7:16?

Mike: Section 93 and the verse is 36. "*The glory of God is Intelligence or in other words Light and Truth.*" The point is, these four things, again, are referring to this Holy Spirit. Because you have the Light and Truth. God's glory... the glory of God's is somehow tied in with Holy Spirit. And all of those is somehow tied into God's intelligence and man's intelligence. All these things intertwine somehow and we need to be asking ourselves the question of that is. Moroni chapter 7 verse 16, someone like to read that?

Student: I can read it. "*For behold, the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, you may know good from evil; wherefore, I show unto you the way to judge; for everything which invited to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ; therefore you may know with a perfect knowledge that it is of God.*"

Mike: So what are we learn about the Spirit of Christ, there is... "*Spirit of Christ is given to every man*"... that's not the Holy Ghost. That's the Spirit of Christ... That's the Holy Spirit that's what we've been talking about here. So we can learn that every person who comes into this world, into a telestial world, every child that the Gods send away to school... because that's what this is, telestial worlds, and there's millions of them out there, are the school houses of the children of the gods.[27:39]

They are send away from their heavenly home, just like parents send their kids off to school the first day of school. The school bus picks them up and hauled them away. This is what the telestial worlds

are. They are one-room school houses just, like the old Pioneer days. You have in the same school room kindergarten, first grade, and you have juniors and seniors. They are all in the same room... that's the telestial world.

Student: Now, can I ask a question here?

Mike: Yes

student: "<????> for behold the Holy Spirit, given to every man etc. Etc. For everything that invited to do good to persuade to believe in Christ is set forth by the Holy Spirit.

...[28:12]

Mike: That's correct, you could easily do that.

Student: But the Holy Spirit is sent fourth by the power the Holy Spirit? That's what I'm getting out of this. Which is kind of strange.

Mike: I don't know, let me back to... back to it there. I skipped ahead a little bit. So what's the Question again?

Student: Okay, and it says the spirit of Christ, so it's the Holy Spirit there and further down it says... persuade to believe in Christ, Is set forth by the power of the spirit of Christ. So that's the Holy Spirit too?

Mike: Well, Christ is a god, who is using this channel to perform his work as the mediator, Savior, and Redeemer of the world. God, the father, who is a God, who uses the same channel to create worlds and to populate worlds. See any person that has a title of a God, whether to God with a small g, God with a capital G, they are gods because they are able to use this channel to perform their ministry.

Student: Would this be the priesthood then, or something of that nature, or?

Mike: Yes, that's why brother McConkey... he comes out when he says he's having a hard time separating the Holy Spirit from the priesthood. That's why he's saying he thinks these could be the very same thing.

Student: That's what it sounds like to me... almost.

Mike: So, here's the point... I don't know if that answered your question <student>.

Here's the point... every person who comes into these telestial worlds, every child God, comes in with this gift of light. Now here is something else to remember. This like can be increased or decreased. Which you want to do is... you want to follow the enticing of this gift to increase its power in your life. If you will use this gift, called the Light of Christ, which does what... teaches you right from wrong. It's man's conscience, see. Man knows inherently what is right and wrong. To follow this Light, it will lead to a greater Light. Now the greater light is a man. And this man is the Holy Ghost. You can't access the Holy Ghost if you haven't had experience in recognizing and be an obedient to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Do you see what I'm saying now? So the one sets the stage and is preparatory to the other. Everything in the Gospel of Jesus Christ moves from lower to higher, preparatory to fuller, fullnesses. Everything is moving upwards. And it is the same with the Holy Spirit. It begins to be a little quiet, and another name for this spirit, is the still small voice. See that's the Holy Spirit. This is not the Holy Ghost. And as you listen to this little voice, through your obedience and experience, it can become a revelatory channel to where you can receive things that have no end. But it begins out with every person as a small little light that everybody comes into this world with... Who's basic function is... this is right and that is wrong. Now let me read to you something out of preach my gospel. [32:11]

