

SYLVIA'S CORNER

THAT'S NOT MY HOLY SPIRIT

We've looked at the Mormon concept of Jesus and God. Now we'll take a look at the most confusing doctrine of all, their belief about the Holy Spirit.

In researching this I was surprised to find that in Mormonism the Holy Ghost and the Holy Spirit are not the same. I don't remember this being explained during all my years in Mormonism. The Holy Ghost of Mormonism is a person. He only has a spirit body, not a physical one. He does not fill space, he has size and dimensions and cannot be everywhere at the same time. In *Doctrines of Salvation Vol. 1* pp. 38-39, Joseph Fielding Smith brings up the possibilities of a body for him in the future. He says that he doesn't know if he will sometime have a body but does not trouble himself about it because it isn't essential to his salvation. My questions would be this; wouldn't he need a body in order to dwell in the Celestial kingdom?

In Mormonism, the Holy Spirit, on the other hand, is an influence that emanates from the Father. Mormons believe that it is in all things and fills the immensity of space. They have no idea about its' substance. According to the *Doctrines of Salvation Vol. 1*, pp 49,50,52, when referring to the Holy Ghost, the terms used are the Spirit of God, the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of truth, the Holy Spirit, and the Comforter. When referring to the Holy Spirit, terms used are, Light of Truth, Light of Christ, Spirit of God, and Spirit of the Lord.

Do you see how the description of each of these overlap? What makes it confusing is that the Holy Spirit, Spirit of God, and Spirit of the Lord are used to describe BOTH the Holy Spirit and the Holy Ghost. How can this be? Think about it.

After I was baptized in the Mormon Church, I had hands laid on me. They said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost." Did I receive something at that time? I believe that I did and the Spirit that I received was not the same Spirit that I have now as a born-again Christian. I know this because when I received Christ as my personal Savior, I had a dramatic occurrence. Another

spirit actually left me - right out the top of my head! I felt something filmy leave my body so that the true Holy Spirit could reside there. It couldn't have been the Holy Ghost of Mormonism because, remember, that one has size and dimension, and can't be everywhere at once. How could that Spirit be in me and in every other Mormon, too? In the Bible, the Greek word used to describe the Holy Spirit and the Holy Ghost is the word *pneuma*. It is used in both instances.

No, my Holy Spirit is not divided into a Holy Spirit and a Holy Ghost, he is not limited to a size and dimension and he does not need to obtain a physical body in the future. **THAT'S NOT MY HOLY SPIRIT!**

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"Do you believe in a God big enough to fill the universe, yet small enough to dwell in your heart?" The words rang with sarcasm. Back when I was asked that question, I have to admit that I really didn't understand how God could be everywhere at once, so my answer was no. Now if someone were to ask me, I would answer with an unequivocal YES! Why? Because I read and study the Bible. I know that there is no way to be out of God's sight **EVER!** In Jeremiah 23-24 it says "Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see Him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD. Then in Psalms 139:7-10 it says "Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up to heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall thy hand lead me and they right hand shall hold me.

Mormons contradict the Bible with their teaching by using the articles of Faith p. 43 by James E. Talmage. He says, "God's person cannot be in more than one place at any one time." The Doctrine and Covenants states, "God has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's". **MORMONS BELIEVE IN A FINITE GOD.** Joseph Smith remarked in the History of the Church, Vol. 6 pp 308 & 474, "All the God's came together. The head god called a council and planned to create a world and people it." The Bible, on the other hand, teaches that there is only **ONE GOD.** See Deut. 6:4,32:39, Isaiah 43: 10-11, 44: 6-8, 45: 5-6, 18:22, and James 2:19. **MORMONS BELIEVE GOD IS ONE OF MANY.** In Mormon doctrine, p.516, Bruce R. McConkie, an apostle, says that there are many gods, each of whom has his own wife or wives. The Bible shows this to be incorrect in Matthew 22:30 where Jesus says that there will be no marriage in the resurrection. **THE MORMON GOD IS MARRIED TO ONE OR MORE WOMEN.** Bruce R. McConkie makes another statement about God the Father in Mormon Doctrine p.547 & 742. There he says that God slept with Mary in order to produce Jesus. The Bible says that Jesus was begotten of the Holy Ghost and that Mary was a virgin. Please see Matt. 1:18-23 and Luke 1:35 for conformation. **MORMONS BELIEVE THAT GOD THE FATHER SLEPT WITH THE VIRGIN MARY.**

In the Pearl of Great Price, Joseph Smith claims to have seen God the Father and Jesus. In Doctrines of Salvation by Joseph Fielding Smith Vol. 1 pg. 4, he says that with the authority of the priesthood, one can see the face of God. This is in direct opposition to Exodus 33:20 where it says that no man can see God and live. Also there is another scripture, John 4:12, that says that no men hath seen God at any time. **MORMONS CLAIM THAT GOD APPEARED TO JOSEPH SMITH, AND STILL APPEARS TO THEM UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE PRIESTHOOD.**

Mormons believe that they can achieve godhood. Bruce McConkie talks about it in Mormon Doctrine p. 321. In the History of the

Church, Vol. 6, p. 306, Joseph Smith teaches that they can work to inherit the same power as God. In Isaiah 44:6,8 it says, "I am the first and the last, and beside me there is no God." It also states, "Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? Ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? Yea there is no God; I know not any.

MORMONS INTEND TO WORK THEIR WAY TO GODHOOD

Another concept of God is spoken of by Bruce R. McConkie in Mormon Doctrine p. 576-577. He refers to three separate personages - the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost as being worshipped in Mormonism. In addition, Joseph Fielding Smith said God, Jesus, and the Holy Ghost were all distinct personages. He said this in the Teachings of Joseph Smith p. 370. The Bible however, says in 1 John 5:7, "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one. **MORMONS BELIEVE IN THREE GOD'S**

In the teaching of the Prophet Joseph Smith by Joseph Fielding Smith p.354, he states that GOD never had the power to create man at all. The Bible doesn't say that though. In Genesis 2:7 it says "And the Lord GOD formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul." It can't get much plainer than that. **MORMONS DENY THAT GOD HAD THE ABILITY TO CREATE MAN.**

Does God the Father have a father? Joseph Fielding Smith speculates that he does in Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith p. 373. The Bible says though in Isaiah 43:10-11 "before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. **THE MORMON GOD WAS THE SON OF ANOTHER FATHER.**

Joseph Smith taught that God the Father dwelled like us on the earth. In the book Life of Lorenzo Snow by Dr. Thomas C. Romney p. 46, he says "As man is, God once was, as God is, man may become." The Bible states in Numbers 23:19, "God is not a man."

Again in Romans 1:22-23 it talks about fools who changed the glory of the un-corruptible God into an image made like corruptible man. **MORMONS THINK THAT GOD WAS ONCE A MAN!**

I came across an article in the Salt Lake Tribune dated Friday August 13th, 1993. It spoke about the reasons for spiritual abuse occurring in the Mormon Church. It stated that the Mormon image of God was that of a hierarchical obedience demanding deity, a rule bound god, a Chairman of the Board, and a god requiring unquestioning obedience. **THE MORMON GOD IS SCARY AND UNAPPROACHABLE.**

My God is not a man, not one of many gods, not married, never slept with Mary, doesn't appear to select members of the Mormon priesthood or to anybody for that matter, didn't work his way to godhood, and is a kind and loving father.

ANY THING ELSE IS NOT MY GOD!