

How do You receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost?

There are diverse opinions in the world on how one receives the Holy Ghost. There may be a difference in being touched by the Holy Ghost verses being receiving the Gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:15 *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,*

Acts 19:2 *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.*

3Nephi 8:70 *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 *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.*

As seen above it seems to be a standard practice that Jesus chooses specific servants and gives them authority that after people are baptized they lay their hands upon them and give them the Gift of the Holy Ghost. Some were even true believers who had been properly baptized and had faith but did not receive the Holy Ghost until after the Apostles laid their hands on them. This practice was also restored to the Church of Christ in 1830 and is practiced to this day. On the other hand many have been touched by the Holy Ghost but this is not necessarily the same as receiving the Gift of the Holy Ghost as an Abiding Comforter.

1 Nephi 3:30 - *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;*

Jacob 5:20 - *And this is not all: it hath been made manifest unto me, for I have heard and seen; and it also hath been made manifest unto me by the power of the Holy Ghost;*

Luke 1:35 - *And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.*

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:*

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.*

It's really interesting how the Lamanites were baptized with fire and the Holy Ghost but knew it not (understood?). Many people can have powerful experiences being touched by the Holy Ghost, but it seems there is a greater degree after one is baptized and had hands laid upon them for the Gift of the Holy Ghost. Even then, if this gift is not carefully nurtured it can wither and die away.