

# Shenandoah

## church of Christ

# TRIUMPH

“Do you know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it” (1 Cor. 9:24)

## The Holy Spirit (3)

*Gabriel Rodriguez*

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Generally speaking, there is no dispute over the role of the Father and Jesus Christ in the lives of Christians today. Much of our dispute and speculation arises when speaking about the role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians. Some say that the Holy Spirit continues to impact lives in a direct way (i.e., personal indwelling and miraculous manifestations), while others claim that the fruit of the Holy Spirit (i.e., the word of God) is what impacts men today. But which claim seems to be consistent with the Scriptures, logic, reason, and common sense?

To understand how God impacts us in life, then and today, we must first understand how man is impacted (motivated) in life. Let's consider the very beginning and analyze the creation of man. We read in Genesis 1:26 and 2:7 that God made man in his own image and “*breathed into him*” (animated, to bring to life, physically and spiritually) certain character traits which mimicked the Godhead; traits such as mind (Jn. 4:24) (giving rise to intellect, emotion, and free will - choice) and eternal life (i.e., a life with no end, Matt. 25:46). What we learn from this is, God prepared man well for the physical life he had blessed him with. But we determine, based on experience, logic, and common sense, that the most important feature of

man was/is his mind. With mind, which gives us thought, conversation, willpower, and discipline, action is achieved (Gen. 2:16-17). And although man was given these tools, we read in Genesis 2:18 that Adam felt lonely. In other words, Adam felt a physical void, which his mind could not give him. Therefore, God made woman (Eve), a counterpart, and blessed her with the same properties as Adam. She was then given to Adam as his wife (Gen. 2:21-24). This union revealed something amazing. It revealed how people impact lives (i.e., sociality). In other words, because each possessed mind, which gave rise to individual (freewill) thought, idea, and action, each could think and do things that would affect each other, either positively or negatively. We see an example of this positive impact as Eve gave Adam a sense of togetherness, camaraderie, and love, (Gen. 2:25), but we also see a negative impact as Eve influenced Adam to eat of the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3:1-7).

What this reveals is, a mind has the power to affect someone's else mind. Although Adam, as well as Eve, had power over their own minds to think, feel, and choose, their ability to affect each other mentally would reveal the process of influence. May God be praised!

# An Analysis of 1 Corinthians 12-14 (2)

## Church News and Announcements

### CONGREGATION

The Ladies' Bible class and Men's Training class is today at 4:00 pm. The ladies will be studying lesson 11 in their book and the men will continue their study in Zephaniah.

### YOUTH

Our next youth devotional is scheduled for March 18 at the home of the Rodriguez family. Please make plans to attend.

### YOUNG ADULT

Our next young adult devotional will be announced soon. Please make plans to attend.

### AREA NEWS

See Bulletin Board for area wide meetings.

Continuing the theme of unity and rejection of church division, Paul made it clear that no man had the right to uplift themselves: "...that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another" (4:6). Paul validated this point by using the example of the apostle's ministry. Although an apostle was given authority to act on Christ's behalf, the apostles didn't uplift themselves, rather they and their ministry was "made a spectacle unto the world" (4:9). The apostles became "fools for Christ's sake... weak... despised... hungry, thirsty, naked, buffeted, and homeless... reviled... persecuted... defamed... and were made the fifth and offscouring of the world" (4:10-13). The point was, if promotion of self was the goal of life, then why did the apostles go through such difficult moments in life? The point was, life is not about us, but Christ and doing His will. Simply, our job is to become instructors for Christ by living a moral and ethical life, which others could witness and follow (4: 15-17; 11:1).

But when word came to Paul about the state of the Corinthian church, Paul was displeased and angered, saying, "For the kingdom of God is not word, but in power. What will ye? shall I come unto you with a rod, in love, and in the spirit of meekness?" (4: 20-21). In other words, the kingdom of Christ (Christians) was supposed to impact the world, not merely with words, but through action/example (Jas. 1:22-24, cf, Matt. 5:13-16). Therefore, Paul asked the Corinthian brethren how they wanted him to respond to their sordid behaviors - with a rod or in love?

Paul then addressed several matters affecting the influence of the kingdom. In chapter 5 verse 1, Paul said, "It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as

named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife." The church had accepted an incestuous sexual affair between a son and mother, which Paul said not even among the Gentile community would this be permissible. The kingdom of Christ was supposed to have championed holiness and purity (5:6-8), but the church had become an example of corruption and worldliness. Paul said that the only way to remedy the situation was to "put away from among yourselves that wicked person" (5:13). Why? "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" (5:6). If the kingdom was to make an impact in the world, it would come when Christians took sin seriously and expunged it from their presence.

He then addressed in chapter 6 verses 1-8 another situation that had plagued the church. Members of the church were suing each other in Gentile courts, of which Paul logically argued, "Do you not know that the saints shall judge the world; therefore are you unworthy to judge in the smallest matters" (v.2). In other words, why can't Christians resolve problems on their own? Why does it take for them to come before a pagan court and showcase the immaturity of brethren who are unwilling to handle matters on their own? Paul advised that it would have been better to suffer loss than to give a poor example (vss. 7-8). Paul then ended this section with a reminder to the brethren that they were once fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, homosexual, thieves, covetous, drunks, party people, and extortioners, of which they would not be allowed in the kingdom of God (6:9). But they were now "washed, sanctified, and justified" (6:11). Paul message was: "You're different now, act like it! Don't continue in the same lifestyle you abhorred and rejected, solidify a righteous life and become an honorable example to all men!" (Matt. 5:14-16). GR

## WHAT SAITH THE LORD?

Nearly two thousand years ago an important question was raised before the Apostles after they had delivered the good news of Jesus's life, death, burial, and resurrection (Acts 2:21-36). The hearer's conscience were pricked of sinful conduct (2 Cor. 7: 10-11) and asked: "*Men and brethren, what shall we do* (in order to be saved)? (Acts 2:37). Without hesitation, Peter elevated his voice and proclaimed: "*Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*" (Acts 2:38).