This is on page 90 of 'Preach My Gospel', teaching the missionaries about the Light of Christ and the Holy Ghost. This as brother Packer. He said this, you can read this on page 90, on Preach My Gospel; *"the Light of Christ should not be confused with the personage of the Holy Ghost. For the Light of*

Christ is not a personage at all,” you see... I got to tell you, this is not well understood in the church. 99% of the people who particular sacrament today felt that *“they may have his spirit to be with them”*... if you asked them who's spirit?... they would say the Holy Ghost. And yet the previous three sentences are talking about *“taken upon him the name of Christ, always remember him, and keep his commandments,*” whose commandments? Christ's. *“That they may have his”*, who's spirit? Christ's spirit to be with you... And Christ spirit is not the Holy Ghost. That's what brother Packer is saying. Now watch, *“its influence,”* the Holy Spirit, the light of Christ, *“its influence is preliminary and preparatory to one receiving the Holy Ghost.”* Did you catch that? Now, I got it to you this doctrine is not well understood throughout the church until two prophets started talking to about it. One was Marion G. Romney and brother Boyd K. Packer picked up on it. And because of that, we now have a greater understanding of these two things. How important is this to understand? Well it was important enough to understand that Joseph Smith to visit Brigham Young from the spirit world; to come back from the dead; and give Brigham Young a message that I'll read to you in just a minute. It is critically important because how can you receive Revelation? How can you call upon God and know what you worship and how you worship if you don't understand these doctrines. At best what we will do is worshipping, according to the precepts of man and the philosophies of men mingled with Scripture. Where if you get an answer at all, it's only going to be diluted. Now brother Packer goes on, he says, *“the Holy Ghost can work through the Light of Christ”*, here is a key, *“the Holy Ghost can work through the light of Christ.”* Christ works to the Light of Christ. The father works in the Light of Christ because it's a channel. It's everywhere and these gods use it to perform their mission.

Student: they're using them here... a little bit, I think... when you see the Light of Christ... know what I mean?

[34:55]

Mike: yes

student: Do you know what I mean? All the gods use it and if all the gods use it and it's called the Holy Spirit, why do they call at the light of Christ and not the Light of the God's?

Mike: that's a good question.

Now, these are the questions that you receive through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit inspires you with some of these questions and you intern take some of these inspired questions to the Lord and receive an answer to that question. That's a good question. That's an excellent question. That's one you should be able to receive revelation on. Brother Packer goes on to say, that the Holy Ghost can work through the Light of Christ, the teacher of gospel truth, is not planting something new into an adult or a child. Rather than the missionary or teacher is making contact with the spirit of Christ that is already there. So if you're teaching investigator, let's say about the principles and doctrines of the pre-mortal life, and you see a light goes on in your investigators eyes; and they look at you and they say something like this, like they said to me as missionary, *“I know my church doesn't teach that, but I've always believed that I lived before I came here.”* Well where did you get such a thought? It's because of that light that's in them. That and other truth is found within them and when they hear that, it has a familiar ring to them. It's something I've always believed. I can't tell you how many people have said that. I have never heard anybody teach that, but I have personally always believe that was true. And I'm telling that's because it is true and that portion of truth resides in you, in the form of God's Spirit. And which your doing is simply coming into contact with truth that already exist inside you. And it came with you when you were born as a gift from the Lord. So now watch what happens. Where is the Holy Ghost come in. The Holy Ghost comes in when a person starts to come in contact with the doctrines of the restoration in our day. You're not going to have a person feel the influence of the Holy Ghost until they start knocking on the door of the restoration, Joseph Smith, the book of Mormon, etc., etc. They can receive revelation and do all the time, but is coming through the Holy Spirit. But the Holy Ghost comes when

they open themselves to receive revelation about the restoration of the gospel in the latter days.

student: now

Mike: go ahead

student: Does that mean that there is no Holy Ghost before the time of the restoration?

