

## Spiritual Gifts Lesson Outline

<b>Write on Chalkboard</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I can identify my spiritual gifts and purposefully use them to help others feel my Savior's love.</li> </ul>
<b>Prelude Music</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#220 – <i>Lord, I Would Follow Thee</i></li> </ul>
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(Ask someone in advance)</li> </ul>
<b>Attention Activity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read aloud: 7<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith</li> </ul>
<b>Activate Prior Knowledge (Spiritual Gifts Scripture Handout)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Find a partner</li> <li>Partner 1 reads Question 1, Partner 2 answers it</li> <li>Partner 2 reads Question 2, Partner 1 answers it</li> <li>Answer the first 3 questions</li> </ul>
<b>(Note-taking Handout)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Find a NEW partner</li> <li>Look at the 3 guiding questions</li> <li>Complete as much of top half of handout as you can</li> </ul>
<b>WHAT are spiritual gifts?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On the back of your handout, list as many spiritual gifts as you can think of in 1 minute (see D&amp;C 46 for help)</li> <li>That's the easy part, but can you identify scriptural or historical examples of different people who had those gifts? <i>Scriptural Examples of Spiritual Gifts Handout</i></li> <li>(If time, have members identify spiritual gifts after hearing stories from <i>Our Heritage</i> and the Christmas anecdote from the lesson manual – could use a Jigsaw format)</li> <li>Now read Box D from the Spiritual Gifts Scripture handout</li> <li>Think/Pair/Share Question: <i>What is the difference between a spiritual gift &amp; a talent?</i></li> <li>Venn Diagram on board to show different possibilities</li> <li>Spiritual gifts are manifestations of the Holy Ghost</li> </ul>
<b>WHO can receive spiritual gifts?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>D&amp;C 46:11 – Everyone has them</li> <li>They may not all be currently evident or continuous - Elder Cowley (D&amp;C 46:11-12)</li> </ul>
<b>WHY does the Lord give us spiritual gifts?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read a box from the <i>Spiritual Gifts</i> handout aloud</li> <li>Ask your partner to give an example from their life that illustrates what the box says</li> <li>Switch roles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Witness of truthfulness of gospel to others</li> <li>Power</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>What are your spiritual gifts?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remind the class of their answers to Question 2 from the <i>Spiritual Gifts</i> handout.</li> </ul>
<b>HOW can we figure out what our spiritual gifts are and/or cultivate/keep them?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Magnify the ones we have (D&amp;C 82:18-19)</li> <li>Righteousness &amp; worthiness (not perfection), revelation</li> <li>Search, ponder, pray, serve others, callings, gratitude</li> </ul>



## Closure

- Summary
  - 1) H.F. is no respecter of persons – EVERYONE has at least one spiritual gift
  - 2) We must be unified in order for everyone to be “okay”/happy – Lord’s storehouse (D&C 82:18-19) means we don’t have to possess the gift to reap its blessings
  - 3) Means EVERY gift is valuable – like locks and keys, who I am may be exactly what you need
  - 4) Means must not withhold ourselves, need to be ourselves with confidence, be willing to be vulnerable, focus on others
  - 5) Means must learn to see as Christ sees (needs, understand how to respond in a way that is best for that person); also means we are obligated to ask for the gifts we need to become more perfect (read quote from manual about that)
- Action Plan: Set a personal goal (Question 5 from *Spiritual Gifts Scripture Handout*)
- Closing Prayer

