Teachings Concerning
The Light of Christ

Bruce R. McConkie

There is a spirit – the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of Christ, the light of truth, the light of Christ – that defies
description and is beyond mortal comprehension. It is in
us and in all things; it is around us and around all things;
it fills the earth and the heavens and the universe. It is
everywhere, in all immensity, without exception; it is an
indwelling, immanent, ever-present, never-absent spirit.
It has neither shape nor form nor personality. It is not an
entity nor a person nor a personage. It has no agency,
does not act independently, and exists not to act but to be
acted upon. As far as we know, it has no substance and
is not material, at least as we measure these things. It is
variously described as light and life and law and truth
and power. It is the light of Christ; it is the life that is in
all things; it is the law by which all things are governed;
it is truth shining forth in darkness; it is the power of
God who sitteth upon his throne. It may be that it is also
priesthood and faith and omnipotence, for these too are
the power of God.

This light of truth or light of Christ is seen in the
light of the luminaries of heaven; it is the power by
which the sun, moon, and stars, and the earth itself are
made. It is the light that proceedeth forth from the
presence of God to fill the immensity of space.” It is “the
light which is in all things, which giveth life to all things,
which is the law by which all things are governed,
even the power of God who sitteth upon his throne. It may be that it is also
priesthood and faith and omnipotence, for these too are
the power of God.

The Light of Christ should not be confused with the
Holy Ghost. It is not a personage, as the Holy Ghost is.
Its influence leads people to find the true gospel, be
baptized, and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (see
John 12:46; Alma 26:14-15).

Conscience is a manifestation of the Light of Christ,
enabling us to judge good from evil. The prophet
Mormon taught: “The Spirit of Christ is given to every
man, that he may know good from evil; wherefore, I
show unto you the way to judge; for every thing which
inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ,
with that same judgment which ye judge ye shall also be judged”
(Moroni 7:16, Moroni 7:18). [p. 96]

Joseph F. Smith

The Holy Ghost as a personage of Spirit can no more
be omnipresent in person than can the Father or the Son,
but by his intelligence, his knowledge, his power and
influence, over and through the laws of nature, he is and
can be omnipresent throughout all the works of God. It
is not the Holy Ghost who in person lighteth every man
who is born into the world, but it is the light of Christ, the Spirit of Truth, which proceeds from the source of intelligence, which permeates all nature, which lighteth every man and fills the immensity of space. You may call it the Spirit of God, you may call it the influence of God's intelligence, you may call it the substance of his power, no matter what it is called, it is the spirit of intelligence that permeates the universe and gives to the spirits of men understanding, just as Job has said. (Job 32:8; Doc. and Cov. 88:3-13.) [Gospel Doctrine, p.61]

Joseph Fielding Smith

- President Joseph F. Smith has expressed it thus: "The Holy Ghost as a personage of Spirit can no more be omnipresent in person than can the Father or the Son, but by his intelligence, his knowledge, his power and influence, over and through the laws of nature, he is and can be omnipresent throughout all the works of God." Thus when it becomes necessary to speak to us, he is able to do so by acting through the other Spirit, that is, through the Light of Christ. (Doctrines of Salvation, 1:40)
- **LIGHT OF CHRIST IS THE POWER OF GOD.** This Light of Christ is not a personage. It has no body. I do not know what it is as far as substance is concerned; but it fills the immensity of space and emanates from God. It is the light by which the worlds are controlled, by which they are made. It is the light of the sun and all other bodies. It is the light which gives life to vegetation. It quickens the understanding of men, and has these various functions as set forth in these verses.

  It is: "The light which is in all things, which giveth life to all things, which is the law by which all things are governed, even the power of God who sitteth upon his throne, who is in the bosom of eternity, who is in the midst of all things."