Upon hearing the words of Peter, the people obeyed. This demonstrated their belief in Christ (Jn. 8:24). Hence, they repented of sin and confessed allegiance to the name of Christ (Matt. 10:32-33). Afterwards, the people were baptized for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:41, cf. Mrk. 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21).

The people's submission to the words of salvation granted them a relationship with God the Father by accessing citizenship into the church of Christ (Acts 2:47, cf. Matt. 16:18; Mrk. 9:1; Acts. 2:1-4). As a member of Christ's body (Acts 8:4) the people were then encouraged to live faithful unto death by conquering sin in their lives (Rev. 2:10; Rom. 6: 4-12; 2 Tim. 4: 6-8). We then await for the coming day in which all men shall be judged the word of God (Jn 12:48; Acts 17:30-31; 2 Cor. 5:10). Will we be ready?

## SHEPHERD'S CORNER

### It Is A Faith That Works By Love

"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love" (Gal. 5:6). Paul is clear in saying the outward show of religious form (like circumcision) is not what saves. What saves is faith, a faith that works and is molded by love. That sort of perfected faith will save. "But whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know we are in Him" (1 John 2:5). Love calls us to obey God. In that obedience to God's commands our faith is tested and grows. That kind of faith is then perfected and results in our confidence that we are "in Him".

This is the faith Hebrews 11 repeatedly speaks about. From Abel, to Noah, to Abraham, to Moses and all the rest, their faith was perfected by their obedience to God. Their trust in God called them to obey, even when it was hard or seemingly impossible. Yet, by testing God through obedience, their faith grew and was strengthened. Their faith was made perfect by the works they attempted. They were saved by faith, but a faith that was proven in the fires of life, over and over again.

"My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away, O let me from this day be wholly thine! When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold sullen stream shall o'er me roll; blest Savior, then in love, fear and distrust remove; O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!"

Ray Palmer 1808-1887

# CHURCH LEADERSHIP

### BISHOPS/SHEPHERDS/ELDERS

(1 Tim. 3: 1-6)

Brother Elwyn Hipp (830) 510-6311,  
Brother Wayne Holmes (210) 696-8597

### DEACON

(Acts 6: 1-5; 1  
Tim. 3: 7-12)

Brother Raul Baltierra  
(210) 843-9730

### GOSPEL PREACHER

(1 Cor. 9:1-16; 1 Tim.  
4:6; 2 Tim. 4: 2-5)

Brother Gabriel Rodriguez  
(210)315-4453



## February 28

### AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*  
 Opening Prayer: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*  
 Lord's Supper: *N. Esenowo; J. Mokry; M. de la Garza; T. Mayces*

Scripture: *Matt. 27:27-35*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *S. Hernandez*

### PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *B. Dorries*  
 Opening Prayer: *T. Mayces*  
 Song Leader: *Cong. Singing*  
 Lord's Supper: *A. Maldonado; R. Baltierra*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *S. Hernandez*

After Greeter: *J. Guillen*  
 Greeter/Usher: *J. Mora*  
 AV Duty: *J. Guillen*  
 Elder in charge: *W. Holmes*

### REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED

(by writing, calling, and praying)

Wayne Holmes  
 Richard Rodriguez  
 Rina White  
 Joe Guillen  
 Sarah Cannon  
 Olga (Joe's mother-in-law)  
 Ina Dial  
 David Sudhoff  
 Elijah Sudhoff  
 Roy Guajardo (battling Parkinsons)  
 Rose Scott (grandmother of Clay and Wes Bond)  
 Caral O'Banon  
 Joe Rendon (brother of Rosemary Rendon) - fighting high blood pressure and needs kidney transplant

### BATTLING CANCER:

Barbara Oakes      Johna Dorries  
 Abigail Reyes      Graciola Anderson  
 Lydia Cowan      George Jackson  
 Briana Nieves      Sonny Cary  
 Elwyn Hipp      Gwen Parker  
 Tomas Guillen

### SHUT-INS:

Dorothy Harper  
 Dazel Ball  
 Mildred Geest

### TRAVELING:

A. Jacob; Courtney Cobb (Japan)

### SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES MARCH

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:  
*Hipp*  
 Preparing Lord's Supper:  
*Neaves*  
 Auditorium Service Duties:  
*NA*  
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry room  
*NA*  
 Brother in charge of services:  
*S. Hernandez*

AM Theme:  
 "Praising God" - A Study in the book of Psalms  
 PM Theme:  
 Setting the Church in Order - A Study in the books of 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus

### AM Sermon:

*Psalms 42*

### PM Sermon:

*Congregational Singing*

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

March 2: A. Maldonado

March 9: R. Baltierra

March 16: E. Lerma

## FOR THE RECORD

### February 21

#### Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study      71  
 Sunday AM Worship      98  
 Sunday PM Worship      68  
 Wednesday Bible Study      40  
 Budget/Offering:      **\$2,140.02/ \$1,902.50**

Weekly Bible Readers: NA (Adult Bible class)

### SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Church email Address:

[shenandoah@shenandoahcofc.org](mailto:shenandoah@shenandoahcofc.org)

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

Sunday: Bible Study at 9:30 am; Worship at 10:30 am;  
 Worship at 5:00 pm.

Wednesday: Bible Study at 7:00 pm