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* 7<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith – We believe in spiritual gifts</li> <li>* Have you ever known anyone with a spiritual gift?</li> </ul>
What is a spiritual gift?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Increase in light – Lane Johnson</li> <li>* Manifestations of the Holy Ghost</li> </ul>
Who can receive a spiritual gift?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* D&amp;C 46:11 – Everyone has them</li> <li>* They may not all be currently evident or continuous - Elder Cowley (D&amp;C 46:11-12)</li> </ul>
Why does Heavenly Father give us spiritual gifts?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark 16:7 – Given to them that believe</li> <li>• D&amp;C 46:9 – For those who <i>try</i> to keep commandments</li> <li>• D&amp;C 46:9 – Not for lusts (George Q. Cannon story)</li> <li>• Moroni 10:17, 19 - Not if unbelief</li> <li>• Moroni 10:23 – Can do all that is "expedient" in me</li> <li>• 1 Corinthians 12:13-26, 1 Corinthians 14:15-17, D&amp;C 46:11 &amp; 12– Given to everyone to profit all</li> <li>• Magnified as exercised – Genius statement</li> <li>• 1 Timothy 4:13-16 - Witness to others</li> </ul>
Why should we seek spiritual gifts?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>To bless others</b></li> <li>• <b>To perfect ourselves</b></li> <li>• Help us in our responsibilities (Quote)</li> <li>• Sanctify us – 3 Nephi 27:20</li> <li>• Protect us – Marvin J. Ashton</li> <li>• Help us – Dallin H. Oaks</li> <li>• Don't want to be learning to swim when boat is sinking</li> </ul>
How can we seek (and keep) spiritual gifts?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Know what they are – D&amp;C 46:13-26, 1 Cor. 12:1-11, Moroni 10: 9-18</li> <li>• Magnify the ones we have – D&amp;C 82:18-19</li> <li>• (Gives rise to other gifts – 2 quotes)</li> <li>• Experience</li> <li>• Revelation</li> <li>• Observe natural talents and compliments</li> <li>• Accept callings</li> <li>• Cultivate the Spirit</li> <li>• Righteousness – <b>worthy</b> (46:33 – virtue and holiness/doubletime quote)</li> <li>• Have faith - Cowdery</li> <li>• Serve others</li> <li>• Study</li> <li>• Observe those who have it</li> <li>• Fast</li> <li>• Prayer</li> <li>• Thanksgiving</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek best gifts</li> <li>• All connected</li> </ul>
What should we do with our spiritual gifts once we have them?	D&C 46:7
What are our gifts?	Pass around the talent sheets
<p>Where do false spiritual gifts come from?</p> <p>Why does Satan try to counterfeit spiritual gifts?</p> <p>How might Satan's imitations of the gifts of God sometimes confuse people?</p>	<p>What does the word <i>counterfeit</i> mean? (Imitation: Of less value and poorer quality)</p> <p>To make a copy of, usually with the intent to defraud; to forge. To make a pretense of; feign. To carry on a deception; dissemble. To make imitations. Made in imitation of what is genuine with the intent to defraud. Simulated; feigned.</p> <p>According to the definition, why do people make <i>counterfeit</i> things? To trick others.</p> <p>Real roses v. counterfeit ones  Music/movies  Scriptures and good books  Love/intimacy v. immorality  Best v. be better than others  Temple v. secular marriage</p> <p>Read 5<sup>th</sup> P. on p. 99 about people claiming stuff in early days of church</p> <p>Satan doesn't like the growth of the church and <b>tries to stop and confuse it by deception</b> (D&amp;C 46: 7-8)</p> <p>Cannot copy peace</p>
<p>What do righteous members of the church have to help them recognize false spiritual gifts?</p> <p>How does the Holy Ghost help us to know what things are right?</p> <p>How can we tell if the gifts are true?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Moroni 7:15-17</b></li> <li>• D&amp;C 50:17- <b>23 &amp; 24</b>, 31</li> <li>• (From God = <i>edify</i> – uplifted or want to improve, ennoble and enlighten, follow Christ, obey commandments, can also ask parents or church leaders</li> <li>• Holy Ghost – D&amp;C 50:17 (people converted by H.G., not the missionaries)</li> <li>• <b>Cannot copy peace</b></li> </ul>

## WHAT?

### We believe in spiritual gifts

Article of Faith 1:7 We believe in the <sup>a</sup>gift of <sup>b</sup>tongues, <sup>c</sup>prophecy, <sup>d</sup>revelation, <sup>e</sup>visions, <sup>f</sup>healing, <sup>g</sup>interpretation of tongues, and so forth.

### They are all manifestations of the Holy Ghost (evidence of His presence)—

In the most basic sense any increase in light that an individual experiences may be regarded as a **spiritual gift**—or a gift or free offering of the Spirit. —Lane Johnson

To say that a person is “spiritual” is to say that gifts of the Spirit are manifest in him.