Mike: Well, the Holy Ghost has always been on the earth whenever you Priesthood; and there's never been a time, even during the great periods of apostasy, that there has not been priesthood upon the earth... Either In the form of translated men or godly men or whatever there have always been priesthood. There has never been a time on this earth when there has never been priesthood on this earth. Wherever you have priesthood you have the Holy Ghost. But for the general population... Let's take the population that's out there. And I'm not going to say that the person can't feel the Holy Ghost if they're not knocking on the door of restoration. On not to say that. But more likely not... because one is preliminary to and preparatory to the other. Isn't that what brother Packer just said, right? Preliminary to and preparatory to the others... so here's how it works... couple missionaries knock on the doors... somebody inside sees them and recognizes them as missionaries, the white shirt the black nametags or pretty girls with black nametags and the knock on the door ... and this person is on the other side of the door and has an impression inside almost like a little voice that says talk to them. Okay, so, she opens the door and they introduce themselves and while they're talking, she's busy, she's got housework, the kids are screaming, she's got dinner on for her husband, and all these good reasons why she should not keep this conversation going... And all of a sudden she has another little prompting that says let them in. These are the Holy Spirit revelation. This is the Spirit of Christ; this is the still small voice; this is teaching you right from wrong. Now, if you invite them in, and let's say they come in... and they sit down.... and you have a beginning discussion about something of the gospel.... you teaching concepts some truths and principles.... now you're going to have another voice that comes in and says, *"it's all true, what they're teaching you is true, I sent them here. You been looking for them. They are coming from me, the they are my messengers."* That's the Holy Ghost. How do we know the difference? Because the Holy Ghost instructs, teaches, fills in the blanks, more of the discussion, more of a commentary, more reasons why things are happening. The Holy Spirit when it speaks to you is a guide and a director. It simply says do this; go here; don't go there; don't do this... and hardly if ever gives any reason for its instructions. When Holy Spirit speaks to you, you're going to have faith to move forward. If you move forward, you're going to open the door for a greater light to visit you. The greater light is the Holy Ghost. It comes as a visitor at this time, meaning he comes and he leaves. Comes and leaves. Okay. That's what's happening when the missionaries are teaching the gospel. The Holy Ghost is testified of the truth. go ahead sister <student>.

student: so when we say that the Holy Ghost reasons out... That's differently different from our own voice right?

Mike: Definitely different from your own voice. Your own voice is a different voice altogether. Will talk about that one night, but we don't have time tonight. But you're right, it's a different voice altogether. This is a man speaking to you. This is a man, who is a God, and his ministry is to do the following things. If were to take words and described the Holy Ghost ministry with words, we would do this: testifies of truth, teaches and instructs, sanctifies, purifies, cleanses, transforms... those are words that describe the Holy Ghost. If we were to described the Holy Spirit, we would say: guide and direct.

student: I also heard and I don't know where I heard it.... That the Holy Spirit is the still small voice... that on the other side of the Holy Ghost is not still, he can speak louder.

Mike: I like that. I like that

Student: you know... how might you hear these stories. I heard this voice, it was so clear... I think the

Holy Spirit is not all clear unless you listen.

Mike: That's a good point sister <student>. I like that. I don't have any problem with that at all. To summarize a point here it's my feeling that you are seldom if ever going to have the influence of the Holy Ghost in your life if you have not been obedient to him and practice and become somewhat proficient in recognizing the Holy Spirit. If you reject the Holy Spirit, and the book of Mormon says you do that, is something called hard heartedness and unbelief. If you reject the Holy Spirit it's my feeling that you be hard-pressed ever have a visit from the Holy Ghost.

Student: That makes sense.

Mike: One is preliminary to and preparatory to the other. You can't have the Melchizedek priesthood unless you first of all receive the Aaronic priesthood. Why, because the Aaronic priesthood is preparatory to the Melchizedek priesthood. These spirits appear to work in that same way. It appears that's the way God works in almost everything in the gospel that moves his children upward and closer to him. Starts out small, starts out in increments, and then as we are obedient, line upon line precept upon precept, t here little their little we receive more until you can be in a full revelatory flow. So let's take it to the next step. So here's the Holy Ghost coming and bearing testimony to the investigator. It's true, it's true, it's true, filling in the blanks; teaching teacher principles; and deeper truths. And we all seemed that as missionaries. Now, if you go into a covenant, the purpose of the investigation, is to take you to a covenant. If you go to the covenant and enter into the covenant as you're invited to by God; and the missionaries say if you find out this is true will you follow your Lord and Savior's example by entering the waters of baptism on such and such day. See, if you choose to do that and enter into the covenant, now you've opened herself up into a gospel right, R I G H T, and privilege that's reserved only to those people who make covenants with the Lord. And, that something called the Gift of the Holy Ghost.

