

Holy Ghost in Scripture - Before and After Christ

This study addresses these questions:

1. Was the Holy Ghost given before Christ's Death and Resurrection (or the day of Pentecost as experienced by the first apostles in Jerusalem)?
2. If the Holy Ghost was given before Christ, how was it given?
3. How is the Holy Ghost given in our time?
4. Did Jesus Christ have the gift of the Holy Ghost in the same way that we do?
5. Can someone be influenced and moved by the Holy Ghost without having the gift of the Holy Ghost?

This study does not discuss the following:

1. Spiritual gifts.
2. All the roles of the Holy Ghost (instructs, directs, witness for Christ and the Father, etc.).
3. The person and character of the Holy Ghost.

1 Was the Holy Ghost given before Christ?

The gift of the Holy Ghost is the Holy Ghost taking up residence within a person. It's constant companionship of the Holy Ghost.

Ether 5:2 – “And Ether was a prophet of the Lord; wherefore Ether came forth in the days of Coriantumr, and began to prophesy unto the people, for he could not be restrained because of **the Spirit of the Lord which was in him;**”

Genesis 41:38 – “And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is [Joseph], **a man in whom the Spirit of God is?**”

Numbers 27:18-19 – “**18** And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, **a man in whom is the spirit,** and lay thine hand upon him; **19** And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight.”

1 Samuel 16:13-14 – “**13** Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: **and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward.** So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah. **14** **But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul,** and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.”

Psalm 51:10-11 – “**10** Create in me [David] a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. **11** Cast me not away from thy presence; **and take not thy holy spirit from me.**”

Daniel 4:8-9 – “**8** But at the last Daniel came in before me [Nebuchadnezzar], whose name was Belteshazzar, according to the name of my God, **and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods:** and before him I told the dream, saying, **9** O Belteshazzar, master of the magicians, **because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in thee,** and no secret troubleth thee, tell me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and the interpretation thereof.”

Mark 12:36 – “**For David himself said by the Holy Ghost,** The LORD said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool.”

Acts 1:16-17 – “**16** Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, **which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake** before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. **17** For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.”

Acts 28:25-26 – “**25** And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, **Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers,** **26** Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive:”

2 Peter 1:21 – “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake **as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**”

1 Nephi 1:82-83 – “**82** And behold it is wisdom in God that we should obtain these records, that we might preserve unto our children the language of our fathers; **83** And also that we may preserve unto them the words which have been spoken by the mouth of all the holy prophets, **which have been delivered unto them by the spirit and power of God, since the world began, even down unto this present time.**”

2 Nephi 1:10 – “Wherefore, I, Lehi, prophesy according to the workings of **the Spirit which is in me,** that there shall be none come into this land, save they should be brought by the hand of the Lord.”

2 Nephi 1:51 – “But behold, it was not him [Nephi], **but it was the Spirit of the Lord which was in him** [Nephi], which opened his mouth to utterance, that he could not shut it.”

2 Nephi 3:22 – “And it came to pass that after my father Lehi had spoken unto all his household, according to the feelings of his heart, **and the Spirit of the Lord which was in him,** he waxed old.”

2 Nephi 11:6 – “But I [Nephi] give unto you a prophecy, **according to the spirit which is in me;** wherefore I shall prophesy according to the plainness which hath been with me from the time that I came out from Jerusalem with my father.”

2 Nephi 11:19 – “And now this I [Nephi] speak because of **the spirit which is in me.**”

2 Nephi 14:1-7 – “**1** And now behold, my beloved brethren, I [Nephi] suppose that ye ponder somewhat in your hearts, concerning that which ye should do, after that ye have entered in by the way. **2** But behold, why do ye ponder these things in your hearts? Do ye not remember that I said unto you, **that after ye had received the Holy Ghost**, ye could speak with the tongue of angels? **3** And now, how could ye speak with the tongue of angels, save it were by the Holy Ghost? Angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore, they speak the words of Christ. **4** Wherefore, I said unto you, Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do. **5** Wherefore, now after that I have spoken these words, if ye cannot understand them, it will be because ye ask not, neither do ye knock; wherefore, ye are not brought into the light, but must perish in the dark. **6** For behold, again I say unto you, that if ye will enter in by the way **and receive the Holy Ghost**, it will shew unto you all things what ye should do. **7** Behold, this is the doctrine of Christ; and there will be no more doctrine given, until after that he shall manifest himself unto you in the flesh.”

