

The South Florida Avenue **MESSENGER**

A Friendly Church With a Vital Message Proclaiming the Unsearchable Riches of the Lord Jesus.
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ELDERS

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Jimmy Sweeney

MINISTER

Hiram Kemp

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

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SECRETARY

Dee Parramore

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SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00 a.m.
Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill.....Russia
Don Iverson.....India
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Joey Treat.....Pacific Islands
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[SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist](https://www.youtube.com/SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist)



Sundays @ 7:00 a.m. Ch. 18
7:30 a.m. on Ch. 4

First Corinthians 14 Regulating Miraculous Gifts (Part 1)

Brian R. Kenyon

Paul's extensive treatise to the Corinthians on miraculous spiritual gifts comes to an end in First Corinthians 14. In this treatise so far, Paul has already addressed the nature of miraculous gifts (1 Cor. 12:1-11), miraculous gifts and the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:12-31), and the fact that love is "more excellent" than miraculous gifts (1 Cor. 13:1-13). In this final chapter of the discourse, Paul teaches the Corinthians how those gifts were to be regulated in their assemblies. Although the miraculous age has ended (1 Cor. 13:8-13), studying this chapter is still valuable because, in addition to learning more of God's word, it shows a sharp contrast between the first century church (when miraculous gifts were real and demonstrable) and people today who claim to possess miraculous gifts. There is a completely different emphasis found in truth when compared with error.

Prophecy Is Preferred Over Tongues

Paul begins by telling the Corinthian Christians that they must pursue love and desire gifts: "Pursue love [follow after charity, KJV], and desire spiritual gifts" (1 Cor. 14:1a). The desire for miraculous gifts was not wrong in and of itself, but the desire to have these gifts for the sake of boasting was wrong. Since miraculous gifts have ceased (1 Cor. 13:8-13), this command to desire them was obviously only a temporary obligation, not applicable today.

The Corinthians were to desire prophecy above speaking in tongues: "but especially that you may prophesy" (1 Cor. 14:1b). Paul gives two reasons why prophesying is to be preferred to speaking in tongues. First, the one who speaks in tongues speaks only to God, because God is the only one who knows the meaning of what is being said, "For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries" (1 Cor. 14:2). The word "unknown" in "unknown tongue" (KJV) is added by the KJV translators. It should simply read, "tongue" as in the New King James. "Tongues," as used in the Bible, referred to real languages (cf. Acts 2:4-11), not to some "Holy Ghost" gibberish that so called tongue speakers claim to speak today! The context in First Corinthians 14 is an assembly where no one speaks that particular language and/or an assembly where no one is available to translate or interpret. Thus, only God understands what is being said. The one who speaks still reveals God's truth. The term "mysteries" refers to that which was once hidden, but has now been revealed (cf. 1 Cor. 2:7; 4:1; 15:51; Eph. 3:4-9).

Second, prophesying results in edification for all. “For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. ³But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. ⁴He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church” (1 Cor. 14:2-4). The one who prophesies speaks to people rather than just to God. Whereas the tongue speaker might truly speak the “mysteries” of God, but he would do so in a language that nobody could understand. The prophet, however, would speak in the language of his hearers and could thus be understood. The difference is between that which is intelligible and that which is not (cf. 1 Cor. 14:9). Prophesying has a threefold result for the betterment of all: (1) “edification [upbuilding, ESV],” which refers to strengthening, encouragement (1 Cor. 14:5, 12, 26); (2) “exhortation [encouragement, ESV],” which refers to encouragement, help, comfort (2 Cor. 1:3-7; 7:4, 7, 13; 8:4, 17); and (3) “comfort [consolation, NAS],” which refers to encouragement, consolation, stimulation, and strength for overcoming difficulties (Rogers 381). Notice that each of the meanings contains the idea of encouragement! Speaking in tongues does have value in edification, but unless there is one who interprets, only the speaker is edified, but prophesying, by definition, edifies the entire church. Though Paul desired that they all could speak with tongues, he wanted even more for all to prophesy, quite a contrast with those groups today who put the premium on their so-called ability to “speak in tongues,” which are not even real languages!

