

# 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 (21)

*Gabriel Rodriguez*

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True Faith Requires Belief in the Gospel of Christ

Here is the conclusion warranted by the Scriptures concerning the subject of the Holy Spirit. While the subject of the Holy Spirit gets a lot of press in religion, much of the subject is misunderstood because contexts and definition of words are not taken into consideration. While the Holy Spirit was sent to give us further instruction (knowledge) in how to live life (Jn. 16:26; 15:26; 16:13), it has always been up to us to make sure we live as God has called us to (Acts 2:40; Phil. 2:12). The purpose of the Holy Spirit, as His description says, was to give us the knowledge needed to make our minds pure (Matt. 5:9); a state needed to see God. But things become complicated because of the “*nature*” of man” (Eph. 2:3), meaning mental habits we form in life prior to becoming a Christian often impedes the goal of the Holy Spirit. This is why the battle has always been between **the flesh** (*wicked mental habits*) and **the spirit** (*a thinking, rational, and disciplined mindset*).

This battle between the old man and the new man (Col. 3:5,10; Eph. 4:17-23) becomes our responsibility to get rid of the old mind and form a new mind through study, meditation, understanding, and obedience to God’s will (Rom. 6:4-12). This is why Paul emphasized, “*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.....*” (Col. 3:16), because he knew it would take the knowledge the Holy Spirit, coupled with a disciplined mind (Pr. 4:23), to become different (2 Cor. 5:17). But by the same token, if we don’t take the responsibility to change and discipline our minds to become Christ-like, then we continue to allow the

carnal mind (1 Cor. 3:1-3), which we’ve created prior to becoming a Christian, to rule our lives. This was the argument of Paul in Romans 6-8.

The Holy Spirit has already done His work, and now the only thing left is, our response to God’s will. What God created in the beginning with regard to the human being was very good (Gen. 1:31). God saw the potential and greatness in man (Eccl. 7:29, cf. Ezek. 28:15) in overcoming any and all obstacles of life. That is to say, man can do all things if he sets his mind to it (Phil. 4:13). Man is capable of transforming his mind to what God truly desires for it to become - a pure mind. And this is the struggle we’ve put ourselves in, because we train our minds to become what it is. But since God is the giver of mind and has told us the potential for power within the mind, then it is no wonder that we can do anything we set our minds to (Matt. 21:21-22), even conquering sin (1 Jn. 4:4).

But sadly and regrettably, there are many folks that rely on the person of Holy Spirit to do what they should be doing. So you’ll hear statements like: “The HS leads and guides my life,” “The HS will tell me what to do,” and “I feel the HS within me steering me in the right direction.” Yet, the Holy Spirit doesn’t lead and guide us in a personal way, rather we must follow the Spirit’s message by knowing, understanding, and following His will for us. Many people want to shift the onus from them to the HS, when in reality it should be we who take control of our lives to create the mindset of Christ living in us (Gal. 4:19). May God be praised!

# An Analysis of 1 Corinthians 12-14 (21)

## Church News and Announcements

### CONGREGATION

The fellowship luncheon will be next Sunday, July 10, after the morning service. The menu will be potluck.

### YOUTH

There will be no youth devotional for the month of July.

### YOUNG ADULT

Our next young/middled age adult devotional will be on July 23rd at 7:00 pm in the home of James and Carly Mora. The menu is healthy potluck. We look forward to seeing you with us.

### AREA NEWS

See bulletin board in the foyer for many area wide meetings and youth events.

As I noted last week, the issue of speaking in tongues wasn't the issue Paul was concerned about in chapter 14, rather, did and would people "understand" the message spoken in the different language? Why? Because understanding is what ultimately leads to maturity and Christ-likeness. Paul would say in verses 4-5: "*He that speaks in an unknown language edifies himself; but he that prophesies edifies the church. I would that you all spoke with languages, but rather that you prophesied: for greater is he that prophesies than he that speaks in tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.*" The point was, if a person speaks in a different language and there is no one to interpret to make plain what he said (cf. Neh. 8:8), then he would only edify himself; therefore Paul noted, it was better for someone to declare God's word distinctly (prophesy) so that edification could take place. This is why Paul goes on to say, "*Now, brethren, If I come unto you speaking with different languages, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, knowledge, prophesy, or doctrine?*" (v.6). The rhetorical question was given: "What would it matter, either by revelation, knowledge, prophesy, or doctrine, if we didn't know what was being spoken?" Paul then said: "*And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? So likewise ye, except ye utter by your mouth words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air*" (vss. 7-9). The argument was, you can't know something until it has been made clear and understandable, like the sounds of instruments, which are used for melodious music and warning. Paul went on further: "*There*

*are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification. Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaks a barbarian, and he that speaks shall be a barbarian unto me*" (vss. 10-11). If someone doesn't understand what we say we become like a barbarian, meaning our speech becomes strange and foreign to them.

