

## AN ANALOGY OF THE WORKINGS OF THE HOLY GHOST

*An adaptation and enlargement of a parable I once heard, by Robert Fitt*

Imagine yourself in a very large dark cave. Imagine yourself entering the pitch-black darkness, groping your way along, when suddenly a flash of light appears that provides you with a momentary glimpse of the cave's interior. It is startlingly beautiful; and you begin to hope that the light will flare up once again, to allow a better look at the cave's interior. Your hopes are rewarded. Brief flashes of light materialize out of the darkness from time to time, and you note that smaller shafts branch off from the cave here and there, some of which angle upward, and others that drift downward into the darkness. These revelations whet your anticipation, as you contemplate what the next brief glimpse of the cave will reveal.

*New converts have this kind of experience when the Holy Ghost begins to enlighten their efforts to learn the truths of the gospel. They begin to experience insights that give brief confirmations of truth as though they were viewing the principles and doctrines of the gospel through a series of camera flashes—beautiful but ever so brief and incomplete. These moments of insight begin to illuminate truth from falsehood more clearly; making it easier to distinguish the good from the evil; so that they may more easily decide which kind of life they will choose to live.*

As you increase your efforts to explore the dark interior of the cave, using these brief flashes of light for a reference, the light increases. It is as though you were given a flashlight with which you could to illuminate the darkness at will. Your view is limited, however, for you comprehend so very little of the vast cave from these small glimpses. Stimulated by what you see, however, you keep the flashlight moving; being careful to examine more closely the arms of the cave as they move off from the main passage. A closer look ascertains that passages that once looked challenging are less so, and that many of those that once appeared to be inviting are strewn with the rubble of affliction and despair. Throughout your journey—as you strive to make sense of the caves' beauties and relate them to your previous experience—you begin to recognize something that you had no reason to expect—an extraordinary feeling of peace.

*This experience can be likened to your personal response as missionaries, or members, teach you about the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. As you learn of God's commandments you begin to see more clearly, (by way of the Light of Christ), the stark contrast between God's loving requirements and the supposed 'freedom' that leads to the captivity of the Evil One; and as you learn and obey the principles that you now know to be true, the Power of the Holy Ghost bears a sure witness to you that what you are seeing, and feeling, and learning are the truths of God.*

You have not been exploring the cave for very long before the caretaker of the cave provides you with a lantern that illuminates a greater portion of the vast magnificence of the cave's interior.

*Once you have fully repented and are baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, hands are laid upon your head; and through authorized*

*priesthood authority you receive the right to enjoy the companionship of the Holy Ghost whenever you are worthy.*

And then, as though the caretaker had flipped a light switch, the cave is revealed in all its magnificence; it is suddenly and gloriously bathed in light. This exquisite light reveals its colors, its geological features, the shimmering of water as it slowly and steadily dripped from stalactites, and differentiates clearly the tempting shafts and passages that must be avoided at all cost—in awe, you feel rewarded and enlightened.

*Once you have been baptized, the glorious possibilities that the Holy Ghost offers are open to you; and as your newly found desires and motivations begin to crystalize into righteous action, you become more and more like the Savior. It is then that the Holy Spirit, like the within the cave, feels free to enter your once darkened life; to guide you, to lift and strengthen you, to warn you in times of temptation, to comfort you in times of affliction and to lead you onward to eternal life.*

*In essence, it is as though the light switch is placed in your hands, for you to control.*

And having seen the light, and having been exposed to the beauties it reveals, you are then free to explore the intricacies of life while basking in the glow of the Holy Ghost. Those, then, who listen for the whisperings of the Holy Spirit—and govern their lives accordingly—will come to recognize the voice of God in their lives; and, will learn that obedience to the will of God is like a dimmer switch that governs the light.

How you use that switch—whether you choose to allow the Holy Spirit to govern your body, or whether you allow the fleshy passions of your body to control your spirit—is the essence of salvation.

It is the test of mortality.