### Everyone has at least one spiritual gift

D&C 46:11 For all have not every <sup>a</sup>gift given unto them; for there are many **gifts**, and to every man is given a gift by the Spirit of God.

### Not all have same gifts – meant to allow us to depend on one another and to serve one another (EVERYONE is important)

D&C 46:12 To some is given one, and to some is given another, that all may be profited thereby.

Point out that each young man’s **spiritual gifts** may not be apparent at this time. They may also be given other **spiritual gifts**, as the need arises. If you used the story of Matthew Cowley, point out that he was seventeen before he was blessed with the gift of tongues. This came through faith, fasting, and prayer, and because the Lord needed Elder Cowley to have the gift at that time.

## WHY?

**They are given to the faithful as a result of their obedience—AND to "those who seeketh so to do" – don't have to be perfect—God is no respecter of persons (i.e., not prophet, etc.)**

Mark 16: 17 (Morm. 9: 24; Ether 4: 18; D&C 58: 64; D&C 84: 65; D&C 124: 98) these *signs* shall follow them that believe.

D&C 46:9 For verily I say unto you, they are given for the benefit of those who love me and keep all my

commandments, and him that seeketh so to do; that all may be benefited that seek or that ask of me, that ask and not for a <sup>a</sup>[sign](#) that they may <sup>b</sup>[consume](#) it upon their lusts.

Miracles do not produce faith, but strong faith is developed by obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ. In other words, faith comes by righteousness ([Alma 32: 40-43](#); [Ether 12: 4, 6, 12](#); [D&C 63: 9-12](#)).

Too often people feel that answers to their prayers and their pleading for guidance and direction will be given in dramatic manifestations or through a direct voice giving specific directions from a heavenly host. My personal experience and my observation of the Brethren as they guide and direct the Church and solve problems has taught me that the answers come oftentimes over an extended period of time with almost a natural solution whereby people take actions on the feelings of their hearts—which bring them peace and comfort—rather than through dramatic revelation.

Let me give you an example of how I learned this lesson. As a regional representative, I was traveling with President Marion G. Romney (1897-1988) to a stake conference for the selection of a new stake president. We had been driving in a car for more than an hour discussing the Church and priesthood administration. For some reason, I asked a question that, at the moment I asked it, I realized was inappropriate.

The question I asked President Romney was “What is the most spiritual experience you have had as an Apostle of the Lord?” There was a pause. It seemed like an eternity. Then he said, “I believe what Joseph Smith and Brigham Young taught, that if we would keep our spiritual experiences to ourselves, many more spiritual experiences could be shared with us.”

It seemed like there was a long period of silence after that remark, and then he said to me, “I owe you a better answer.” Then he gave me great counsel. He said the greatest spiritual experiences of his life had been when he had been on assignment from the President of the Church or the President of the Quorum of the Twelve, as we were that day. He said: “We will interview 25 or 30 priesthood brethren, and there will be more than one who will be qualified to be the stake president. But after we have done all we can do, we will get on our knees and pray to our Heavenly Father. We will tell Him of our feelings of who the new stake president ought to be and the reasons why. We will tell Him of the needs of the stake at this time. Then He will give us a confirmation.”

It was interesting that he said “us,” because it was true on that occasion that as we knelt and prayed, we both were able to receive a confirmation.

This is one of the best examples that I have had of what the **gifts** of the **Spirit** are and how they are manifest in our life’s work. Apply the principles taught by President Romney to understand that you can have discernment and confirmation of the concerns that confront you, such as choosing a companion or choosing a career that is best for you.

Isn't it interesting that President Romney was sent to interview 25 or 30 men to choose one stake president rather than being told directly who it should be before his arrival? This is what the Lord means when He tells us to study it out in our own minds. Too often we want to be given answers to questions and problems that, if they were given in the manner we ask for them, would take away our agency and the blessings that come from reaching out to the Lord for answers and direction.