  This is our explanation in regard to the Spirit of Christ, or Light of Truth, which every man receives and is guided by. Unless a man had the blessings that come from this Spirit, his mind would not be quickened; there would be no vegetation grow; the worlds would not stay in their orbits; because it is through this Spirit of Truth, this Light of Truth, according to this revelation, that all these things are done. (Doctrines of Salvation, 1:52)
- **THE HOLY GHOST WORKS THROUGH THE LIGHT OF CHRIST.** The person of the Holy Ghost can work through the Spirit of Christ that permeates everything, or he can work by personal contacts. The Holy Ghost can act through some other influence or force. This may be a crude illustration, and yet I think it answers our purpose. We have in this building a young lady sitting down at the switchboard. Someone on this floor wants to get in touch with someone on the second floor; somebody else in another part of the building wants to talk with someone in another building; and so on. They are all connected with the parties they want to talk to. In a similar way the Holy Ghost could speak to someone here, someone over there, and someone way off in some other part of the country, even in a foreign land, and each receive the message intended for him. That is not hard to understand when we think of telegraphy. They send several messages over a wire at the same time. Radio stations send messages of different wave lengths all over the earth. (Doctrines of Salvation, 1:54)
- **INVENTIONS COME BY SPIRIT OF LORD.** There has never been a step taken from that day to this, in discovery or invention, where the Spirit of the Lord (that is, the spirit of which Joel spoke, the Light of Christ, not the Holy Ghost!) was not the prevailing force, resting upon the individual, which caused him to make the discovery or the invention. The world does not understand that but it is perfectly clear to me; nor did the Lord always use those who have faith, nor does he always do so today. He uses such minds as are pliable and can be turned in certain directions to accomplish his work, whether they believe in him or not. (Doctrines of Salvation, 1:178)
- **INVENTORS USED BY THE LORD.** Now, do you think that these discoveries and inventions by Marconi, by Edison, by Bell, by Stephenson and by the other inventors and discoverers without naming them, have come just because these men have been sitting down and concentrating their minds upon these matters and have discovered them through their thought or accidentally? Not in the least, but the Spirit of the Lord, the Light of Christ, has been back of it, and has been impelling them to do these very things; and why? Because the time is here; it is ripe. We are ready for these discoveries, these inventions, and they all have a bearing upon the restoration of the gospel and preparation for the time which is yet future, but which is shortly to come, when Christ shall reign on the earth, and for a thousand years peace shall be established. That is what it is all for. Now, a man like Edison may say, "I do not believe in a supreme being." I do not know whether he does or not; some of these men do not. However, the Lord in his great mercy, overlooks that and uses the man because he is adapted to a certain
work, and he, through his Spirit, can inspire this man to do this great work, and so he goes ahead and does it, all for the establishment of the kingdom of God. (Doctrines of Salvation, 1:180-181)

Richard G. Scott
The ability to have an unsettled conscience is a gift of God to help you succeed in this mortal life. It results principally from the influence of the Light of Christ on your mind and heart. The Light of Christ is that divine power or influence that emanates from God through Jesus Christ [see Topical Guide, “Light of Christ,” p. 290]. It gives light and life to all things. It prompts all rational individuals throughout the earth to distinguish truth from error, right from wrong. It activates your conscience [see Moroni 7:16]. Its influence can be weakened through transgression and addiction and restored through proper repentance. The Light of Christ is not a person. It is a power and influence that comes from God and when followed can lead a person to qualify for the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Ghost [see John 1:9; D&C 84:46-47]. (“Peace of Conscience and Peace of Mind,” Ensign, Nov. 2004, p. 15)

Joseph B. Wirthlin
As the sun gives life and light to the earth, a spiritual light gives nourishment to our spirits. We call this the Light of Christ. The scriptures teach us that it “lighteth every man that cometh into the world” (John 1:9; see also Moro. 7:16; D&C 84:46). Thus, all mankind can enjoy its blessings. The Light of Christ is the divine influence that allows every man, woman, and child to distinguish between good and evil. It encourages all to choose the right, to seek eternal truth, and to learn again the truths that we knew in our premortal existence but have forgotten in mortality.

The Light of Christ should not be confused with the personage of the Holy Ghost, for the Light of Christ is not a personage at all. Its influence is preliminary to and preparatory to one’s receiving the Holy Ghost. The Light of Christ will lead the honest soul to “hearkeneth to the voice” (D&C 84:46) to find the true gospel and the true Church and thereby receive the Holy Ghost. (“The Unspeakable Gift,” Ensign, May 2003, p. 26)