This is why Paul argued vociferously about what constitutes the best spiritual gift: "*Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church. Wherefore let him that speaks in an unknown language pray that he may interpret*" (vss. 12-13). The best gift of all was the ability to interpret and makes things clear. Why? Paul went on to say, "*For if I pray in an unknown language, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. Else when you bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupies the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he does not understand what you say*" (vss. 14-16). Understanding what someone says trumps all other endeavors, and in a prideful struggle within the Corinthian church concerning spiritual gifts, Paul wanted them to know that **understanding is the only thing that mattered**. Paul strengthened this thought by saying, "*Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in a unknown language*" (v. 19). The ability to speak in a different language didn't mean anything if no one knew what I said and meant. The goal was to edify, exhort, and comfort Christians, not cause confusion! 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

### True Faith Requires Belief In The Gospel Of Christ

In the great commission, Jesus told the apostles, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; he that believeth not shall be condemned" (Mark 16:15-16). Believe what? The gospel! It reveals the life of Jesus, His death and His resurrection. Jesus told the Jews, "Ye search the scriptures, because ye think that in them ye have eternal life; and these are they which bear witness of me" (John 5:39). It is truly ridiculous for anyone to claim that they believe in Jesus while they refuse to believe what He said! As Jesus told Satan, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4). Jesus promised that the apostles would speak His word (Luke 10:16; 12:12) as they were guided by the Holy Spirit (John 14:15,26; 16:13). Paul explains what that means: Which things also we speak, not in words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Spirit teacheth...When you received from us the word of the message, even the word of God, ye accepted it not as the word of men, but, as it is in truth, the word of God" (1 Cor. 2:13; 1 Thes. 2:13). The letters of Paul, James, Peter, John and Jude are no less the word of Jesus Christ than what we read in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

How important is the gospel of Christ? It is the "power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth" because it reveals the "righteousness of God" (Rom. 1:16-17). We are exhorted, "Receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your soul" (James 1:21). The apostle Peter writes of the inspiration of the gospel of Christ (2 Pet. 1:19-21), as did the apostle Paul (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Peter further writes of the Lord, "Seeing that his divine power hath granted unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that called us by his own glory and virtue" (2 Pet.1:3-4). The gospel provides all we need in the spiritual realm, to provide faith for salvation and the teachings for how to live. If we believe in Jesus, we believe in His gospel!

Jesus said it, "If ye believe not that I am, ye shall die in your sins." Do you really have "faith unto the saving of the soul" (Heb. 10:39)? Only if you really believe in Jesus. John said, "If you love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). That is what we must do.

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



## July 3

### AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Opening Prayer: *J. Mora*  
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*  
 Lord's Supper: *J. Mokry; N. Esenowo; E. Castillo; R. Baltierra*

Scripture: *Mrk. 15:33-39*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *Z. Watkins*

### PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Opening Prayer: *R. Trevino*  
 Song Leader: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Lord's Supper: *A. Maldonado; R. Baltierra Jr.*  
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*  
 Benediction: *M. de la Garza*

After Greeter: *J. Guillen*  
 Greeter/Usher: *S. Amos*  
 AV Duty: *R. Baltierra Jr.*  
 Elder in charge: *W. Holmes*

### REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED

(by writing, calling, and praying)

Wayne Holmes  
 Rina White  
 Joe Guillen  
 Sarah Cannon  
 Ina Dial  
 David and Elijah Sudhoff  
 Roy Guajardo (battling Parkinsons)  
 Rose Scott (grandmother of Clay and Wes Bond)  
 Caral O'Banon

#### BATTLING CANCER:

Barbara Oakes      Johna Dorries  
 Abigail Reyes      Graciola Anderson  
 George Jackson      Briana Nieves  
 Sonny Cary      Elwyn Hipp  
 Gwen Parker      Lori Main's father  
 Tomas Guillen

#### SHUT-INS:

Dorothy Harper  
 Dazel Ball  
 Mildred Geest

#### TRAVELING:

A. Jacob; Courtney Cobb (Japan); Mayces; Dorries (Ark); Baltierras (FL); Lyssys

**DEPLOYED:** Jimmie Cardenas

### SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES JULY

Organizing Monthly Luncheon: *Empett*  
 Preparing Lord's Supper: *Trevino*  
 Auditorium Service Duties: *Empett*  
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry room *Empett*  
 Brother in charge of services: *J. Guillen*

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 59*  
**PM Sermon:**  
*A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing (2)*

#### WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

June 29: *E. Hipp*  
 July 6: *W. Holmes*  
 June 13: *G. Rodriguez*

## FOR THE RECORD

### JUNE 26/29

**Attendance:**  
 Sunday Bible Study      34  
 Sunday AM Worship      57  
 Sunday PM Worship      34  
 Wednesday Bible Study      37  
 Budget/Offering:      **\$2,140.02/ \$1,244.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: 9/16 (Adult Bible class)

### SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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[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