

BAPTISM and the GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST

BAPTISM

Why be baptized? (Receive ALL the blessings Heavenly Father has in store for us – Moses 1:39)

The straight & narrow path starts at the “gate” of baptism.

“Wherefore, do the things which I have told you I have seen that your Lord and your Redeemer should do, for for this cause have they been shown unto me, that ye might know the gate by which ye should enter. For the **gate by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism by water**; and then cometh a remission of your sins by fire and by the Holy Ghost (2 Ne. 31:17-18) Must be born of the water and of the Spirit (John 3:5)

Qualifications for Baptism --

“And it came to pass after many days there were a goodly number gathered together at the place of Mormon, to hear the words of Alma. Yea, all were gathered together that believed on his word, to hear him. And he did teach them, and did preach unto them **repentance, and redemption, and faith on the Lord**. And it came to pass that he said unto them: Behold, here are the waters of Mormon (for thus were they called) and now, **as ye are desirous to come into the fold of God, and to be called his people, and are willing to bear one another’s burdens, that they may be light; Yea, and are willing to mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort, and to stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places that ye may be in, even until death, that ye may be redeemed of God, and be numbered with those of the first resurrection, that ye may have eternal life** – Now I say unto you, if this be the desire of your hearts, what have you against being baptized in the name of the Lord, as a witness before him that ye have entered into a covenant with him, that ye will serve him and keep his commandments, that he may pour out his Spirit more abundantly upon you?” (Mosiah 18:7-10) Broken heart & contrite spirit (Moro 6:1-8)

Baptismal Covenant (D&C 20:37) The Sacrament, renewal of Baptismal Covenant (D&C 20:77)

Take upon the name of Christ (2 Ne 31:13; Mosiah 26:18) The term “Christian” was initially used by non-mbrs as a derogatory term, but the early Christians accepted it with gladness, knowing they were to be a “peculiar” people (Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 2:9). Promise to keep His commandments: Love God (Mk 12:28-30), “If ye love me, keep my commandments.” (1 John 5:3; John 14:15). God’s promise: My Spirit always with you.

Stand as a Witness

A story about what happened to President Joseph F. Smith, sixth President of the Church, when he was a young man returning home from his mission: “One day after Joseph F. Smith and his companions had traveled a short distance and made their camp, a company of drunken men rode into the camp on horseback, cursing and swearing and threatening to kill any Mormons that came within their path. Some of Joseph’s companions had gone down by the creek and out of sight when they heard the men coming. They waited there for this band of men to pass. Joseph F. Smith was a little distance from the camp, gathering wood for the fire as these men rode up. When he saw them, he said his first thought was to find some place to hide. Then the thought came to him, ‘Why should I run from these fellows?’ With that thought in mind he boldly marched up to the campfire with his arms full of wood. One of the men pointed his gun at the young elder and demanded in a loud, angry voice, ‘Are you a “Mormon?”’ Joseph F. Smith did not hesitate for a moment. He looked the man in the eye and answered, ‘Yes, siree; dyed in the wool; true blue, through and through.’ He answered without any sign of fear and completely surprised the man. The man grasped Joseph F. Smith by the hand and said: ‘Well, you are the pleasantest man I ever met! Shake, young fellow, I am glad to see a man that stands up for his convictions’” (Joseph Fielding Smith, *The Life of Joseph F. Smith*, pp. 188-889)

Baptized by immersion: Romans 6:3,5; Colossians 2:12 (similitude of the death, burial, resurrection of Christ)

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST

The gift of the Holy Ghost, however, in distinction from the Spirit of God, does not come to all men and women. The ministrations of the Holy Ghost are, however, limited without receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost. The Prophet Joseph Smith taught that “there is a difference between the Holy Ghost and the gift of the Holy Ghost” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, page 199). Many outside the Church have received revelation from the Holy Ghost, convincing them of the truth of the gospel. Cornelius, as well as many in attendance on the day of Pentecost, received the Holy Ghost before baptism (see [Acts 2:1–12](#); [Acts 10:30–44](#)). It is through this power that seekers after truth acquire a testimony of the Book of Mormon and the principles of the gospel. (Pres. Faust, First Presidency Message, April 1996) (also see Acts 2:38; Moses 6:52)

Gift of HG similar to gift of faith (excerpt from the [Ready Reference](#) on “Faith”) –

“NOTE: Though it be within the reach of all who diligently strive to acquire it, faith is nevertheless a gift from God. As is fitting for such a priceless possession it is given to those only who show by their sincerity of purpose that they are worthy of it, and who give promise of abiding by its dictates. Although called the first principle of the Gospel, faith is preceded by sincerity of disposition and humility of soul, whereby the word of God may bring conviction to the soul. No compulsion is used in bringing men to a knowledge of the Gospel; yet as men open their hearts to the influences of righteousness the faith that leads to eternal life is given them of God.”

RECEIVE the HG (John 1:11-12; D&C 88:33) How do we receive? (by being receptive/teachable with a broken heart & contrite spirit; become as a child: meek, submissive, willing to submit to all the Father requires – Mosiah 3:19)

What the Holy Ghost will do for you (from [True to the Faith](#), p 83) –

“Full enjoyment of the gift of the Holy Ghost includes receiving revelation and comfort, serving and blessing others through spiritual gifts, and being sanctified from sin and made fit for exaltation in the celestial kingdom. These blessings depend on your worthiness; they come a little at a time as you are ready for them. As you bring your life in harmony with God’s will, you gradually receive the Holy Ghost in great measure. The Prophet Joseph Smith declared that the mysteries of God’s kingdom “are only to be seen and understood by the power of the Holy Spirit, which God bestows on those who love him, and purify themselves before him” (see D&C 76:114-116)

AFTER BAPTISM

Feast upon the words of Christ (2 Ne 31:19-20)

Cannot be saved in ignorance (D&C 131:6)

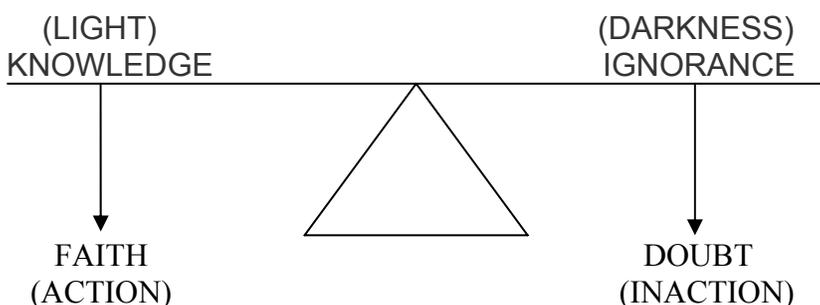
Faith: Knowledge vs Doubt (ex: faith God exists – Alma 30:43-44; proof, evidence) (see below)

Renew covenant of baptism by partaking the Sacrament each week

Be Perfect (Matt 5:48) (Matt 5, the Beatitudes, are the “roadmap” to perfection)

Go to the Temple (Baptism for the dead/ Receiving Endowments)

1 Cor 15:29 justification & sanctification



The greater our knowledge and understanding via the scriptures and other proof/evidence we have acquired, the more likely we are to exercise a particle of faith and take action, realizing that as a result of that proof/evidence we have become confident that our actions will reap the results we expect.