

*A Three-Fold Witness – Part 1*

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A week ago, during our family devotions on election night, we discussed what we should look for in a person when choosing who to support for leadership positions. I shared with our family three key witnesses I have been led to look for when choosing potential leaders to support.

**Prayer Life:** The first witness is prayer. Does the individual have an active personal faith evidenced by a spirit-filled prayer life? Here are several scriptures that have provided guidance for me with this witness.

*Now it was the custom among all the Nephites, to appoint for their chief captains, save it were in their times of wickedness, some one that had **the spirit of revelation, and also prophecy...***  
(III Nephi 2:24)

This is a good custom in my estimation, to choose leaders in who resides *the spirit of revelation and prophecy*. But how exactly is this custom connected with prayer? The answer is found in the following scripture, in which we are told we receive the Spirit of the Lord through prayer (cf. Jude 20,21).

*Remember that that which cometh from above is sacred, and must be spoken with care, and by constraint of the Spirit, and in this there is no condemnation; and **ye receive the Spirit through prayer**; wherefore, without this there remaineth condemnation.* (D&C 63:16a)

Consider Jesus Christ, our Lord. Luke reports that Jesus was *praying* when the Holy Ghost came upon Him following His baptism by John (see Luke 3:21,22 KJV, Luke 3:28,29 IV). Likewise, as His disciple, we too are to pray – to pray without ceasing, to be instant in prayer, to be continuously in prayer (Luke 21:36, I Thessalonians 5:17, Romans 12:12, Colossians 4:2, etc.). Why? It is so we might have His Spirit in abundance, i.e. to be filled with His Holy Spirit (cf. Acts 4:31 & Ephesians 5:17-20).

*But this is not all: they had given themselves to **much prayer**, and fasting, therefore **they had the spirit of prophecy, and the spirit of revelation**, and when they taught, they taught with power and authority, even as with the power and authority of God.* (Alma 12:5)

Summed up, those who exercise faith in Jesus Christ through *the prayer of faith* are individuals in whom the Spirit of our Lord resides. Thus they are equipped to lead in a good and Godly manner. I'll share the other two witnesses in future e-mails.

In Jesus Christ, our Life,

Dwight