2 Nephi 15:2 – “But behold, there are many that harden their hearts against the Holy Spirit, **that it hath no place in them**; wherefore, they cast many things away which are written, and esteem them as things of nought.”

Jacob 4:13 – “**13** Will ye reject the words of the prophets and will ye reject all the words which have been spoken concerning Christ, after that so many have spoken concerning him? and deny the good word of Christ, and the power of God, **and the gift of the Holy Ghost**, and quench the Holy Spirit? and make a mock of the great plan of redemption, which hath been laid for you?”

Mosiah 1:79 – “And now, I [Benjamin] say unto you, my brethren, that after ye have known and have been taught all these things, if ye should transgress, and go contrary to that which hath been spoken, that ye do withdraw yourselves from the Spirit of the Lord, **that it may have no place in you** to guide you in wisdom's paths, that ye may be blessed, prospered, and preserved.”

Alma 5:7 – “And I trust, **according to the Spirit of God which is in me** [Alma], that I shall also have joy over you;”

Alma 5:43 – “And now my beloved brethren, I have spoken these words unto you, **according to the Spirit which testifieth in me** [Alma]; and my soul doth exceedingly rejoice, because of the exceeding diligence and heed which ye have given unto my word.”

Alma 7:29-31 – “**29** After having had all things made known unto them [people of Nephi], according to their desires, and their faith, and prayers, of that which has been, and which is, and which is to come; **30** Having been visited by the Spirit of God; having conversed with angels, and having been spoken unto by the voice of the Lord; **31** And having the spirit of prophecy, and the spirit of revelation, and also many gifts; the gift of speaking with tongues, and the gift of preaching, **and the gift of the Holy Ghost**, and the gift of translation:”

Alma 8:69 – “And Amulek saith unto him, Yea, **I will if it be according to the Spirit of the Lord which is in me**; for I shall say nothing which is contrary to the Spirit of the Lord.”

Alma 12:112-113 – “**112** Ammon saith unto him, I am a man; and man in the beginning, was created after the image of God, and I am called by his Holy Spirit to teach these things unto this people, that

they may be brought to a knowledge of that which is just and true; **113 And a portion of that Spirit dwelleth in me**, which giveth me knowledge, and also power, according to my faith and desires which are in God.”

Alma 18:6 – “Now my son, I [Alma] would not that ye should think that I know these things of myself, **but it is the Spirit of God which is in me**, which maketh these things known unto me: **for if I had not been born of God**, I should not have known these things.”

Alma 19:8 – “**8** For behold, **if ye deny the Holy Ghost when it once hath had place in you**, and ye know that ye deny it; behold, this is a sin which is unpardonable;”

Helaman 2:58-59 – “**58** And because of their iniquity, the church had begun to dwindle; and they began to disbelieve in the spirit of prophecy, and in the spirit of revelation; and the judgments of God did stare them in the face. **59** And they saw that they had become weak, like unto their brethren, the Lamanites, and that the Spirit of the Lord did no more preserve them; **yea, it had withdrawn from them, because the Spirit of the Lord doth not dwell in unholy temples;**”

Mormon 1:56 – “Nevertheless the strength of the Lord was not with us; yea, we were left to ourselves, **that the Spirit of the Lord did not abide in us**; therefore we had become weak, like unto our brethren.”

Ether 5:15 – “Behold, it was the faith of Nephi and Lehi, that wrought the change upon the Lamanites, **that they were baptized with fire and with the Holy Ghost.**”

1.1 Some Argue Against

Even though there are accounts in the Old Testament of the gift of the Holy Ghost (see previous references), not to mention the Book of Mormon, those that fight against the Book of Mormon sometimes use this verse as a claim that the gift of the Holy Ghost wasn’t given until after Christ’s death and resurrection:

John 7:38-39 – “**38** He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. **39** (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: **for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.**)”

It is true that the Holy Ghost was not given amongst the apostles and followers of Christ in Jerusalem until after Christ’s death and resurrection. In addition, after the apostles received the Holy Ghost, the Holy Ghost would be given through the laying on of hands after Christ’s death and resurrection. In Christ’s new kingdom, the Holy Ghost would be given through the laying on of hands by those with authority. This process for bestowing the Holy Ghost within the Christian church was implemented after Christ’s death and resurrection. It is true that the Holy Ghost had not yet been given in the modern Christian dispensation. It is not true that the gift of the Holy Ghost was not distributed by God Himself prior to the modern Christian era. Jesus would give authority to give the Holy Ghost after he was “glorified”.