Investigators cannot have the Gift of the Holy Ghost. They received visitation from the Holy Ghost. He comes and goes during the investigation process. When they make a covenant you now have the right to the companionship, not a visitor, but the right to the companionship of the Holy Ghost. Does that make sense? Which is now a greater light, more revelation, more truth, more knowledge is flowing down to that channel and the Holy Ghost uses the Light of Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Light of Truth... uses that to send that information through to God's children and impressing upon their minds. It becomes a channel, it becomes an agent for the Holy Ghost to use. [45:58] So the purpose of the Holy Spirit is to bring a man and a woman to a greater light called the Holy Ghost. Which then leads to an either greater light which is called the Gift of the Holy Ghost. Which can lead to something interesting which most people miss.

Go to section 109 in the Doctrine and Covenants, I remember when I came on this, I'd read it many times, but the spirit impressing upon my mind. Here's what I saw something section 109 we want to look at verse 16, Verse 15. Section 109 is the dedicatory prayer of the Kirtland Temple. Now think about things happening in increments, step-by-step, upward, upward, upward, line upon line. Then go to verse 14, *"do thou grant holy father special worship in this house", now this is in the Kirtland Temple, "may be taught wisdom out of the best books, and that they may even learn by study and by faith as thou has said;"*, semicolon, now watch, *"and that they may grow up in the and receive a fullness of the Holy Ghost."* You see how we started out, we started out with something still an small. Something that everybody has, and then you move something to a greater light and more exclusive. Brothers and sister, more exclusive. As you go up fewer and fewer people are going to be the recipient of of greater and greater light. The reason for that is simply the natural man loves darkness more than

light. Most people won't come up to this. It's a free gift to everybody to start, but to come up and receive what God had reserved for you is going to require, sacrifice, diligence, faith, and obedience. Otherwise, you'll never have it. So that the top of the Holy Ghost spectrum is something called the fullness of the Holy Ghost. Go over to section 121, let me show you another one. One of the things that the Holy Ghost does... Let's go to section 121 verse 26, now notice something here, you tell me what you see in verse 26. Somebody want to read that for us?

student: I can read it

Mike: good

student: *"God shall give unto you knowledge by his Holy Spirit, yea, an unspeakable gift of the Holy Ghost that has not been revealed to the world was until now."*

Mike: so, tell me what we just saw there?

student: The spirit of the Holy Ghost

Mike: But every time you've read that verse in verse 26 before tonight, you thought it was two terms referring to the same thing to you? And You would look at, and you would think that. You, with your understanding should take a better look at first 26 and try to understand what the Lord is telling us.

"God shall give unto you knowledge by his Holy Spirit, yea, by the unspeakable gift of the Holy Ghost."

Now everything we've learned is the Holy Spirit and the Holy Ghost are different things. So how can we reconcile verse 26 with everything that the prophets and apostles of the Scriptures say. Because, verse 26, it sounds like two things talking about the same thing. So, reconcile it for me because this is one instance of where you take the doctrine apply it your understanding.

student: well sounds like <??> [50:00]

Mike: All right, I like that. But what else it says. Go to the second part, it's talking about the knowledge and first lines, right? Now, skip town down 4 lines, *"knowledge that has not been revealed since the world was, until now"*. You'll get that knowledge from the Holy Spirit. You may get it from the Holy Ghost, using the Holy Spirit to transfer that. But this is knowledge that is hidden from the masses of the world. Very few people are going to receive knowledge that has not been revealed since the world was until now. That is the Holy Ghost prerogative. What he's doing now is revealing this hidden knowledge through the channel of the Holy Spirit.

student: WOW. Along with the directors of the book of Mormon and the other things.