### **Unbelief (spiritual as well as lack of faith/confidence in self)**

Moroni 10:17, 19

17 And all these gifts come by the Spirit of Christ; and they come unto every man severally, according as he will.

19 And I would exhort you, my beloved brethren, that ye remember that he is the <sup>a</sup>same yesterday, today, and forever, and that all these gifts of which I have spoken, which are spiritual, never will be done away, even as long as the world shall stand, only according to the <sup>b</sup>unbelief of the children of men.

Moroni 10:23 And Christ truly said unto our fathers: <sup>a</sup>If ye have faith ye can do all things which are expedient unto me.

### **Their primary purpose is to benefit others (often circumstantial)**

1 Cor. 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one <sup>a</sup>body, whether we be Jews or <sup>b</sup>Gentiles, whether we be <sup>c</sup>bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

14 For the body is not one member, but many.

15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?

18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

19 And if they were all one member, where were the body?

20 But now are they many members, yet but one body.

21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the <sup>a</sup>head<sup>\*</sup> to the feet, I have no need of you.

22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be <sup>a</sup>more<sup>\*</sup> feeble, are necessary:

23 And those *members* of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely *parts* have more abundant comeliness.

24 For our comely *parts* have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that *part* which lacked:

25 That there should be no schism in the body; but *that* the members should have the same <sup>a</sup>care<sup>\*</sup> one for another.

**26 And whether one member <sup>a</sup>suffer, all the members <sup>b</sup>suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.**

1 Cor. 14:12 Even so ye, <sup>a</sup>forasmuch<sup>\*</sup> as ye are zealous of **spiritual <sup>b</sup>gifts<sup>\*</sup>**, seek that ye may excel to the <sup>c</sup>edifying of the church.

15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

16 Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?

17 For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.

To a degree, **spiritual gifts** can profitably be compared to the talents in one of the Lord's parables (see [Matt. 25:14-30](#)). They are dispensed by the Lord with the expectation that the recipients will magnify them, using them for the good of others.

Indeed, a great benefit of a church organization is that individually we need not possess a specific gift in order to reap its blessings. Our fellowship with the Saints gives us access to most, if not all, **spiritual gifts**. Thus, other Church members are vital to our spiritual well-being, just as we are vital to theirs, through the gifts with which we have been collectively blessed. The Apostle Paul underscores this point in comparing **spiritual gifts** to parts of the human body: "There should be no schism in the body; but ... the members should have the same care one for another.

Have a class member read the following statement made by Elder Gordon B. Hinckley when he was a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:

“The work of the world is not done by intellectual geniuses. It is done by men [and women] of ordinary capacity who use their abilities in an extraordinary manner” (in Conference Report, Oct. 1972, 107; or *Ensign*, Jan. 1973, 92).

God does live. He does bless us with gifts. As we develop and share our God-given gifts and benefit from the gifts of those around us, the world can be a better place and God’s work will move forward at a more rapid pace.

### **They are witnesses/testimonies to others, so we shouldn't neglect them**

1 Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to <sup>a</sup>reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

14 <sup>a</sup>Neglect not the <sup>b</sup>gift that is in thee, which was given thee by <sup>c</sup>prophecy, with the <sup>d</sup>laying on of the <sup>e</sup>hands of the <sup>f</sup>presbytery.

15 <sup>a</sup>Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy <sup>b</sup>profiting may <sup>c</sup>appear to all.

16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both <sup>a</sup>save thyself, and them that hear thee.

During our time here on earth, we have been charged to develop the natural gifts and capabilities Heavenly Father has blessed us with. Then it will be our opportunity to use these gifts to become teachers and leaders of God’s children wherever they may be found on earth. To exercise these gifts, we must develop a purity of heart.

The world needs people who can keep their word, who have a code of honor, and who can finish a task and endure to the end.

As Latter-day Saints, we need not look like the world. We need not entertain like the world. Our personal habits should be different. Our recreation should be different. Our concern for family will be different. As we establish this distinctiveness firmly in our life’s pattern, the blessings of heaven await to assist us.

How can we accomplish this goal? I know there is a loving Heavenly Father who wishes to help. He has made available sacred gifts—even the **gifts** of the **Spirit**. As we exercise and magnify these gifts, we will be able to accomplish the callings and responsibilities that will come into our lives.