One other explanation of this verse is that John, looking back in time, knew that the Holy Ghost would be given after Christ’s death and resurrection.

John 14:15-18 – “**15** If ye love me, keep my commandments. **16** **And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;** **17** Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. **18** I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”

John 15:26 – “But when the Comforter is come, **whom I will send unto you from the Father**, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:”

John 16:7 – “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: **for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.**”

The apostles already had one comforter in the form of Jesus Christ. They would not be given two comforters at once. Furthermore, they couldn't be given the Holy Ghost until after Christ departed and sent the Holy Ghost to them. Christ needed to depart before he could perform this task.

2 How was the Holy Ghost given before Christ?

It's been established that the gift of the Holy Ghost was present even before the time of Christ. How was it given?

God bestowed the Holy Spirit on those who He would choose:

Exodus 31:1-3 – “**1** And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, **2** See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: **3** **And I have filled him with the spirit of God**, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,”

Numbers 11:25-29 – “**25** And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, **and took of the spirit that was upon him** [Moses], and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, **when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied**, and did not cease. **26** But there remained two of the men in the camp, the name of the one was Eldad, and the name of the other Medad: **and the spirit rested upon them**; and they were of them that were written, but went not out unto the tabernacle: and they prophesied in the camp. **27** And there ran a young man, and told Moses, and said, Eldad and Medad do prophesy in the camp. **28** And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of Moses, one of his young men, answered and said, My lord Moses, forbid them. **29** And Moses said unto him, Enviest thou for my sake? would God that all the LORD's people were prophets, **and that the LORD would put his spirit upon them!**”

Faith and repentance required:

1 Nephi 3:24-30 – “And also the things which he spake **by the power of the Holy Ghost; which power he received by faith on the Son of God;** **25** And the Son of God was the Messiah which should come; **26** And it came to pass that I, Nephi, was desirous also that I might see, and hear, and know of these things, **by the power of the Holy Ghost, which is the gift of God unto all those who diligently seek him**, as well

in times of old as in the time that he should manifest himself unto the children of men; **27** For he is the same yesterday, today, and forever. **28** And the way is prepared for all men from the foundation of the world, if it so be that they repent and come unto him; **29** For he that diligently seeketh shall find; **30** And the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto him **by the power of the Holy Ghost**, as well in this time as in times of old;”

2 Nephi 13:15-18 – “**15** And also, the voice of the Son came unto me, saying, He that is baptized in my name, to him will the Father **give the Holy Ghost**, like unto me; wherefore, follow me, and do the things which ye have seen me do. **16** Wherefore, my beloved brethren, **I know that if ye shall follow the Son with full purpose of heart, acting no hypocrisy and no deception before God, but with real intent, repenting of your sins, witnessing unto the Father that ye are willing to take upon you the name of Christ, by baptism: yea, by following your Lord and Savior down into the water, according to his word; behold, then shall ye receive the Holy Ghost;** **17** Yea, then cometh the baptism of fire **and of the Holy Ghost**; and then can ye speak with the tongue of angels, and shout praises unto the Holy One of Israel. **18** But behold, my beloved brethren, thus came the voice of the Son unto me, saying, **After that ye have repented of your sins**, and witnessed unto the Father that ye are willing to keep my commandments, by the baptism of water, and have received the baptism of fire **and of the Holy Ghost**, and can speak with a new tongue, yea, even with the tongue of angels, and after this, should deny me, it would have been better for you, that ye had not known me.”

2 Nephi 13:24-26 – “**24** 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. **25** And then are ye in this straight and narrow path which leads to eternal life; yea, ye have entered in by the gate; ye have done according to the commandments of the Father and the Son; **26** **And ye have received the Holy Ghost**, which witnesses of the Father and the Son, unto the fulfilling of the promise which he hath made, that if ye entered in by the way, ye should receive.”

