

Privileged to Serve

Morning Worship

Announcements: Sibio Farrington

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Opening Prayer: Kyle Pool

Lord's Table:
Presiding: Tyler Christian

Assisting: Cam Christian
Jon Anderson

Sermon: Byran Hatcher

Closing P.: Ben Grant

Those serving Wednesday

Teacher: Chad Futrell

Announcements: Chad Futrell

Devotional: Byran Hatcher

Song Leader: Chad Futrell

Closing Prayer: Phil Byrd

Pantry Item
Chili

Sermon Notes *Father of the Faithful*

I. *The* _____

II. *The* _____

III. *The* _____

December 1, 2024

Welcome!

Cape Fear
Church of Christ

3808 Village Dr
Fayetteville, NC
28304

Phone:
(910) 425-1108

Website:
capefearcoc.org
Find us on
Facebook!
Sermons are
archived on our
YouTube page!

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 47 Issue 9

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 Work of the Holy Spirit In Salvation

Most have a concept of Christianity which includes some mysterious work of the Holy Spirit to change one's life. The Bible teaches the Spirit operates upon man to create faith, convict of sin and convert the soul. But the question is, does the Holy Spirit operate *directly* on man or does He work through, the word of God? That is, in every case of conversion does the Holy Spirit operate apart from the Bible to save a soul?

The Bible states that the “sword of the Spirit” is the word of God (Eph. 6:17). This word is “*quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart*” (Heb. 4:12). These two verses show that the Spirit does not operate directly upon man, but through a means — the tool in use is the word of God. It is much like a man who went to cut down a tree. Did the man himself cut down the tree or did the saw he used cut down the tree? Obviously, the man did cut down the tree, but he used a tool to do so, a saw. The saw was designed specifically to be used for that purpose!

Suppose the Holy Spirit did operate directly upon mankind apart from the word of God. What would be the results? God does not want anyone to be lost (2 Peter 3:9). He is also no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). Therefore, the Spirit would act uniformly on everyone. Since the Holy Spirit is part of the Godhead, He is all powerful. So it should be the case that everyone would be saved. There can be no other outcome when

an irresistible force operates directly upon a very moveable object such as man. But Jesus said, *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven”* (Matt. 7:21). The sad reality is that not everyone will be saved, though God is no respecter of persons. This is because not everyone chooses to do the will of God.

If the Spirit operated directly on mankind apart from the word of God, the New Testament would not be needed to convert people from their sinful lives. Conversion would depend entirely on the work of the Holy Spirit. If someone was not converted, the blame would lie at the feet of God. Who would dare charge God with a failure to accomplish His will? If God was unable to accomplish His will, He would cease to be God. The truth was stated long ago: *“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it”* (Isa. 55:11). Preaching God’s word will harden some hearts and soften others. The sun will melt wax but harden clay. Different effects are the result of the differing natures of the materials. So it is with mankind. Some will choose to believe and obey while others choose not to believe to their destruction.

If the Spirit operated directly in salvation, why even bother preaching? Here is a curious thing. Those who advocate a direct operation of the Holy Spirit preach it! Since the Holy Spirit is God, He has the attributes of God and, therefore, is omnipresent. He would be able to reveal his message directly to each person. Jesus told his apostles, *“ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth”* (Acts 1:8). Without a knowledge of God’s word, one cannot have faith in Jesus Christ since faith comes by hearing the word of God (Rom. 10:17). The Bible nowhere states that faith comes by the direct operation of the Holy Spirit. Faith is the result of one hearing the gospel message preached or read in the New Testament. The Holy Spirit is active in saving souls, but He is active through the means of the word in His work.

-BTH

By the Numbers

Weekly Attendance for 11/24 B.C.: 27 Daily Bible Readers: 10
Chapters Read: 307 Worship: 55 Wednesday: 35

Family News and Notes

Gloria Emerick’s mother, **Gladys Wallace**, passed away peacefully surrounded by her children last week. Gloria has made it back home safely. **Irene Frydler** was baptized into Christ Wednesday afternoon! Welcome to the Cape Fear family! **Jan Keen** continues her chemotherapy. We have been encouraged by her attendance at worship. **Carole Pearson**, Dave Carver’s cousin is still recuperating from a stroke and hurricane damage to her home. **Margaret Langston** is in Carolina Inn. **Carlton Norris, Jeanette Freshley’s** dad, is in hospice care. **Linda Jenkins’** son, **Shannon**, is struggling with mental health issues. **Kim Perkins’** parents need prayers, also remember her brother **Kris Wain**. Pray for all active duty military members and their families. We have 4 active duty members here at Cape Fear. Also remember: **Margaret Langston, Vicky Carver, Sandra Hedgepeth, Barry & Melany Hatcher, Frances Salaz, Linda Hernandez**, and the **Davis** family. Please pray for those in Bible Studies - teachers and students!

Bible Reading Plan

Dec 1	Dec 2	Dec 3	Dec 4	Dec 5	Dec 6	Dec 7
1 Cor 8-12	1 Cor 13-16	2 Cor 1-4	2 Cor 5-7	2 Cor 8-10	2 Cor 11-13	Gal 1-4

Events

Holiday Baskets: December 13 & 14. See Chad for details.
Holiday Party: at the Hatchers’, Saturday, December 14th @ 3:00pm.
New Years’ Singing: Tuesday, Dec. 31st.

