

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 (14)

Gabriel Rodriguez

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The act of water baptism mimics a burial/death (Rom. 6:3-4). While the entire body is submerged under water, there is something that is occurring. According to Peter, nothing is happening to our bodies, rather our conscience (mind) is being cleansed (1 Pet. 3:21, cf. Acts 23:1). And it is our conscience (mind) where actions of sins are stored (Heb. 10:2). The reason why water is used is because it is life giving agent (Jn. 4:9-14). But according to Hebrews 9:14, the blood of the blood of Christ (a life giving agent, Lev. 17:11; 1 Jn. 1:7), “*purges our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.*” In other words, Christ resuscitates us by infusing life into our dead minds (Eph. 2:1). But how does this work? The life and example of Christ demonstrates to us the possibility of triumphing over sin (1 Pet. 2:21-24). This is why the process of salvation beings with the command to repent, which means we must begin the mental process of changing our evil thoughts and actions toward righteousness and godliness. Once this occurs, we submit to water baptism, which washes our past actions of sin by putting us in contact with the blood of Christ (symbolically). It is in the waters of baptism that the blood (life) of Christ infuses us with new life, meaning God promises to wash away past sins and give us a new beginning (Acts 22:16). A new beginning to renew our minds/spirits. And this is where Romans 6:4-8:17 focuses on - the Christian’s personal transformation from wickedness to righteousness.

What people don’t understand with regard to baptism is, baptism doesn’t wash away

mental habits we’ve formed in life. For example, if we were addicted to drugs, pornography, thievery, and cursing, these addictions will continue to be there mentally after baptism. This is why Paul said, “*That ye put off concerning the former life the old man, which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind*” (Eph. 4:22-23). This responsibility falls upon each individual. Christians are responsible for their own transformation through several avenues: hard work and discipline (Lk. 2:40,52), and guidance from God’s word (Jas. 1:21-24). This is why Paul said, “*Put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness*” (4:24). Our goal is to supplant our old habits of mind with new habits of mind. This is why Paul likened rising from the waters of baptism to a resurrection (Rom. 6:4). A resurrection to “*...walk in the newness of life*” (Rom. 6:4c). The word “newness” means, we’re responsible in conforming to new quality of living, which means thinking and acting differently. Paul went on further to say, “*Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin*” (Rom. 6:6), which meant: “*And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts*” (Gal. 5:24). Note, the old man (i.e., habits of sin) can only be destroyed when we make the choice to end it. In other words, we’re responsible for changing our ways and ending sin in our life (Acts 2:40; Phil. 2:12). May God be praised!

An Analysis of 1 Corinthians 12-14 (14)

Church News and Announcements

CONGREGATION

The men's dinner will be May 24, while the Ladies' Get-together will be on May 26. Sign up sheets are in the foyer.

The Sunny Glen Children's Home is asking for Liquid Laundry Detergent and Powdered Drink Mixes. As before, you can either purchase these items on your own and place them in the library or give a check to one of the elders, memo the check for Sunny Glen, and the elders will buy what they need in bulk. We have till June 14 to make purchases or give donation.

The Ladies Bible class and Men's training class will be on May 22 at 4:00 pm. The ladies will be studying lesson 13 and the men will be studying the book of Haggai as presented by bro. Austin Maldonado.

YOUTH

Our next youth devotional will be in June. Day and time to be announced later.

YOUNG ADULT

The young adult devotional will be hosted by sister Carolyn on May 27th at 7:00 pm. More details to come later.

AREA NEWS

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

The three words which give true clarity to chapter 12 are "gifts," "administrations," and "operations." As we learned last week, each word spelled out the true function of the "spiritual" (mental; mind). *Gifts* referred to ability/talents; *administrations* referred to service, servant; and *operations* referred to working for others or making oneself strong. Putting these thoughts together, God gave "diversities and differences" of abilities/talents to be used to serve one another with the goal of making each other stronger (Heb. 10:23-24). This is consistent with the idea of unity Paul argued throughout this book (1:10-13; 3:1-5; 11:22-33). Paul's point was, despite differences in abilities/talents, which incidentally come from a unified Godhead: "the same spirit" (v.4), "the same Lord" (v.5), and "the same God" (v. 6), each person was to serve and help each other with the abilities and talents given them (Rom. 12:3-18). This is further confirmed in verse 7 when Paul said, "But the manifestation of the spirit is given to every man to profit withal." The word "spirit" in this passage doesn't refer to the HS, rather an individual, namely his mind leading to actions. Let me explain. Paul had been talking about Christians given various abilities/talents for the purpose of serving and helping each other; hence, "the manifestation of spirit" was an exhibition or expression of one's mind/action, which was to "profit withal." The word "profit" is the Greek word *sumphero* and is defined as bringing something