Mike: With everything else. Look at verse 28, *"a time which time that nothing shall be withheld whether there be one God, or many gods, they shall be manifest."* So there's these wonderful things in here go to section 84 and let's look at one more verse on this. And will try to wrap it up were almost done with our hour tonight. Section 84. And I'd like you to go to verse 43. You've read this before but I want you to look at it with new eyes... new eyes. Section 84 verse 43, are you all there? *"And now I given to you a commandment to beware concerning yourselves, to give diligent heed to the words of eternal life."* You've got ask yourself what are those words and how are they delivered. How do they come to us. Because you need to give diligent heed to them. *"For you shall live by every word which perceived by the word of God, for the word of the Lord is Truth."* Think about what we talked about tonight. *"And whatsoever is Truth is Light and whatever is Light is the Spirit, even of the spirit of Jesus Christ."* Did you see the three 'L's? Did you see that? So these verses are talking about what... The Holy Ghost or the Holy Spirit?

Student: The Holy Spirit.

Mike: Talking about the Holy Spirit. Now look what he says in verse 46, *"and the Spirit giveth light to every man,"* Think of Moroni 7, *"that cometh into the world, and the spirit enlighteneth at every man*

through the world." Interesting statement. *"That hearken unto the voice of the Spirit,"* None of this is talking about the Holy Ghost, brothers and sister, none of this. *"And everyone that hearkeneth unto the voice of the spirit, comes into the God, even unto to the father, and God teaches him of the covenant",* etc. etc.

Now there's an example when you start looking see while this is preliminary to and preparatory to the covenant that the father has for those who follow this voice into his presence. Let's go to 1 Nephi verse 16 that me show you something in my studies today... looking... during church I was reading this. And the spirit taught me something. I want to share it with you. This is fun, 1 Nephi 16 is talking about the thing called the Liahona. We want to go over to verse 10, 1 Nephi 16 verse 10. I want you to tell me what the Liahona symbolizes based on what we've talked about tonight. *"And it came", verse 10 "to pass that as my father arose in the morning, and went forth to the tent door, to his great astonishment he be held upon the ground a round ball of curious workmanship; and it was all fine brass. And within the ball were two spindles; and the one pointed the way whether we should go into the wilderness."*

Now what do you know of in today's world, an instrument, that points direction? What do we call it?

Student: a compass.

Mike: yes a compass. So which you've got here is a godly compass. One of the two spindles points the direction which you should go; go here, don't go there, go here, don't go there. That's a the definition of what, the Holy Spirit or the Holy Ghost.

Student: Holy Spirit

Mike: That's the Holy Spirit. So the holy spirit is a compass, it is a director. In fact Lehi calls it the director. The Liahona, see, but now we have a question about that other spindle. Because Lehi tells us there's two of them there, so let's find out about this. Let's go over to verse 23... No verse 16, *"and we did follow the directions of the ball, which led us in the more fertile parts of the wilderness."* See that director... its guiding them, it's directing them.

Student: And when you said earlier that the Holy Spirit that has no agency, the one to be acted upon. The Liahona works when they followed.

Mike: And when they had the faith, and so if you don't have the faith you're not acting upon... you're not acting and showing faith the Liahona isn't going to work for you. The spindle stop. And guess what your lost. Okay. So now watch, us go to verse 26, *"and it came to pass that the voice of the Lord said unto him: look upon the ball, and behold the things which are written. And it came to pass that when my father beheld the things which were written upon the ball, he did fear and tremble exceedingly, and also did my brotheren, and the sons of Ishmael and their wives. And came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld the pointers which were in the ball, that they did work according to the faith and diligence and heed which we did give unto them."* Now watch, here we go. 29 *"and there was also written upon them",* what's the them?