### **They sanctify us (help correct weaknesses and deficiencies)**

3 Nephi 27:20

20 Now this is the commandment: <sup>a</sup>[Repent](#)<sup>\*</sup>, all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me and be <sup>b</sup>[baptized](#) in my name, that ye may be <sup>c</sup>[sanctified](#) by the reception of the Holy Ghost, that ye may stand <sup>d</sup>[spotless](#)<sup>\*</sup> before me at the last day.

21 Verily, verily, I say unto you, this is my <sup>a</sup>[gospel](#)<sup>\*</sup>; and ye know the things that ye must <sup>b</sup>[do](#) in my church; for the works which ye have seen me do that shall ye also do; for that which ye have seen me do even that shall ye do;

### **They protect us**

We should seek after **spiritual gifts**. They can lead us to God. They can shield us from the power of the adversary. They can compensate for our inadequacies and repair our imperfections. Almost a century ago President George Q. Cannon of the First Presidency taught the Saints:

“If any of us are imperfect, it is our duty to pray for the gift that will make us perfect. ... No man ought to say, ‘Oh, I cannot help this; it is my nature.’ He is not justified in it, for the reason that God has promised to give strength to correct these things, and to give gifts that will eradicate them. If a man lacks wisdom, it is his duty to ask God for wisdom. The same with everything else. That is the design of God concerning His Church. He wants His Saints to be perfected in the truth. For this purpose He gives these gifts, and bestows them upon those who seek after them, in order that they may be a perfect people upon the face of the earth.” (*Millennial Star*, Apr. 1894, p. 260.)

I saw that principle in action in the home in which I was raised. Having lost her husband, my widowed mother was incomplete. How she prayed for what she needed to fulfill her responsibility to raise her three small children! She was seeking, she was worthy, and she was blessed! Her prayers were answered in many ways, including the receipt of **spiritual gifts**. She had many, but the ones that stand out in my memory are the gifts of faith, testimony, and wisdom. She was a mighty woman in Zion, a great example of a scripture she loved to quote—Lehi’s promise to his son Jacob that God “shall consecrate thine afflictions for thy gain.” ([2 Ne. 2:2](#).)

By Elder Dallin H. Oaks  
Of the Quorum of the Twelve

### **HOW (do we get them)?**

Know what they are: (That three of our four standard works include a registry of such gifts seems to more than suggest our need to become familiar with them.)

**Spiritual gifts** are listed, [D&C 46: 13-26](#) ([1 Cor. 12: 1-11](#); [Moro. 10: 9-18](#)).

### **Magnify the ones we have (and some talents that might be connected)**

D&C [82:18](#) And all this for the benefit of the church of the living God, that every man may <sup>a</sup>[improve](#) upon his <sup>b</sup>[talent](#)<sup>\*</sup>, that every man may <sup>c</sup>[gain](#) other <sup>d</sup>[talents](#), yea, even an

hundred fold, to be cast into the Lord's <sup>e</sup>storehouse, to become the common <sup>f</sup>property of the whole church—

19 <sup>a</sup>Every man seeking the interest of his <sup>b</sup>neighbor, and doing all things with an <sup>c</sup>eye single to the glory of God.

The gifts identified in section 46 give rise to other gifts, such as:

- The gift to ponder; looking to God for direction.
- The gift to hear and respond to the still, small voice.
- The gift to be calm, which includes the ability to curb anger and to be temperate rather than contentious.
- The gift to study and to listen.
- And, perhaps the greatest gift of all, to have charity.

Charity is the ability to make life more meaningful for others. It is the theme of the Relief Society for a reason.

Be that kind of friend and that kind of person who lifts and strengthens others. Never make someone have to choose between your ways and the Lord's ways. And always make sure that you're making it easier to live God's commandments for those who are by your side and who are your friends. Then you will understand whether you have charity.

Let us review some of these less-conspicuous gifts: the gift of asking; the gift of listening; the gift of hearing and using a still, small voice; the gift of being able to weep; the gift of avoiding contention; the gift of being agreeable; the gift of avoiding vain repetition; the gift of seeking that which is righteous; the gift of not passing judgment; the gift of looking to God for guidance; the gift of being a disciple; the gift of caring for others; the gift of being able to ponder; the gift of offering prayer; the gift of bearing a mighty testimony; and the gift of receiving the Holy Ghost.

