

## 7. “We believe in the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, etc.”

Spiritual gifts are characteristic of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Some spiritual gifts not specifically mentioned in this article of faith include faith, discernment, testimony, miracles, wisdom, knowledge, and compassion.

When each of us was confirmed a member of the Church by the laying on of hands, we received the Gift of the Holy Ghost. If we are faithful, we can have the Holy Ghost as a constant influence and each of us can be blessed with certain spiritual powers called gifts of the Spirit.

### “The Gifts of the Spirit”

[31112, Duties and Blessings of the Priesthood, Part B, Gospel Principles and Doctrines, 34: Spiritual Gifts, 28](#)

“Gifts of the Spirit are special blessings of spiritual knowledge and power that the Lord gives to us. Many gifts of the Spirit are listed in 1 Corinthians 12, Moroni 10, and Doctrine and Covenants D&C 46.

- Invite a class member to read Doctrine and Covenants D&C 46:13-26. What spiritual gifts are listed in this scripture? (List the answers on the chalkboard. Answers could include revelation, testimony, judgment, knowledge, wisdom, teaching, faith to heal, faith to be healed, miracles, prophecy, discernment of spirits, speaking with tongues, and interpretation of tongues.)

While we can receive many of these spiritual gifts, no one enjoys all of them:

“For all have not every gift given unto them; for there are many gifts, and to every man is given a gift by the Spirit of God.

“To some is given one, and to some is given another, that all may be profited thereby” (D&C 46:11-12).

- Have the class members ponder for a moment their own spiritual gifts.

### “Obtaining Spiritual Gifts”

“The Lord has many spiritual gifts that He desires to bestow on us. In order to receive them, we must discover these gifts, or talents, and then develop and use them. We must also live worthy to receive these gifts. President Joseph Fielding Smith explained why some members never receive the gift of the Holy Ghost: “It is my judgment that there are many members of this Church who have been baptized for the remission of their sins, and who have had hands laid upon their heads for the gift of the Holy Ghost, but who have never received that gift—that is, the manifestations of it. Why? Because they have never put themselves in order to receive these manifestations. They have never humbled themselves. They have never taken the steps that would prepare them for the companionship of the Holy Ghost. Therefore, they go through life without that knowledge” (“‘Seek Ye Earnestly the Best Gifts,’” *Ensign*, June 1972, 3).

The Lord has commanded us to seek the best gifts (see D&C 46:8). Often we are told which gifts we have or are to seek when we are set apart to an office or calling or when we receive a patriarchal blessing. A missionary called to a foreign country, for example, may be promised the gift of tongues to help him or her learn a new language, or a newly called teacher may be told to seek the gift of teaching.

On one occasion the Prophet Joseph Smith was invited to preach the gospel to a group of Native Americans. They could not understand English, and he could not speak their language, so he paid a special government agent to interpret his words. The Prophet spoke for a few minutes, and the agent then interpreted the Prophet's message. When the people showed resentment and anger at the Prophet's message, the Spirit revealed to him that the agent was telling lies in order to turn them against him. Joseph pushed the interpreter aside and then preached a sermon to them. They understood every word." (Adapted from E. Cecil McGavin, in *The Historical Background of the Doctrine and Covenants* [1949], 156.)

## **“The Purposes of Spiritual Gifts”**

[131114, The Latter-day Saint Woman, Part B, Gospel Principles and Doctrine, 3: Gifts of the Spirit, 18](#)

“The Lord has revealed that the best spiritual gifts are given to help those who love Him and keep His commandments and those who try to do so (see D&C 46:9). Through the proper use of these gifts, the sick are healed, devils are cast out, revelations are received, knowledge is gained, and missionaries are able to communicate in different languages. Through the gifts of the Spirit, the Holy Ghost can guide, comfort, encourage, and teach us. These gifts help us to walk uprightly before the Lord and prevent us from being deceived by false doctrines. As we live worthy to feel the promptings of the Spirit, we will know when to use our gifts and when not to use them (see Alma 14:10-11).

The Lord has commanded us to remember always that spiritual gifts are given to those who humbly ask in faith (see D&C 46:8-9). Paul compared the Church to a body to show the importance of each member's gift or gifts to the rest of the Church (see 1 Corinthians 12:12-31). Just as a body needs arms, legs, eyes, and ears, so also does the Church need each member's gifts. Therefore, each of us should exercise our gifts. As we do so, everyone can be blessed. (See D&C 46:11-12.) Heavenly Father emphasizes that these gifts should not be sought as signs or for selfish reasons (see D&C 46:9).”

## **“Gifts from God”**

*All of you are children of the most High. (Ps. 82:6)*

[“Gifts from God,” Friend, Mar. 2003, 36](#)

“You have many gifts from God. Some of you are good at sports. Some are peacemakers. Some can make people laugh and feel better about themselves. Some know just when something needs to be done and do it. Some can sing or dance or do gymnastics. Some are good at math or science or spelling. Some have lots of good ideas for better ways to do things. Some are good with animals.

