

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Valencia Harvin

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Sibio Farrington

Assisting: Tyler Christian
Ron Austin

Sermon: Dustin Pool

Closing Prayer: Ricardo Alvillar

Those serving Wednesday

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Chad Futrell

Teacher: Chad Futrell

Announcements: Byran Hatcher

Closing Prayer: John Patchell

Pantry Item

Snack Crackers

Sermon Notes
Exhortations of a Brother

July 9, 2023

Welcome!

Cape Fear
Church of Christ

3808 Village Dr
Fayetteville, NC
28304

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Website:
capefearcoc.org
Find us on
Facebook!

Service Times

Sunday:
B. C. 9:00am
Worship 10:00am

Wednesday Night:
B. C. 7:00pm

Ladies' Class:
Tuesdays 10:00am

Elders
Wade Hedgepeth
Byran Hatcher

Volume 42 Issue 2

The
Cape Fear Crier

“Cry aloud and shout...for great in the midst of thee is the Holy One of Israel.” Isaiah 12:6

The Spirit And His Sword

A misconception of the Holy Spirit and His work leads to all kinds of religious errors. The Holy Spirit is a divine Person of the God-head. He is one with the Father and the Son (Acts 17:29; Rom. 1:20). There is one God who consists of three distinct personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19; Acts 5:3-4; John 1:1-3,14).

Christ, before He left this earth to return to the Father, promised the power of the Holy Spirit to the apostles to guide them into all the truth (John 16:13; Luke 24:49). The baptism of the Holy Spirit came to the apostles on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2). They, guided by the Spirit, preached to the people, and the Bible says, “*Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart*” (Acts 2:37). Thus, from the words of the Spirit spoken by Peter and the eleven, the people were made believers and were instructed on what to do to be saved.

Later, the Holy Spirit inspired and guided men to give God’s complete and perfect will. Paul wrote: “*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works*” (II Tim. 3:16-17). The Bible is, therefore, the perfect **and** complete will of God.

The examples of conversion in the Book of Acts clearly illustrate how the Holy Spirit operates upon the sinner in conversion. On the day of Pentecost, the people heard, believed and obeyed the Spirit’s message given by Peter (Acts 2:36-38). The Ethiopian officer heard and believed the Gospel teaching about Christ, confessed his faith in the Lord, and was baptized, and then went on his way rejoicing (Acts 8:35-39). Lydia and her household and the jailer and his household heard the Gospel and obeyed the Lord and were saved from their sins (Acts 16:1-14, 25-34).

The Word of God is the “sword of the Spirit” (Eph. 6:17). So the Spirit influenced them, but not in a direct manner -- He used His sword. The Holy Spirit is a person. The Gospel, God’s inspired word,

is the instrument. Note the example: “John cuts down his tree with an axe.” John cuts down the tree -- the axe cuts down the tree. John, a person, exerts his power indirectly through an instrument to cut down the tree. Now apply this illustration to the teaching of the Bible concerning God’s power for man’s conversion.

The Gospel is the instrument which the Holy Spirit always uses in His work of Christian conversion and leading and directing the child of God to go to heaven. Note these statements teaching this:

1. One must be born of the Spirit (John 3:5). But how? It is through the Word: *“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, By the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever”* (I Peter 1:23). *“Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth”* (James 1:18). *“For in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel”* (I Cor. 4:15). So, where an act is said to have been performed by a person and by a certain instrument, it is clearly understood that the person did the “act” but used the instrument as a “means.”

2. A person is “quickened” by the Spirit through the Word. *“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins”* (Eph. 2:1). *“...For thy word hath quickened me”* (Psalm 119:5; 93). *“It is the spirit that quickeneth, the flesh profiteth nothing: The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life”* (John 6:63).

3. One is converted by the perfect law of God: *“The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul”* (Psalm 19:7). *“...Receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls”* (James 1:21). *“...Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved”* (Acts 11:14).

4. A person is drawn to the Lord by the teaching of the word: *“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him... and they shall all be taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me”* (John 6:44-45).

5. One is made clean through obedience to the Lord’s teaching: *“Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you”* (John 15:3; cf. Psalm 119:9).

6. One is sanctified by the Lord in obedience to the word: *“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth”* (John 17:17; cf. I Cor. 6:11).

7. The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit dwells indirectly in the hearts of all the children of God through their obedience to the word, as does Christ and the Father: *“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you”* (I Cor. 3:16)?

There is no personal, direct indwelling of God the Father or of Christ or of the Holy Spirit in the heart of God’s obedient children. It is an indirect indwelling through the conduit of the word. Other than the Gospel there is no additional power or influence, in a direct way, in addition to, God’s word, that is given to man for his soul’s salvation.

By the Numbers

Attendance 7/2/23
Bible Class: 36
A.M. Worship: 56
Wed. B. C.: 34

Family News and Notes

Carlton Norris, Jeanette Freshley’s dad, is undergoing chemo treatments. Jeanette is with her parents in West Virginia. **Geraldine Cook** is having some health challenges. **Laurence Shaver’s** brother is going to have surgery in Arkansas. **Carlee Pool, Kyle Pool’s** grandmother, is doing some better but please keep her in prayers. **John Patchell’s** niece is struggling with her health. **John Williams** is doing much better. His last knee surgery has been rescheduled for August. **Margaret Langston** fell and was injured but is doing a little better. **Frances Salaz** is going through chemo. **Linda Hernandez** has a significant heart problem. Let’s remember one another in prayer. Pray for our world leaders at this time. Active military: Pray for all active duty military members; they could be called to a conflict area at a moment’s notice. Remember to pray for their families as well. We have 5 active duty members here at Cape Fear. Also remember: **Margaret Langston, Vicky Carver, Deborah Ross, Sandra Hedgepeth**, and the **Davis** family. Please pray for those in Bible Studies - teachers and students!

Bible Reading Plan

July 9	July 10	July 11	July 12	July 13	July 14	July 15
Is 33-36	Is 37-41	Is 42-46	Is 47-53	Is 54-58	Is 59-62	Is 63-66
Ps 8	Ps 9	Ps 10	Ps 11	Ps 12	Ps 13	Ps 14

Events

LBC: continues this Tuesday at 10. New study beginning this Tuesday
Men’s Training: Sunday, July 23, after morning worship. For all men of the congregation.
Teachers’ Meeting: Sunday July 30th. After morning worship. For all teachers.

