

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 (7)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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If actions of others is what inspires people, and thoughts, ideas, and communication proceed action, then we begin to see the role of the Holy Spirit in the scheme of redemption. The role of the HS has always been communicating the word of God to others (e.g., Jn. 16:13; Acts 1:16; 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Pet. 1:20-21). Once knowledge is given, then it is up the individual to empower the word by thinking, meditating, and understanding the knowledge given. Once this occurs, then it is up to the individual to act upon that knowledge (choice and discipline). And once it is acted upon, then our example inspires others to do the same. This has always been the process by which God and man motivates us. But finally, to be motivated comes from within our own state of being; either we accept to change and live for God (e.g., Acts 2:37-38; 16: 30-31), or we don't (e.g., Acts 26:27-28).

So let's consider in detail what I just stated. Physiologically speaking, man lives because of oxygen. Oxygen moves through our body because of blood. Hence, the reason God said, "*Life is in the blood*" (Lev. 17:11). But more poignantly in our discussion is, communication stems from oxygen. When we speak, air is breathed out to utter sounds and words. Hence, the

etymology of the English word "*inspiration*," simply means to breathe into. The word then evolved to suggest "*tending to inspire*." And the word "*inspire*" is defined as to encourage someone to greater effort, enthusiasm, or creativity.

So as we put the pieces together logically we can see the demonstration of this in Genesis 1:3 and John 1:1-3, where God "*spoke*" into existence the creation of the world and mankind. With regard to mankind, we're told in Genesis 2:7 that God animated man, meaning God gave man life physically and psychologically, by "*breathing into his nostrils the breathe of life*." Hence, the power of speech is self-evident, and the reason the Proverb writer exclaimed, "*Death and life are in the power of the tongue...*" (18:21) and James said, "*And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity; so is the tongue among our members, the it defiles the whole body...*" (3:6). What we say has great power to inspire others or destroy them. This is why speech, like its ability to create, is a powerful tool in life. Hence, the power of words is what stimulates us to greater effort in life. Now we see why *communication* is all that mattered to God. With the power of speech, man could be motivated to do the will of God, but only if he allowed God's word to move him. MGBP!

An Analysis of 1 Corinthians 12-14 (7)

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

We are still collecting cream of chicken soups for the Children's Home of Lubbock. Please continue to bring these cans and place them in the box in the foyer.

The Ladies' Bible class and Men's training Class is today at 4:00 pm. The ladies will be discussing Lesson 11 in their book and the men will continue to study the book of Zephaniah.

Everyone is invited to a baby shower honoring the Hernandez family on April 3rd at 2:00 pm in the Annex building. Gift requests are diapers or gift cards to Babies R Us, Amazon, or Target.

YOUTH

Our next youth devotional will be tied in with our young adult devotional on April 16th at 11 am at the Del View Park. All families are invited to attend.

YOUNG ADULT

Young Adult and youth group picnic scheduled for April 16th at 11 am at the Del View Park. All families are invited to attend.

AREA NEWS

The Galena Park congregation has invited the youth and young adults to a camping trip (ages 12-24) at the SA KOA campsite at 602 Gambler Road on April 23-24. The speaker will be Obed Pineda. Meals will be provided.

Paul's concern now, as in any generation of men (1 Jn. 5:21), was to remove themselves from idolatry (10:14ff). This had been Israel's achilles heel in the past (10:7) and now it was resurfacing among the church in Corinth. And although the First Century church was plagued with physical idols, the ultimate idol of self is in constant view. Why self? Because we empower things. We give ourselves to serve idols, by first aggrandizing self, and secondly, by giving our minds to serve objects. So in the midst of reprimanding Christians in Corinth for their sordid behaviors (Chs. 5-8), encouraging them to deny self and helping all men (Ch. 9: 1-22), finishing their race of life strong (Ch. 9: 24-27), learning from past mistakes (10:1-12), and having a disciplined mind to overcome sin (10:13), Paul now centers on a subject that should set the tone for the rest of the book. The subject being, the Lord's Supper. First, as he encourages Christians to rid themselves of the idol of self and things, he says, *"The cup of blessing which we bless, it is not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ? For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread"* (10:16-17). Paul makes it very clear concerning the objective of the church using the example of the Lord's Supper, and that of "fellowship and oneness." In the midst of all their problems, fueled by carnality, selfishness, and conceit, Paul used the Lord Supper's meaning to encourage togetherness. When we think of the Lord Supper, it is a time (symbolically) that we fellowship with the Lord and our fellowman. But what exactly does this mean? Using the emblems of the Lord Supper, we come to find what fellowship is based on. It's based on perfectness (unleavened bread) and commitment (blood of Christ). So in

other words, what Christians in Corinth were lacking as evinced in the taking of the Lord Supper was, a resolve not to sin and a discipline to remain faithful to God. Why was this important? As Paul noted, because first it damages our relationship with Christ and second, each of their lives had the potential to affect their brethren's lives in a positive or negative way. This is why Paul then said, *"Behold Israel after the flesh: are not they which eat of the sacrifice partakers of the altar?"* (10:18). In other words, we become what we allow ourselves to fellowship, and in this case, it was having *"fellowship with devils"* (10:20-21). What did this mean? The idea of "devils" suggested a twisted and perverse mind, leading to sullied actions. But what was Paul's command? "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not" (10:23). Just as in 6:12, Paul addressed the crux of the matter, which was ultimately self-discipline.

If we want to achieve the command of being spiritually perfect leading to resolved commitment unto God, then we must so focused in our thought process and action toward righteousness that no one or nothing will keep me from achieving this goal. And why was it important that we stay focused and disciplined, because we have others that we need to guide and provide a wonderful example for. You see, Paul noted, Christianity is about the other person, leaving a wonderful example by which others can follow. Christianity was never about self, but it was serving the best interests in others. Why? Because all men need a leader in their lives, for mankind is like sheep being led to the slaughter. Hence, Paul said, "Let no man seek his own, but every man another's" (10:24). **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

The Biblically Exclusive Church

The church you find in your Bible was not a sect nor a denomination! God was its Author and Designer: "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Eph. 3:10-11). Paul recognized there was a higher Power guiding and directing his work: "According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 3:10-11). Paul states that he, with all saints, constitute this exclusive relationship with Christ Jesus; 'Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit' (Eph. 2:19-22). Only in part does this portray the wonderful, exclusive relationship Christians have with the Father and Son in the church!

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



MARCH 27

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *E. Hipp*
 Opening Prayer: *J. Mora*
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*
 Lord's Supper: *R. Baltierra; B. Dorries; T. Mayces;*

Scripture: *Lk. 23:33-38*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *S. Hernandez*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *E. Hipp*
 Opening Prayer: *R. Baltierra*
 Song Leader: *Cong. Singing*
 Lord's Supper: *S. Hernandez; G. Rodriguez*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *R. Baltierra Jr.*

After Greeter: *E. Creek*
 Greeter/Usher: *J. Guillen*
 AV Duty: *M. de la Garza*
 Elder in charge: *E. Hipp*

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
 Glenn Gribble
 Torres' family
 Rose's aunt (Mary Hardiman)
 LA flood victims
 Sister Lydia Cowan passed away on Wednesday morning.

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 (rehab, following surgery)
 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:

Psalm 45

PM Sermon:

Congregational Singing

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

March 23: B. Dorries

March 30: R. Trevino

April 6: W. Holmes

FOR THE RECORD

March 20

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 42
 Sunday AM Worship 63
 Sunday PM Worship 42
 Wednesday Bible Study 42
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$1,521.00**

Weekly Bible Readers: 4/22 (Adult Bible class)

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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