Mosiah 2:1-6 – “**1** And now, it came to pass that when King Benjamin had made an end of speaking the words which had been delivered unto him by the angel of the Lord, that he cast his eyes round about on the multitude, and behold they had fallen to the earth, for the fear of the Lord had come upon them; **2** And they had viewed themselves in their own carnal state, even less than the dust of the earth. **3** And they all cried aloud with one voice, saying, O have mercy, and apply the atoning blood of Christ, that we may receive forgiveness of our sins, and our hearts may be purified: **4** For we believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who created heaven and earth, and all things, who shall come down among the children of men. **5** And it came to pass that after they had spoken these words, **the Spirit of the Lord came upon them**, and they were filled with joy, **6** Having received a remission of their sins, and having peace of conscience, **because of the exceeding faith which they had in Jesus Christ which should come**, according to the words which King Benjamin had spoken unto them.”

Mosiah 3:1-9 – “**1** And now, it came to pass that when King Benjamin had thus spoken to his people, he sent among them, desiring to know of his people, if they believed the words which he had spoken unto them. **2** And they all cried with one voice, saying, Yea, we believe all the words which thou hast spoken unto us; **3** And also, we know of their surety and truth, because of the Spirit of the Lord Omnipotent, **which hath wrought a mighty change in us, or in our hearts**, that we have no more disposition to do evil, but to do good continually. **4** And we, ourselves, also, through the infinite goodness of God, and the manifestations of his Spirit, have great views of that which is to come; and were it expedient, we could

prophesy of all things. **5** And it is the faith which we have had on the things which our king hath spoken unto us, and hath brought us to this great knowledge, whereby we do rejoice with such exceeding great joy; **6** And we are willing to enter into a covenant with our God, to do his will, and to be obedient to his commandments in all things that he shall command us, all the remainder of our days, that we may not bring upon ourselves a never ending torment, as has been spoken by the angel, that we may not drink out of the cup of the wrath of God. **7** And now, these are the words which King Benjamin desired of them; and therefore he said unto them, Ye have spoken the words that I desired; and the covenant which ye have made, is a righteous covenant. **8** And now, because of the covenant which ye have made, ye shall be called the children of Christ, his sons, and his daughters: **9** **For behold, this day he hath spiritually begotten you; for ye say that your hearts are changed through faith on his name; therefore, ye are born of him, and have become his sons and his daughters.**”

Mosiah 11:185-190 – “**185** And it came to pass after they had fasted and prayed for the space of two days and two nights, the limbs of Alma received their strength, and he stood up and began to speak unto them, bidding them to be of good comfort: **186** For, said he, **I have repented of my sins**, and have been redeemed of the Lord; **behold, I am born of the Spirit.** **187** And the Lord said unto me, Marvel not that all mankind, yea, men, and women, all nations, kindreds, tongues and people, must be born again; **188** Yea, born of God, changed from their carnal and fallen state, to a state of righteousness, being redeemed of God, becoming his sons and daughters; and thus they become new creatures; and unless they do this, they can in no wise inherit the kingdom of God. **189** I say unto you, Unless this be the case, they must be cast off; and this I know, because I was like to be cast off. **190** Nevertheless, after wading through much tribulation, repenting nigh unto death, the Lord in mercy hath seen fit to snatch me out of an everlasting burning, **and I am born of God;**”

Alma 13:48-54 – “**48** And it came to pass that after Aaron had expounded these things unto him, the king saith, What shall I do, that I may have this eternal life of which thou hast spoken? **49** **Yea, what shall I do that I may be born of God**, having this wicked spirit rooted out of my breast, and receive his Spirit, that I may be filled with joy, that I may not be cast off at the last day? **50** Behold, saith he, I will give up all that I possess; yea, I will forsake my kingdom, that I may receive this great joy. **51** But Aaron saith unto him, If thou desirest this thing, if thou wilt bow down before God, yea, **if thou wilt repent of all thy sins**, and will bow down before God, **and call on his name in faith, believing that ye shall receive, then shalt thou receive the hope which thou desirest.** **52** And it came to pass that when Aaron had said these words, the king did bow down before the Lord, upon his knees; yea, even he did prostrate himself upon the earth, and cried mightily, saying, O God, Aaron hath told me that there is a God; **53** And if there is a God, and if thou art God, wilt thou make thyself known unto me, and I will give away all my sins to know thee, and that I may be raised from the dead, and be saved at the last day. **54** And now when the king had said these words, he was struck as if he were dead.”