Student: spindles

Mike: the two spindles, not one, two of them. Now remember one of the points the way. But both of them have writing on them periodically. Isn't that interesting. This something the spirit pointed out to me I didn't see that until today. Them - was a keyword - now watch, *"and there was also written upon them a new writing, which was plain to be read, which did give us understanding,"* Here's a keyword. The Holy Spirit does not give you understanding; the Holy Ghost gives you understanding. The Holy Ghost teaches, instructs, edifies, fills in the blanks. It instructs you. It gives you understanding concerning the ways of the Lord. *"And it was written and change from time to time, according to the faith and diligence we gave unto it. And thus we see that by small means the Lord can bring about great things."*

I believe that the two spindles are the Holy Ghost and the Holy Spirit. And I believe that the Holy Ghost working through the Holy Spirit can give information and understanding. That's why you have writings that are found upon both spindles. But direction is given only by one.

Student:<???\>

Mike: And here is something else. If you weren't diligent in following the direction of the first spindle, I doubt that you would ever see one writing on the other or both of them. According to the pattern. If you're following patterns and I believe we are. But if you are diligent and following the first one which is your director, or your compass, and your guide. Then the second one comes with additional information, greater understanding, greater understanding, greater depth, greater revelation, and can be seen on both of them. Because the Holy Ghost... Guess what? the Holy Ghost works through the Holy Spirit. So you find understanding written on both spindles when you heed the one; the others give you understanding and greater information. I thought that was just kind of fun.. Today

student: it's an interesting thing that you shown me that Lehi and Nephi may be looked at... that Lehman and Lemuel maybe never looked at it... Because they were unbelievers.

Mike: Maybe. Less go to 1 Nephi and end up with 1 Nephi chapter 4. One of things you can have fun with, as you study the book of Mormon now; is with this greater understanding of these Lights, Laws, Life, Truth and Light. You can ask yourself the question, Who is speaking here... is this the Holy Ghost... is this the Holy Spirit... What's going on here? And you should have some clues now as to how they operate so you can discern that. Let's look at 1 Nephi chapter 4 verse 5, this is Nephi and Sam Lehman the Lemuel going back to get the brass plates. Verse 5, are y'all there? 1 Nephi 4 verse 5, [1:00:00]

"and it was by night; and I caused that they should hide themselves without the walls. And after they had hid themselves, I, Nephi, into the city crept and with fourth towards the house of Laban. And I was led by the spirit, not knowing beforehand the things which I should do. "

Now, you stop right there, what spirit?

Student: The Holy Spirit.

Mike: Why would be the Holy Spirit? You're right, but why would it be the Holy Spirit and not the Holy Ghost?

Student: It just gave directions.

Mike: Yes. It says "I was led before hand", it's a guide. It's telling him where to go. Now let's go a little bit further, let's go down to verse 10... Verse 9 he finds Laban, right? Laban drunk, and he's in the street, and he sees the sword of Laban, notices that it is precious steel etc. etc. etc. verse 10, watch, "and it came to pass, that I was constrained by the spirit that I should kill him." So the spirit said what? He is looking at him and the spirit said kill him. Period. Which one is it?

Student: The Holy Spirit.

Mike: It's the Holy Spirit. How you know it's the Holy Spirit? Because does not given any reasons. It just says kill him. And then Nephi goes and says, oh my gosh, I shrunk back on that, "*and I shrunk and would that I might not slay him. And the spirit said unto me again: behold the Lord has delivered him into thine hands. Yay, and I also knew that he had sought to take away mine own life; yeah, and he would not hearken unto the commandments of the Lord; and he had also taken away our property.* And you this whole dialogue, now, as to why you should kill this man. So the spirit says he tried to take your money, he tried to kill you, he tried to do all this. And then look down at verse 12, this is what the Spirit says. "*And it came to pass that the spirit said of the him, slay him for the Lord has delivered him into thine hand; it is better*", the Lord slays the wicked to bring forth his righteous purpose, "*it is better that one man should parish than that a whole nation should dwindle and parish in unbelief.*" Who is

the spirit speaking now?

Student: The Holy Ghost.

