

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 (1)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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The subject of the Holy Spirit is one that is often misunderstood and miscommunicated in the religious world. It's not that the Bible is clear on this matter, rather because of an improper translation of the word *pneuma* (the English word "spirit") and a faulty exegesis, ideas have been bandied that defy logic and good sense.

The mainstream teachings of the Holy Spirit stem from a 16th century Presbyterian theologian, by the name of John Calvin. He believed and taught in his book *Institutes*, that although Christ redeemed us, nobody could benefit from Christ's work unless he was united with him, and the concrete link of this union would come from the Holy Spirit. In other words, **the Spirit directly operates on the minds of believers** leading them to the salvational work of Christ. Therefore, from the thoughts and teachings of John Calvin a host of ideas about the Holy Spirit have pervaded Christianity, and it's the reason why the Holy Spirit continues to play a dominant role in Christian theology.

Hence, many believe and teach that the Holy Spirit continues to play an *active role* in the lives of Christians. But is this a correct assessment of what the Bible teaches concerning the work of the Holy Spirit? Does the Bible teach that the Holy

Spirit continues to play an active role in the lives of Christians?

In this written series, we'll look at a detailed explanation (*from the Scriptures*) of the role of the Holy Spirit and determine whether His activity has continued the same from the First Century. We'll examine whether claims made today concerning the role of the Holy Spirit makes logical sense.

In order for this study to be fruitful, a plea for emotions and/or mysticism must be avoided. The only way to assure we are submitting to the truth on this subject is by re-thinking things through in a logical and reasonable manner. When we think about God and how He made us, He made us with the ability to think reasonable. To think reasonably requires that we meditate and correctly connect the dots through logic and common sense. Too often in discussing the subject of the Holy Spirit, we allow our feelings to trump what is consistent with logic, good sense, and the Scriptures. Once we allow ourselves to be led by reason, then I am confident the truth on this matter will prevail.

So let's begin with our first questions, which we'll address next week. Who is the Holy Spirit? And, what role did the Holy Spirit play in the First Century? May God be praised!

An Analysis of 1 Corinthians 12-14

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon will be next Sunday, February 14, after the morning service.

Mark your calendars for our 28th Annual Lectures, Feb. 19-21: **The Superiority of the Christian System.** Brochures are in the foyer. Please begin to spread the word and invite family, friends, co-workers, and acquaintances.

YOUTH

The youth devotional will be hosted by the Dorries on February 12th in the annex building at 7:00 pm.

YOUNG ADULT

The young adult devotional is scheduled for February 26th. More details to follow.

AREA NEWS

See Bulletin Board for area wide meetings.

These chapters are well known for the subject of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This analysis will complement our keynote discussion concerning the subject of the Holy Spirit. When it comes to role of the Holy Spirit in the church today many often cite and refer to these chapters to help support their beliefs and actions. But we'll determine after an exegetical approach of this book and chapters whether mainstream interpretations fit with the original intent of this book and chapters.

As we begin, it is imperative we analysis the entire book of 1 Corinthians. This is called the remote context analysis. In doing so, we ask these questions: Who wrote the book? What was written? When was it written? To whom was it written? And, Why was it written? These questions will start to form the foundational thought process necessary for a correct view of chapters 12-14.

We begin with 1:1-2, which says, *"Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God...Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints...."* We learn that Paul, an apostle of Christ, is the author of this book, and he is writing to Christians who live in the city of Corinth. From a study of the book of Acts (chapter 18), we learn that Paul established Christians, the church of Christ, in Corinth around 50 A.D. Paul supported himself by working as a tentmaker as he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath and persuaded the Jews and the

Greeks (vss. 4-5). Paul remained there for a year and six months, teaching the word of God (v.11). But despite his spiritual efforts and accomplishments, some Jews made an insurrection against him and brought him to the judgment seat of Gallio, the deputy of Achaea (v. 12), claiming he had persuaded men to worship God country to the law of Moses (v.13). But Gallio rebuked the Jews for bringing in-house matters to his attention and he drove them from his judgment seat (vss. 14-16).

What we learn from a study of Acts is although Paul was able to convert some to Christ, there was still a large cultural and religious division between Jews and Greeks. This no doubt carried into the fledging church of Christ in Corinth. Constant wars and in-fightings among the church stalled its growth for Christ. And as we look into chapter one, we see this occurring. After Paul encouraged the brethren to be enriched by God's knowledge and remain confirmed to the end by being blameless in their conduct and character (1:5-8), Paul then discussed their continued problems, one he encountered in his initial visit - fighting and division among brethren. He addresses this division throughout the book. The brethren had become divided in thoughts and practices, which ultimately stemmed from pride, arrogance, and a carnal mind (1:18-31; 3:2-4). But Paul commanded them to fight for unity and peace with each other. May God be praised!

Bro. G. Rodriguez

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

Faith As A Mustard Seed

"For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there', and it shall move; and nothing shall be impossible for you" (Matt. 17:20). A mustard seed is among the smallest of seeds. It is so tiny that it can be difficult to see. But the mustard seed can grow into a plant large enough for the birds to nest within it (Matt. 13:32). Simply put, this speaks about a faith that may be small when it starts, but constantly grows into something bigger and bigger. There is no place for a stagnant faith that has quit stretching, quit trying, quit growing. A mustard seed faith can do great things, but only as it develops into the kind of faith God wants it too be.

This principle certainly applies to Abraham. It was not enough that he left his home in Ur (Gen.12). It was not enough that he accepted God's covenant and was circumcised (Gen.17). It was not that he had a son after waiting so long and being so old (Gen. 21). After all he had done to visibly express his faith, God was still asking Abraham to stretch his faith further. None of us can ever say we have enough faith. None of us can ever say we believe all we need to, or that we have trusted God as completely as we should. Each of us has the responsibility before God to continue to develop our faith.

Faith develops in two ways. The first is by hearing from God what He wants, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17). This requires ongoing, regular study of the Word of God. As we learn about God's will our understanding of God will deepen, our faith will expand. No one can develop faith without studying the Bible, which is God's word.

Bro. W. Holmes

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 7

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*
 Opening Prayer: *R. Baltierra*
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*
 Lord's Supper: *A. Maldonado; G. Rodriguez; S. Hernandez; E. Lerma*

Scripture: *Ps. 23*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *R. Baltierra Jr.*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *W. Holmes*
 Opening Prayer: *B. Dorries*
 Song Leader: *G. Rodriguez*
 Lord's Supper: *R. Baltierra; Z. Watkins*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *T. Mayces*

After Greeter: *C. Empett*
 Greeter/Usher: *J. Guillen*
 AV Duty: *T. Mayces*
 Elder in charge: *E. Hipp*

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
 Tomas Guillen (Brother of Joe) - Lymphoma

BATTLING CANCER:

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

SHUT-INS:

Dorothy Harper
 Dazel Ball
 Mildred Geest

TRAVELING:

A. Jacob; Courtney Cobb (Japan)

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES JANUARY

Organizing Monthly Luncheon:
Hernandez
 Preparing Lord's Supper:
Baltierra
 Auditorium Service Duties:
Baltierra
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry room
Baltierra
 Brother in charge of services:
R. Baltierra

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:
Psalm 40
PM Sermon:
True Discipleship (3)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

January 27: *M. de la Garza*
 February 3: *E. Hipp*
 February 10: *J. Guillen*

FOR THE RECORD

January 31

Attendance:
 Sunday Bible Study 47
 Sunday AM Worship 68
 Sunday PM Worship 42
 Wednesday Bible Study 50
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$3,075.50**

Weekly Bible Readers: 9/28 (Adult Bible class)

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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