Given at their conversion:

3 Nephi 4:50 – “And whoso cometh unto me with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, him will I baptize with fire and with the Holy Ghost, even as the Lamanites, because of their faith in me, **at the time of their conversion**, were baptized with fire **and with the Holy Ghost**, and they knew it not.”

3 How is the Holy Ghost given in our time?

3.1 Twelve Disciples Receive Holy Ghost

3 Nephi 9:8-14 – “**8** And the disciples did pray unto the Father also, in the name of Jesus. **9** And it came to pass that they arose and ministered unto the people. **10** And when they had ministered those same words which Jesus had spoken--nothing varying from the words which Jesus had spoken--behold, they knelt again, and prayed to the Father in the name of Jesus, and they did pray for that which they most desired; and they desired that the Holy Ghost should be given unto them. **11** And when they had thus prayed, they went down unto the water's edge, and the multitude followed them. **12** And it came to pass that Nephi went down into the water, and was baptized. **13** And he came up out of the water, and began to baptize. And he baptized all they whom Jesus had chosen. **14** And it came to pass when they were all baptized, and had come up out of the water, **the Holy Ghost did fall upon them, and they were filled with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.**”

3 Nephi 9:20-22 – “**20** And it came to pass that Jesus departed out of the midst of them, and went a little way off from them and bowed himself to the earth, and he saith, **Father, I thank thee that thou hast given the Holy Ghost unto these whom I have chosen**; and it is because of their belief in me, that I have chosen them out of the world. **21** Father, I pray thee that thou wilt give the Holy Ghost unto all them that shall believe in their words. **22** Father, **thou hast given them the Holy Ghost**, because they believe in me, and thou seest that they believe in me, because thou hearest them, and they pray unto me; and they pray unto me because I am with them.”

3.2 Twelve Apostles Receive Holy Ghost

Acts 1:1-5 – “**1** The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, **2** Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: **3** To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: **4** And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, **but wait for the promise of the Father**, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. **5** **For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.**”

Acts 2:1-4 – “**1** And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. **2** And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. **3** And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

3.3 Laying on of Hands

3 Nephi 8:70-71 – “**70** And it came to pass that when Jesus had made an end of these sayings, he touched with his hand the disciples whom he had chosen, one by one, even until he had touched them all, and spake unto them as he touched them; **71** And the multitude heard not the words which he spake, therefore they did not bear record; **but the disciples bear record that he gave them power to give the Holy Ghost.**”

Moroni 2:1-3 – “**1** The words of Christ, which he spake unto his disciples, the twelve whom he had chosen, as he laid his hands upon them. **2** And he called them by name, saying, Ye shall call on the Father in my name, in mighty prayer; and after that ye have done this, ye shall have power that on him whom ye shall lay your hands, ye shall give the Holy Ghost; and in my name shall ye give it, for thus do mine apostles. **3** Now Christ spake these words unto them at the time of his first appearing; and the multitude heard it not, but the disciples heard it, **and on as many as they laid their hands, fell the Holy Ghost.**”

Acts 8:14-19 – “**14** Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: **15** Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: **16** (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) **17** **Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.** **18** And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, **19** Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.”

Acts 19:1-6 – “**1** And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, **2** He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. **3** And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. **4** Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. **5** When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **6** **And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them;** and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.”

3.4 Special Cases of Holy Ghost Received Before Baptism

Cornelius and those that were with him received the gift of the Holy Ghost prior to their baptism:

Acts 10:44-48 – “**44** While Peter yet spake these words, **the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.** **45** And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out **the gift of the Holy Ghost.** **46** For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, **47** Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, **which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?** **48** And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.”

Peter reflects:

Acts 11:15-17 – “**15** And as I began to speak, **the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning.** **16** 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.** **17** Forasmuch **then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us**, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?”

Acts 15:7-9 – “**7** And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. **8** And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, **giving them the Holy Ghost**, even as he did unto us; **9** And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.”

Paul apparently received the Holy Ghost through the laying on of hands before he was baptized:

Acts 9:17-18 – “**17** And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; **and putting his hands on him said**, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, **and be filled with the Holy Ghost.** **18** And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.”