Mike: That's the Holy Ghost. How do you know this is the Holy Ghost? Because it's filling in all the blanks. It's given the reason why Laban's life should be forfeited. It goes down and list the history of the last three attempts of trying to obtain the brass plates. This is all the spirit speaking to him. Then he finally comes out and says it is better than ones person died that a whole nation window and unbelief. And then he goes on and says I knew if I didn't have the plates we would have the whole law; we could not keep the Commandments. Verse 18, *"therefore, I obeyed the voice of the spirit, took Laban by the hair of his head, and I smote off his head with his own sword."*

Now. Isn't that fun?

student: It is.

Mike: If you take some principles, now, and start looking at this... this doctrine will help you receive your greater revelation than you've ever had before. You'll know how to ask and receive questions. Because in your prayers you'll say something like this, "heavenly father instruct me by the power of the Holy Ghost, speaking to the Holy Spirit, to my spirit, that I might understand and obey. Now you're making request based on true doctrine. Guess what. The truer the doctrine, the more direct your questions are, the more your answers are going to come readily and powerfully. God will answer your prayers in your ignorance. He'll answer your prayers but if you want to have a powerful revelatory experience, take what you're learning, and in your prayers, verbalize the truth you're learning. Take a moment, get it in your mind, and in your prayers, and let it come out, and watch what happens. Because God will honor you for trying to approach him in greater Truth and Light. Which is what you are doing.

Go to section 93. Now all of these things that we've talk about tonight, we can take section 93 and go to verse 19 and apply it and closing up our lesson tonight. Think about everything we said. And then go verse 19. Are y'all there? *"I give unto you these sayings,"* think about everything that we've talked about this last hour, *"I give unto you these sayings,"* for two purposes, *"that you may understand and know..."* See those two words... Understand and know #1, *"how to worship,"* and # 2 ... *"and know what you worship,"... For what purpose? "That in time you make come unto the father in my name, and in due time receive of his fullness."* You see? Did you catch the two things? The Lord gives us this information that we may understand and know two things: how to worship and what you worship. The Lord wants us to worship him in Spirit and Truth. Most of our worship, if you're like me, have been mixed with the precepts of man, and the philosophies of men mingled with Scripture. And God, because of his mercy and grace, to me in my ignorance, has answered my prayer and given me revelation. But as I learn new concepts and as embrace truth he expects me to incorporate that within my worship at practices to him. And as I do that, he honors me by greater, more powerful revelation, deeper understanding, the Quicken mind, and enlarged intellect. You can't worship properly what you don't know. And remember that in the King Follett discourse, given April 2, 1844; just two months before Joseph was shot to death, he said the first principle of the gospel is to know for certainty the character of God and that a man/woman can speak to God face-to-face as one speaketh unto another. And that's the first principle of the gospel... to know for a certainty the character of God. Why does he want you to know for certainty? So you can approach him in Spirit and Truth. You approach him in Truth and you bind him; you paid the price, you sacrificed, you studied through prayer fasting, you've received revelation; and your operating on Truth. And he honors that because of your sacrifices and revelation flows. Questions or comments.

student: thank you.

Mike: our hours up.

student: I thought I understood this Holy Ghost and Holy Spirit, well, but I learned quite a bit tonight.

Mike: Well, I'm glad and it's a good refresher for all of us. This is a good thing to know. And I think this is a good revelatory foundation. You've got have a foundation of this if you're really going to reach out and enjoy personal Revelation. I testify unto you these things are true God. Bless you.

Who won the Super Bowl?

<..... Talk about the Super Bowl.....>

Look, sister Stroud is here. Look, back there... See her? There she is. That is Elder Stroud's still small voice.

Student: Aaaah.

Mike: Also... but will do is will take this recording now, if you want a recording of this... and will send it out... if you want one we can send it to you, if you would like, along with the class will send it out on your email. When you want to get together again?

Student: Soon. Is every Sunday too much?

Mike: No, want to try it for a while?

Student: I would love that.

Mike: We're not on a mission now. We have no intentions of going one one right now, so every Sunday evening at 7 o'clock. If that is something that you can do we can do it.

Student: yes

Mike: Is that work? Let's have a closing prayer and will call good for the day.

References:

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1 Nephi 16:10

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