**--Elder Marvin J. Ashton**

**- Elder Robert D. Hales**

**How can we discover our spiritual gifts?**

1. Experience
2. Revelation (Read scriptures, read patriarchal blessing)

3. Observe what traits and talents seems to come naturally to us and notice compliments we receive from others
4. Accept calls that come from priesthood leaders

### **How can we receive new gifts?**

#### **To cultivate the gift, cultivate the Spirit**

The skeptic or gospel novice might inquire: “Why seek the Holy Ghost? Why strive for his companionship? What is in it for me?” Answers to these questions are abundant if we are receptive to the testimonies of those who know and have associated with the Spirit of the Lord. Some of these testimonies help to answer questions about the value of association with the Holy Ghost.

Would you like to possess perfect foresight, perfected anticipatory powers? If so, you must do as Nephi directed: “Enter in by the way, and receive the Holy Ghost, [for] it will show unto you all things what ye should do.” ([2 Ne. 32:5.](#))

Finally, would you like the power to perform beyond your natural abilities? Would you like the help of unseen powers in all that you do? I refer to the power to speak with convincing authority—even the power to receive promptings that enable you to say things that you had not planned. I speak of the power to receive impressions, which, if heeded, bring blessings to you and others.

Mortal men and women are endowed with marvelous abilities and potential. But however great these mortal powers may be, they are only a shadow of those powers that can be claimed through a linkage with the Holy Spirit.

I hope you do not say to yourself that these words about a companionship with the Spirit are for someone else, not you. God is no respecter of persons. His blessings and gifts are not reserved for a precious few. It matters not whether you are an Apostle or a deacon, a Relief Society officer or a Primary teacher. All of us have the promise of gifts of the Spirit if we place ourselves in a position to claim them.

Isn't it significant that the process of receiving the Holy Ghost is inextricably connected with everything we do in the gospel of Jesus Christ?

We enter the waters of baptism and accept certain baptismal commitments so that the Lord may pour out his Spirit. (See [Mosiah 18:10.](#))

We meet together often and partake of the sacrament so “that [we] may always have his Spirit to be with [us].” ([D&C 20:77.](#))

In section 46, the Lord lists six qualifications to receive **spiritual gifts**: (1) They are not to be sought as signs (see [D&C 46:9](#)); (2) they are to be used in the service of others (see

[D&C 46:12, 26](#)); (2 elements—practice and motivations) (3) we should ask “in the Spirit” ([D&C 46:30](#)); (4) they are to be used “in the name of Christ” ([D&C 46:31](#)); (5) we must thank God “for whatsoever blessing [we] are blessed with” ([D&C 46:32](#)); and (6) we “must practise virtue and holiness before [the Lord] continually” ([D&C 46:33](#)).

R.S. General Presidency

2. Obey the commandments and exercise the gifts we already have.

Few things are more repulsive than evil minds and the filth they produce. Can one hope to enjoy the companionship of the Holy Spirit when one is double-minded—when his mind shares time with the evil one? I think not.

7. Have faith that the Lord will give us the gift.

For guidance, perhaps the following words to Oliver Cowdery represent a primary manifestation of the **gifts** of the **Spirit**:

“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, blessed art thou for what thou hast done; for thou hast inquired of me, and behold, as often as thou hast inquired thou hast received instruction of my Spirit. If it had not been so, thou wouldst not have come to the place where thou art at this time.

“Behold, thou knowest that thou hast inquired of me and I did enlighten thy mind; and now I tell thee these things that thou mayest know that thou hast been enlightened by the Spirit of truth” ([D&C 6:14-15](#)).

It is very important for us to pray and to fast and to be close to our Heavenly Father so when that light is brought to our mind, we will recognize it.

8. Serve others.
3. Study about the gift in scriptures and messages of Church leaders.
5. Observe those who possess the gift.
6. Fast for the gift.

We don't want to decide to learn how to swim when the boat is already sinking.

**It is all connected. Strive for spiritual perspective.**

