

July: We Become Members of the Church through Baptism and Confirmation

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When Jesus Christ was on the earth He taught His gospel. He taught faith, repentance, baptism by immersion, and the gift of the Holy Ghost. He gave His Apostles His authority, which is the priesthood of God. The Church of Jesus Christ was on the earth.

After Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, His Apostles went forth to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, but many people rejected them. The Church of Jesus Christ and the priesthood were taken from the earth for hundreds of years.

In 1820, young Joseph Smith was reading in James in the New Testament. He read, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God".

Joseph wanted to know which church to join. He decided to do what the scripture said. Joseph went to a grove of trees one spring morning and knelt in prayer to ask of God. As he was praying, a bright light descended. In that light stood two glorious heavenly beings: Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Joseph asked Them which church he should join. Jesus Christ told Joseph to join none of the churches.

Three years later, Joseph was visited by the angel Moroni, who taught him about the Book of Mormon and showed him where the golden plates were buried.

John the Baptist and the Apostles Peter, James, and John came to earth to ordain Joseph Smith to the priesthood of God. The priesthood was once again on the earth.

The true Church was restored—or brought back—to the earth. We are blessed to have the restored Church on the earth.



The Book of Mormon tells about a group of people who gathered together in a forest called Mormon. They wanted to hear Alma teach about the gospel of Jesus Christ. After Alma taught them for many days, he asked them if they wanted to make a covenant to serve God and keep His commandments. He told them that if they would be baptized, the Holy Ghost would always be with them.

When they heard this, the people were so happy that they "clapped their hands for joy". Alma baptized about 200 people in the Waters of Mormon. These people thought of the forest of Mormon as a beautiful place because that is where they learned about the Savior and were baptized.

Like Alma's people, we feel joyful as we look forward to or remember being baptized. Like those people, when we are baptized, we make a covenant with God. We promise to keep His commandments and serve Him. We take upon us the name of Jesus Christ and become members of His Church. When we are confirmed, we receive the same wonderful promise that Alma's people received: that the Holy Ghost can be with us always, if we keep God's commandments.



JULY WEEK 1

The Church of Jesus Christ has been restored.

JULY WEEK 2

I become a member of the Church through baptism and confirmation.

JULY WEEK 3

The Holy Ghost comforts and guides me.



The Holy Ghost is the third member of the Godhead. Unlike Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, the Holy Ghost does not have a body of flesh and bone. The Holy Ghost is a spirit personage who will speak to “you in your mind and in your heart” and will show you “what ye should do”.

The Holy Ghost will help you keep your baptismal covenant and guide you to choose the right. He bears witness of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. The Holy Ghost can give you comfort and guide you away from danger.

When you are baptized and when you take the sacrament, you promise to take the name of Jesus Christ upon you, to always remember Him, and to keep His commandments. Then Heavenly Father promises you that the Holy Ghost may always be with you.

You will know the Holy Ghost is with you by the way you feel. President Ezra Taft Benson taught, “When you do good, you feel good, and that is the Holy Ghost speaking to you”.

The Holy Ghost is a wonderful gift from a loving Heavenly Father.



In the Book of Mormon we read about Lehi and his family. Heavenly Father led them to a new home in a choice land. Lehi received a marvelous gift from God: a round ball with two spindles that “pointed the way whither [they] should go”. This gift was called the Liahona. Nephi said the Liahona “did work according to [our] faith and diligence and heed”. Lehi’s family learned to follow the directions of the Liahona.

We receive a gift when we are baptized and confirmed. This is the gift of the Holy Ghost. The gift of the Holy Ghost is like the Liahona. We can learn to follow the Holy Ghost. If we follow His promptings, we can return to live with Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ again.

President Ezra Taft Benson gave this important counsel: “Pray to Heavenly Father to bless you with His Spirit at all times. ... The Holy Ghost is ... a gift from Heavenly Father. ... He whispers to you in a still, small voice to do right. When you do good, you feel good, and that is the Holy Ghost speaking to you. The Holy Ghost is a wonderful companion. He is always there to help you.” (Ensign, May 1989, page 82.)



JULY WEEK 4

I can know the truth through the power of the Holy Ghost.