

Good morning brothers and sisters. Happy Mother's day today too. I'm Ashlyn Snitker, my dad asked me to speak with him today and I had to say yes because it's also his birthday today and as a poor 21 year old, this was all I could offer. I'm just kidding. But I am grateful I get to speak today with him.

The topic that was given to us to speak on was "Gifts of the Spirit". When I think about the word gift, I typically think of some sort of present or object you give to someone or a nice gesture or service you offer or receive from someone else. Another thing I think about with a gift is when someone describes someone as being talented or they have a certain ability. There are a lot of things we can consider to be a gift.

In life, sometimes you receive a bad gift or something you don't like. That's ok, we are all human, we don't know everything. But Heavenly Father is a perfect Father and He gives the best gifts. In James 1:17 it says, "17 Every ^agood ^bgift and every perfect ^cgift is from above, and ^dcometh down from the ^eFather of lights, with whom is no ^fvariableness, neither shadow of turning."

Gifts of the Spirit come directly from our Heavenly Father. In Gospel Topics, it describes them as "blessings or abilities given by God to His children through the power of the Holy Ghost." This was actually one of the principles of the gospel that has been restored in the continuing restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It all starts with our confirmation after we are baptized and we receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. In a BYU devotional, Elder Robert D. Hales said, "These gifts of the Spirit are encompassed by the gift of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost is the third member of the eternal Godhead and is identified as the Holy Spirit. This Holy Spirit is a gift from God to help us make the decisions that will allow us to find and meet our destiny." In D&C 46:11, we learn that "all have not every gift given unto them; for there are many gifts, and to every man is given a gift by the Spirit of God."

Elder Bruce R. McConkie said, "Spiritual gifts are endless in number and infinite in variety." This week's *Come Follow Me* lesson how spiritual gifts "teach the truths of the gospel" and how, "they will help us bless others. They will guide us back to our Heavenly Father." Some of the gifts that are listed throughout the scriptures include knowledge "that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that He was crucified for the sins of the world." Some are given a gift to administer and lead in the Church. There are gifts of wisdom and of knowledge. The gift of discernment, tongues, interpretation of tongues, and so many more. These gifts help us in our times of need as well as in the times of need of those around us. In D&C 46:32 it says that we should "give thanks unto God in the Spirit for whatsoever blessing we are blessed with."

Sometimes we may feel like we have not been given these gifts. I think the world has distorted our vision about what being gifted would qualify as or we compare ourselves to others and their gifts might be more outward and recognizable. Satan uses these tactics to allow us to doubt our

faith in God, our worth, or God's love for us. I recently returned from my mission a few months ago and when I got out into the mission field, I felt like I had lost the ability to recognize and follow the spirit. I was confused and upset. I had such a strong prompting that I knew that a mission was going to bless my life, but here I was with feelings of confusion and a little contention toward those around me, including Heavenly Father. Everyone around me seemed to be a pro and could do no wrong in their missionary work, but I didn't feel like I would be able to measure up. I talked about this and told her about what I was feeling. Something we talked about was that I was relying a lot on myself and worrying more about what I wanted. I had this picture in my head about how things should be going, rather than learning to love and serve others around me. It became a good experience for me to learn more about faith and rely on it. In companionship inventory that we would have, we also helped each other recognize gifts that we had and could see in each other.

These are ways that we can develop and obtain spiritual gifts. In D&C 46:12 it says, "To some is given one, and to some is given another, that all may be profited thereby." First, recognizing that it isn't a competition was one of the first steps to take. Having humility and reflecting on why we want certain spiritual gifts. We are also so different and have different skills and talents. That is so important in our spiritual growth. Second, is recognizing what gifts we do have. This can be done through praying and fasting. You can also turn to your patriarchal blessing to see what gifts you have been given. Thirdly, we must be obedient and faithful to be given our gifts. And lastly, as we increase our faith and trust in God, we are more able to receive, recognize, and use our spiritual gifts to bless those around us. President Nelson said in this last General Conferenc, "Faith in Jesus Christ is the foundation of all belief and the conduit of divine power. According to the Apostle Paul, "Without faith it is impossible to please [God]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."³ Everything good in life—every potential blessing of eternal significance—begins with faith.

Allowing God to prevail in our lives begins with faith that He is willing to guide us."

Brothers and sisters, I can testify that God is leading us and guiding us. He guides us through a modern day prophet and apostles. But He has give tools that will help direct our paths back to Him, along with those who are around us as well. *Bear Testimony*