

Gifts of the Spirit

Explanation

The main purpose of priesthood in the Church of Jesus Christ is to lead the faithful in such a way that they can feel and receive the gifts of the Spirit, the greatest of which is the gift of eternal life. The gifts of the spirit are rich and manifold. Chart 12-10 combines into a single profile the array of spiritual gifts that are mentioned in four scriptural lists: in 1 Corinthians 12, Moroni 10, Doctrine and Covenants 46, and the seventh Article of Faith. No two of these lists are the same, just as no two individuals are the same. To one is given one gift; to others are given other gifts.

Through priesthood ordinances, people prepare themselves to receive the gifts of the Spirit by repentance, baptism, and then righteously keeping one's covenants with God. Chart 12-11 lists the many instances in the New Testament that mention the ordinance of baptism. This substantial collection shows the importance of baptism in early Christianity. As administered by John the Baptist and the apostles of Jesus, baptism was performed by immersion as a conscious token of one's faith and repentance. Baptism opens the way for a person to receive the confirmation of the gift of the Holy Ghost and the blessings of his companionship.

References

- H. George Bickerstaff, "Gifts of the Spirit," *EM*, 2:544–46.
James E. Talmage, *The Articles of Faith* (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1983), 197–213.

Instances of Baptism

John performed baptisms in the river Jordan.
Mt 3:6; Mk 1:4–5; Lk 3:3; Jn 1:28

Pharisees and Sadducees come to the baptism of John.
Mt 3:7

John the Baptist criticizes hypocrites who are present at his baptisms.
Lk 3:7

Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, “Master, what shall we do?”
Lk 3:12

“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.”
Mt 3:11; Mk 1:8; Lk 3:16; Jn 1:26–27

And they asked him, and said unto him, “Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?”
Jn 1:25

John prophesies that his baptism prepares the way for the Messiah.
Jn 1:31; Acts 13:24

Jesus is baptized by John to fulfill all righteousness.
Mt 3:13–16; Mk 1:9–10; Lk 3:21

John bears record of Jesus as the Messiah who will baptize with the Holy Ghost.
Jn 1:33

Humble publicans accept the baptism of John, while Pharisees and Scribes reject it.
Lk 7:29–30

“But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!”
Lk 12:50

Jesus asks the sons of Zebedee whether they can bear to be baptized with his baptism.
Mt 20:22–23; Mk 10:38–39

Jesus asks the chief priests, “The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven or of men?”
Mt 21:25; Mk 11:30; Lk 20:4

The apostles are instructed to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Mt 28:19

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
Mk 16:16

“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
Jn 3:3–5, 7

Jesus, his disciples, and John all baptize.
Jn 3:22–23

People complain to John because of Jesus’ success in baptisms.
Jn 3:26; 4:1–2

“For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.”
Acts 1:5

“Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.”
Acts 1:22

“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
Acts 2:38

Peter baptizes three thousand souls.
Acts 2:41

Philip baptizes in Samaria.
Acts 8:12–13

For as yet the Holy Ghost was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
Acts 8:16

Philip baptizes a eunuch.
Acts 8:36, 38

Paul was healed and baptized.
Acts 9:18

Peter commands that Gentiles should be baptized as well as Jews.
Acts 10:47–48

“Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.”
Acts 11:16

Lydia of Thyatira and her household were baptized.
Acts 16:15

The keeper of the prison in Philippi and his household were baptized.
Acts 16:33

Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.
Acts 18:8

Apollos was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.
Acts 18:25

People in Ephesus had been baptized only with the baptism of John. Paul baptized them in the name of Jesus.
Acts 19:3–5

“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”
Acts 22:16

Baptism is a symbol of the death and resurrection of Christ.
Rom 6:3–4; Col 2:12; 1Pt 3:21

Saints are to be baptized in the name of Christ, not in the name of the missionary who performed the baptism.
1Cor 1:13–17

“Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea.”
1Cor 10:1–2

“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”
1Cor 12:13

“Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead?”
1Cor 15:29

“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
Gal 3:27

“One Lord, one faith, one baptism.”
Eph 4:5

Baptism is a saving ordinance.
Titus 3:5

Paul declares the doctrine of baptisms.
Heb 6:2
