



Spiritual Surgery

I. Introductory Remarks:

- A. How a great many in the religious world today feel about how the Holy Ghost operates upon the heart of man to either bring him to a knowledge of the truth and repentance and keep him on the right path”
1. “*The Spirit changes man’s heart of stone to beat as a heart of flesh. The change opens the eyes of the spiritually blind to the work of Christ. **It is that which the Spirit of God does directly, previous to any act of man.**”*
 2. “**Even where the light of the gospel does not shine, there the Spirit acts directly upon man’s heart,** writes the law of God upon his mind, gives him the sense of sin and the need for forgiveness.”
 3. “*God has given man no means by which the conversion of sinners can be effected, irrespective of the **direct agency of the Spirit. The gospel itself will not do it.**”*
 4. “*We invite all men everywhere to read the Book of Mormon... and **gain a testimony of its truth and divinity by the power of the Holy Ghost**” (Introduction to the Book of Mormon).*
- B. Are these types of statements, relative to how the Holy Ghost operates upon the heart of man, true? – No.

II. In the Old Testament, how did the Holy Ghost operate upon the heart of man in an attempt to bring man to repentance and, thus, into a right relationship with Him and the other members of the Godhead?

- A. Some pretty clear examples:
1. [Numbers 24:1-3ff](#)
 2. [Psalm 95:1-11](#) ([Hebrews 3:7-19](#); [4:7](#) – cf. [Matthew 22:43](#); [2 Samuel 23:2](#))
 3. [Nehemiah 9:28-30](#)
 4. [Acts 7:51-52](#)
 5. [Ezekiel 2:1-7](#)
 6. [Ezekiel 11:1-7](#)
 7. [Luke 1:5-16](#); [3:3-9](#)
 8. [Luke 1:39-45](#)
- B. When you think about it, time and again we find God (even if the particular member is not identified as the Holy Spirit) working indirectly – not directly – to help man.
1. [Exodus 3:11-22](#)
 2. [Exodus 19:1-6](#)
 3. [Joshua 1:1-8](#)
 4. [Isaiah 1:1-2](#)
 5. [Jeremiah 2:1-2](#)
 6. [Hosea 1:1-2](#)
 7. [Joel 1:1-3](#)
 8. [Jonah 1:1-2](#); [3:1-2](#)
 9. [Hebrews 1:1](#)
 10. [2 Peter 1:20-21](#)
- C. Time and again we find the Holy Ghost, or another member of the Godhead, working **INDIRECTLY** to help man out. Deity selects certain men, makes divine revelation known to them, and they communicate it to the rest of the people.

III. **In the New Testament, how did the Holy Ghost operate upon the heart of man in an attempt to bring man to repentance and, thus, into a right relationship with Him and the other members of the Godhead?**

- A. That the Holy Ghost directly worked in N.T times CB denied: **Mk 13:9-11; Heb. 1:1-2 (Acts 1:1-2); John 14:26; 16:13.**
- B. Further it cannot be denied that the Holy Ghost would operate on the world (**John 16:7-8**).
- C. But the question is *how* He did His work.
 1. **Ephesians 3:1-6; 1 Cor. 5:9-13; 1 Tim. 4:1; 1 Cor. 14:37; 1:21.**
 2. **Romans 10:13-15** in reverse:
 - (a) Someone must be sent (**vs. 15**).
 - (b) Someone must preach (**vs. 15**).
 - (c) Those preached to must need to hear (**vs. 14**).
 - (d) Those preached to must believe the message (**vs. 14 – cf. Acts 22:16**).
 - (e) Those who have called upon the name of the Lord are saved (**vs. 13**).
- D. Other examples (not every passage needs to have the words “Holy Ghost” in it, as we have already established that the Holy Ghost was going to be directing chosen persons):
 1. **Acts 1:5; 2:1-4; 14, 36-41**
 2. **Acts 3:1-19; 4:4**
 3. **Acts 4:5-12**
 4. **Acts 4:23-31**
 5. **Acts 5:17-28**
 6. **Acts 7:51-52**
 7. **Acts 8:26-38**
 8. **Acts 13:1-5**
 9. **Acts 13:6-12**
 10. **Acts 13:14-18; 38-41**
 11. **Acts 13:44-46**
 12. **Acts 14:1-3**
 13. **Acts 17:1-4**
 14. **Acts 17:5-13**
 15. **Acts 19:8-9**
- E. Time and again we find the Holy Ghost working **INDIRECTLY** to help man out. Deity selects certain men, makes divine revelation known to them, and they communicate it to the rest of the people.
 1. Do we ever read of the Holy Ghost operating directly on the heart of the sinner?
 2. If He did not do so in the age of the miraculous, why oh why would He do so today in the age of the non-miraculous?
 3. Today the Holy Ghost operates upon the heart of man through the Word of God (**Ephesians 6:17**).