

Is Moroni 10:3-8 Scriptural?

Answers for Questions Concerning the Restored Gospel from HisWorkmanship.net

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Edited & Updated January 2, 2010

Question: Does the counsel in Moroni 10:3-8 to ask God to reveal the truthfulness of the Book of Mormon by the power of the Holy Ghost represent a false doctrine, one that is inconsistent with the teachings found in the New Testament of the Bible?

Moroni 10:3-8¹

- 3 *Behold, I would exhort you that when ye shall read these things, if it be wisdom in God that ye should read them, that ye would remember how merciful the Lord hath been unto the children of men, from the creation of Adam, even down until the time that ye shall receive these things, and ponder it in your hearts.*
- 4 *And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true;*
- 5 *And if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, **by the power of the Holy Ghost; and by the power of the Holy Ghost, ye may know the truth of all things.***
- 6 *And whatsoever thing is good, is just and true; wherefore, nothing that is good denieth the Christ, but acknowledgeth that he is.*
- 7 ***And ye may know that he is, by the power of the Holy Ghost;** wherefore I would exhort you, that ye deny not the power of God; for he worketh by power, according to the faith of the children of men, the same to-day and to-morrow, and for ever.*
- 8 *And again I exhort you, my brethren, that ye deny not the gifts of God, for they are many; and they come from the same God.*

Answer: Let's begin by comparing this instruction directly with scriptures found in the New Testament.² First, consider the testimony of Matthew. According to Matthew, Jesus Christ taught His disciples to ask, seek, and knock:

Matthew 7:7,8

- 7 *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:*

¹ Versification from the 1908 Edition of the Book of Mormon published by the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Herald Publishing House, Independence, Missouri.

² Bible references are from the KJV Authorized Edition.

- 8 *For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.*

What was promised to those who keep the words of Jesus Christ and ask, knock, and seek? According to the account made by Luke, they will receive the Holy Spirit from our heavenly Father:

Luke 11:9-13

- 9 *And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.*
- 10 *For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.*
- 11 *If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?*
- 12 *Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?*
- 13 *If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: **how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?***

In the testimony of John we find confirmation of this important clarification:

John 14:15-18, 26

- 13 *And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*
- 14 *If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.*
- 15 *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*
- 16 *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another **Comforter**, that he may abide with you for ever;*
- 17 *Even **the Spirit of truth**; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*
- 18 *I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.*
- ...
- 26 *But **the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost**, whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.***

The name *Comforter*, which Jesus used for the Holy Ghost (whom He also called the Spirit of truth), gives us insight into the operation of this precious gift from God.³ Our Lord's Spirit⁴ is to *comfort* us (e.g. Acts 9:31) and to *assure* us (e.g. I Thessalonians 1:5, Hebrews 6:11). Most importantly, Jesus Christ said that *the Comforter*, who is *the Spirit of truth*, would lead us into *all* truth based on His words (cf. John 6:63).

³ cf. Romans 5:5. Note further that the terms Spirit and Holy Ghost may be used interchangeably (see Luke 4:1, John 1:33, 7:39, Acts 2:4, I Corinthians 12:3, Ephesians 1:13, 4:30, I Thessalonians 4:8, etc.)

⁴ cf. Galatians 4:6 & II Corinthians 3:17 with John 14:6

John 16:12-14

- 12 *I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.*
 13 ***Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.***
 14 *He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

As He testified, and as the Spirit bears record, Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd, the One who is to lead His people back into the presence of our heavenly Father. And He does so by the guidance given to us through His Spirit of truth, the Comforter or Holy Ghost, who is to assure our hearts and confirm our faith:

John 10:2-4, 14

- 2 ***But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.***
 3 *To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.*
 4 ***And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.***
 ...
 14 ***I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.***

Romans 8:1,2, 9-14

- 1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*
 2 *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*
 ...
 9 ***But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.***
 10 *And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*
 11 ***But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.***
 12 *Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.*
 13 ***For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.***
 14 ***For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.***

Galatians 5:18,22-25

- 18 ***But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.*** [i.e. you are under grace]
 ...
 22 ***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,***
 23 ***Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.***
 24 ***And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.***

25 *If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

Recall that the granting of the Comforter, i.e. Holy Ghost, is also called *the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire*.

Luke 3:16

16 *John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:*

Matthew 3:11

11 *I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:*

Little wonder then that the Comforter kindles a *comforting* fire, a burning in one's soul, when confirming or assuring the truth to those who hear His voice.⁵ Consider the two disciples on the road to Emmaus following Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. Note the account and how they recalled their hearts *burning* within them as Jesus walked with them and opened to them the scriptures:

Luke 24:13-34

- 13 *And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.*
- 14 *And they talked together of all these things which had happened.*
- 15 *And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.*
- 16 *But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.*
- 17 *And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?*
- 18 *And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?*
- 19 *And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:*
- 20 *And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.*
- 21 *But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.*
- 22 *Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre;*

⁵ Note: Some may say that the baptism of the Holy Ghost was not given until the day of Pentecost, which is supported by John 7:39. However, we know that Jesus Christ breathed His Spirit upon His disciples prior to this day as noted in John 20:22. Many experienced the confirming witness of His words as attested to by John 6:63.

- 23 *And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive.*
- 24 *And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.*
- 25 ***Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:***
- 26 *Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?*
- 27 *And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.*
- 28 *And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.*
- 29 *But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.*
- 30 *And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them.*
- 31 *And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.*
- 32 ***And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?***
- 33 *And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,*
- 34 *Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.*

While many more scriptures from the Bible could be cited, those quoted above appear sufficient to show that the statement made by Moroni in the Book of Mormon – one which has been cited by critics and opponents to the Book of Mormon as being errant counsel – is indeed consistent with the words of Jesus Christ contained in the New Testament of the Bible. Specifically, they confirm that the counsel found in Moroni 10:3-8 comes from the same Spirit of truth, who is the Holy Ghost or Comforter, of whom Jesus spoke. For He is a faithful and true witness sent of God to bear record of His Son, the One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life of the world (John 14:6).

I John 5:9

- 9 *If we receive the witness of men, **the witness of God is greater:** for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.*
- 10 *He that believeth on the Son of God **hath the witness in himself:** he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.*
- 11 *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.*
- 12 ***He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.***

Revelation 19:10

- 10 *And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren that have **the testimony of Jesus:** worship*

God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Conclusion: Moroni did not write errant doctrine. We can indeed have confidence in the Spirit of Prophecy Moroni admonished us to place our trust in; for the Spirit of Truth, whom God promised to give those who ask, seek, and knock, is “The Testimony of Jesus,” the One who was sent to abide in us and to lead us into all truth.

II Corinthians 3:17

17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Please feel free to send your questions or requests for clarifications to:

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