together for the benefit of another. In other words, the ability/talent brought would be for the benefit of others. Hence, there was no ability/talent more important than each other, rather all were to be used for edification. Let's consider the abilities and talents mentioned. They were *wisdom, knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning spirits, speaking in different languages, and interpreting different languages* (vss. 9-11). There seems to be a progression mentioned, rather than a random set of abilities and talents. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that the first mentioned deal specially with thought process and action, which would include *knowledge, understanding, wisdom, and faith*. Although understanding isn't mentioned, it is clearly implied. The process of knowing and action is filtered through knowledge (induction of information), and once we have the information, it is our responsibility to understand what the knowledge means. This requires meditation, critical thinking skills, which includes logic, reason, and common sense. And once knowledge is understood correctly, then wisdom can take place, which is applying the knowledge appropriately, leading to skill of living. But then afterwards, one must be committed to faithfully following wisdom, which requires trust and obedience (faith). But were these first abilities and talents mentioned miraculous or natural processes? **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

A Faith Of Fear

Some people live their lives before God as if waiting for terrible things to happen. They see God as some terrible judge or they think that terrible things await them that God cannot control. Faith with fear will not save, because it implies we don't trust God to take care of us. "You believe that God is one. You do well: the demons also believe, and shudder" (James 2:19). To believe in God is wonderful, but it isn't enough. Even demons believe in God. However, their faith in God leads them to fear and tremble, not to trust and intimacy. When people demonstrate a fearful faith, they ally themselves with Satan, not with God.

As previously mentioned (John 3:16), God sent Jesus so that those of us who trust Him will not perish. The whole purpose of the life and death and resurrection of Jesus is to assure us of our salvation. Fear tells us we are not saved, or that God may not really forgive us, or that we are not deserving of His grace, and on and on. But faith convinces us to put our trust in God and His word to us, not in our self-doubts. "By this, love is perfected with us, that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love" (1 John 4:17-18).

A fearful believer is looking at and trusting the wrong things. When Peter walked on water, he did fine until he started looking at the effects of the wind and realizing how dangerous it was to walk on water, then he became afraid (Matt. 14:29-31). At the end of this Jesus accused Peter by saying, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?. Fear is a sign of weak faith. Will that faith save?

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



May 15

AM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*
 Opening Prayer: *M. de la Garza*
 Song Leader: *A. Maldonado*
 Lord's Supper: *R. Baltierra Jr.; S. Hernandez; E. Castillo; J. Guillen*

Scripture: *Isa. 53:1-5*
 Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *J. Mokry*

PM WORSHIP

Announcements: *G. Rodriguez*
 Opening Prayer: *S. Hernandez*
 Song Leader: *R. Trevino*
 Lord's Supper: *A. Maldonado; J. Mokry*

Sermon: *G. Rodriguez*
 Benediction: *Z. Watkins*

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
 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)

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)

DEPLOYED: Jimmie Cardenas

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES MAY

Organizing Monthly Luncheon: *Garcia*
 Preparing Lord's Supper: *Dorries*
 Auditorium Service Duties: *Garcia*
 Wash baptismal garments; clean cry room *Garcia*
 Brother in charge of services: *B. Dorries*

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 51

PM Sermon:

Titus Introduction

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DEVOTIONAL

May 18: *T. Mayces*

May 25: *G. Rodriguez*

FOR THE RECORD

May 8

Attendance:

Sunday Bible Study 54
 Sunday AM Worship 73
 Sunday PM Worship 33
 Wednesday Bible Study 48
 Budget/Offering: **\$2,140.02/ \$2,121.25**

Weekly Bible Readers: NA (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