These are all wonderful gifts, but there are other gifts that Church members have. They are spiritual gifts, and all are needed in the Church. The Apostle Paul wrote about them in his first letter to the people of Corinth:

“No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

“Now there are diversities of [many different] gifts, but the same Spirit.

“And there are differences [in how these gifts are used], but the same Lord. ...

“It is the same God which worketh all in all.” (1 Cor. 12:3-6.)

Paul lists many of these gifts, and says that each of us can recognize the gift or gifts we have from the Spirit:

“To one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

“To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

“To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues [the ability to speak different languages]; to another the interpretation of tongues [understanding of different languages]” (1 Cor. 12:8-10).

Then Paul explains that we are to use these spiritual gifts for the good of the Church, and that because all are needed, we must not think that the gift we have is more important. He said that if “one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or [if] one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it” (1 Cor. 12:26).

Finally, Paul said that we need to work hard to recognize the gifts we have and to help them grow so that we can help each other the very best we can.”



### *Activity:*



Duplicate the following page – one page per person. Cut out the strips, then make loops and link them together with glue or staples to form a gifts chain. All gifts are important, and together they form a strong chain.

Sports  Sports  Sports

*Faith*  *Faith*  *Faith*

Music  Music  Music

*Peacemaker*  *Peacemaker*  *Peacemaker*

Math  Math  Math

*Languages* (Gift of Tongues)  *Languages* (Gift of Tongues)  *Languages* (Gift of Tongues)

Good with Animals  Good with Animals  Good with Animals

*Prophecy*  *Prophecy*  *Prophecy*

Friendly  Friendly  Friendly

*Healing*  *Healing*  *Healing*

Science  Science  Science

*Wisdom*  *Wisdom*  *Wisdom*



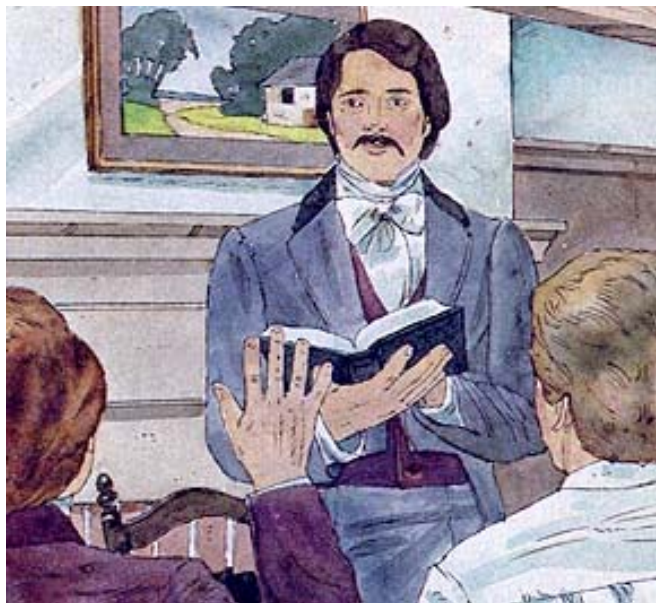
1 Jesus told Joseph Smith that the Holy Ghost does not have a body of flesh and bones as He and Heavenly Father do. The Holy Ghost is a Spirit who can dwell in each of us and give us special gifts.



2 If we love Heavenly Father and keep the commandments, the Holy Ghost gives us gifts. To some of us He gives one gift; to some, another gift. The Holy Ghost gives some people knowledge that Jesus is the Son of God and that He was crucified for us. Others are given the gift of belief in the testimonies of others that the gospel is true.



3 Some Saints are given the gift of leadership. Some Saints are given the ability to know which spirits are righteous and which are wicked. Each person has been given a gift.



4 The Holy Ghost's gift to some Saints is knowledge. They are wise and make right choices. And they have the desire and ability to help others to do the same.



5 Some Saints are given the gift of faith to be healed; others are given the gift to heal sick people. The Holy Ghost gives some Saints the gift to do miracles.



6 Some Saints are given the gift to speak “in tongues,” or in languages that are unfamiliar to them, and others are given the ability to understand and explain what was spoken in tongues.



7 The Holy Ghost gives some Saints the gift to prophesy, to speak with divine inspiration.



8 A bishop comes to know which gifts each Saint has. He knows who will be a good teacher, who can give healing blessings, and who loves God and obeys His commandments.



9 Righteous Saints can receive many gifts if they are willing to share them. However, they must always remember to thank Heavenly Father for such blessings.

***Activity:***

Have the children look up D&C 46. Have them list many of the spiritual gifts that are listed there. On a separate piece of paper, have them list the talents and gifts they have been given. They should then take this list home and put them in their journals to add to as they increase in their knowledge of the gospel.