4 Jesus Christ

The Holy Ghost even took up residence in Jesus Christ:

Isaiah 11:1-2 – “**1** And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: **2** **And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him**, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;”

Luke 4:1 – “And Jesus being **full of the Holy Ghost** returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ...”

Luk 4:18-19 – “**18** **The Spirit of the Lord is upon me**, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, **19** To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.”

5 Influence of the Holy Ghost

We are (and can be) influenced by the Holy Ghost and know things by the power of the Holy Ghost without having the gift (baptism) of the Holy Ghost.

1 Corinthians 12:3 – “Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, **but by the Holy Ghost.**”

Moroni 10:3-7 – “**3** Behold, I would exhort you that when ye shall read these things, if it be wisdom in God that ye should read them, that ye would remember how merciful the Lord hath been unto the children of men, from the creation of Adam, even down until the time that ye shall receive these things, and ponder it in your hearts. **4** And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; **5** And if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, and he will manifest the truth of it unto you, **by the power of the Holy Ghost; and by the power of the Holy Ghost**, ye may know the truth of all things. **6** And whatsoever thing is good, is just and true; wherefore, nothing that is good denieth the Christ, but acknowledgeth that he is. **7** And ye may know that he is, **by the power of the Holy Ghost**; wherefore I would exhort you, that ye deny not the power of God; for he worketh by power, according to the faith of the children of men, the same today and tomorrow, and for ever.”

In 1 Samuel 16:14 we are told, “**But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul**, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.” Sometime later, Saul prophesies (and even Saul’s messengers) by the Holy Spirit after trying to kill David:

1 Samuel 19:18-24 – “**18** So David fled, and escaped, and came to Samuel to Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and dwelt in Naioth. **19** And it was told Saul, saying, Behold, David is at Naioth in Ramah. **20** And Saul sent messengers to take David: and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as appointed over them, **the Spirit of God was upon the messengers of Saul**, and they also prophesied. **21** And when it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise. And Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also. **22** Then went he also to Ramah, and came to a great well that is in Sechu: and he asked and said, Where are Samuel and David? And one said, Behold, they be at Naioth in Ramah. **23** And he went thither to Naioth in Ramah: **and the Spirit of God was upon him also**, and he went on, and prophesied, until he came to Naioth in Ramah. **24** And he stripped off his clothes also, and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Wherefore they say, Is Saul also among the prophets?”

6 Others to Consider

Judges 3:9-10 – “**9** And when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer to the children of Israel, who delivered them, even Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. **10** **And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him**, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushanrishathaim.”

Judges 6:34 – “**But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon**, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him.”

Judges 11:29 – “**Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah**, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over unto the children of Ammon.”

Judges 14:5-6 – “**5** Then went Samson down, and his father and his mother, to Timnath, and came to the vineyards of Timnath: and, behold, a young lion roared against him. **6 And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him**, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.”

Judges 15:14 – “And when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: **and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him**, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands.”

Luke 1:41 – “And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; **and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:**”

Luke 1:67 – “**And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost**, and prophesied, saying, ...”

Luke 2:25-27 – “**25** And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: **and the Holy Ghost was upon him. 26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost**, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. **27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple:** and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,”

1 Nephi 3:147-151 – “**147** And I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles, which was separated from the seed of my brethren by the many waters; **and I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and wrought upon the man;** and he went forth upon the many waters, even unto the seed of my brethren, which were in the promised land. **148** And it came to pass that I beheld the Spirit of God, that it wrought upon other Gentiles; and they went forth out of captivity, upon the many waters. **149** And it came to pass that I beheld many multitudes of the Gentiles upon the land of promise; **150** And I beheld the wrath of God that it was upon the seed of my brethren; and they were scattered before the Gentiles, and they were smitten. **151 And I beheld the Spirit of the Lord, that it was upon the Gentiles;** that they did prosper, and obtain the land for their inheritance; and I beheld that they were white, and exceeding fair and beautiful, like unto my people before that they were slain.”

Quote of Columbus (from Jacob Wassermann, Columbus, Don Quixote of the Seas, pp. 19-20, 46):

I have seen and truly I have studied all books--cosmographies, histories, chronicles, and philosophies, and other arts, for which our Lord unlocked my mind, sent me upon the sea, and gave me fire for the deed. Those who heard of my enterprise called it foolish, mocked me, and laughed. **But who can doubt but that the Holy Ghost inspired me?"**