Language Understood Is Profitable

Understanding what is being taught is essential to being edified. Speaking in tongues by itself does not profit the church, just like uncertain sounds in life do not profit those who hear them. “But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you ...?” (1 Cor. 14:6). Paul then gives an illustration from life: uncertain sounds are not only unprofitable, but they can actually be harmful. “Even things without life, whether flute or harp, when they make a sound, unless they make a distinction in the sounds, how will it be known what is piped or played? ⁸For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare himself for battle?” (1 Cor. 14:7-8). Playing a “flute [pipe, KJV]” was common at weddings and funerals (Mt. 9:23; 11:17), and the harp is mentioned several times in the Psalms (33:2; 137:2; 149:3; 150:3). Both instruments must be agreeable to the listener or else he leaves the presence of the music. The “trumpet [bugle, NAS]” was used to warn a city of an approaching enemy and to muster those able to fight for battle (Num. 10:1-10). Disaster would result if the watchman blew sounds that nobody recognized as a call to arms. The point is that unless a language is easily understood, it cannot benefit. “So likewise you, unless you utter by the tongue words easy to understand, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air” (1 Cor. 14:9). Languages have meaning only to those who know them. Again, this is in strong contrast to those today who claim to speak in tongues, which is nothing more than a bunch of gibberish passed off as some kind of “Holy Ghost language.”

Conclusion

Understanding God’s word is of primary importance (cf. Mt. 4:4; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). Miraculous gifts, when used properly, promoted better understanding of God’s will. However, some of the Corinthians used these gifts with wrong attitudes. They elevated speaking in tongues, but Paul pointed out the main weakness with tongues: unless one can interpret, they do not edify. Though miraculous gifts have ceased (1 Cor. 13:8-13), the importance of understanding God’s word has not! Many need to quit looking for the sensational in religion and just simply understand and obey what God wills (2 Tim. 2:15; Jas. 1:22-25 cf. Mt. 7:21-23). *A. Brian*

Works Cited

Rogers, Cleon L., Jr. and Cleon L. Rogers III. *The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1998.

Facts About Bible Miracles

What is a “miracle”? That which the force of nature cannot produce; supernatural force; speaking in tongues (languages).

Apostles were able to:

- Speak with other languages (Acts 2:4-12).
- Raise the dead (Acts 9:36-42).
- Instantly heal the sick (Acts 9:33-34).
- Heal those who were born lame (Acts 3:1-10).
- Strike false teachers blind (Acts 13:8-11).
- Predict the future (Acts 27:10, 32).

What about claims of miracles today?

- Warnings of false prophets (2 Thes. 2:3-12).
- False teachers predicted (1 Jn. 4:1).
- Some claim “In Jesus’ name” (Mt. 7:21-23).
- Note: Not once has any today raised the dead, restored sight to the blind, or spoke fluently in a language he has not learned or studied.

The age of miracles has ceased!

Paul said so (1 Cor. 13:8-13). The Gospel has been fully revealed (Eph. 4:11-13). To argue for miracles today contradicts the Bible.

- Adapted from Paul Sain

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Tonya Anderson; Bobby Sheumaker; Nicole Dix; Melody Baxter; Carol Pace; Ginny Hamby; Cierra Edwards; Margaret Coone; Ellen Shearer; Bob Pratt; Ray Nashick; Ron Ford; Chuck & Evelyn Wyatt; Debbie Bush; Geny Johnson; Brian Smith; Sharon Washington.

Shut In Members: Faith West, Carol Eason, Virginia Plumlee, Joyce Burbage and Cheryl Barker.

Others: **Thelma Rachford** (Dottie Fife's sister); **Felicia Plunkett** (friend of Heidi & Ty Rhymes, brain tumor); **Shirley Crocker** (former member, two small strokes); **Alicia Zamot** (Jagie's aunt); **Andre, Nasheka, Nya Medley; Kate**, baby Nya's NICU nurse; **Tonya Mathis** (hospice care); **Keith Cozart** (former member); **Larry Laster; Chrissi Fuesner; Chip Bolding; Tony Seibert; Neil Entwistle Sr.; Tanya Irizarry; Trevor & Sandy Hutchins; Patricia Hewitt** (member of church in Georgia undergoing cancer surgery); **Derick Jordan; Peggy Nabors** (Kim Faneuf's mother); **Keijuan Callaway** (Sharon Washington's son); **Anna Bess** (Margaret Coone's mother); **Janet Moore; Mary Ankroum; Bruce Coleman** (Rosalind's husband).

Upcoming Events

- 2/8 - "Littles" youth group devo & service project, 10:00 am at R. Kenyon's.
- 2/10 - Exploring the Epistles class, 1 & 2 Peter, 7:00 pm.
- 2/14 - Sweetheart Banquet, 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.
- 2/15 - SFA is hosting this month's Men's Breakfast.
- 2/16 - Parent & Youth lunch/meeting after morning service; communion to shut-ins; Lads2Leaders workshop.
- 2/18 - Senior Saints Meeting, 9:30 am
- 2/21-2/23 - YES weekend in Valdosta, GA. Last day to sign up is Feb. 2nd. For more details, see bulletin board or Vince.
- 2/22 - Pinellas Park church of Christ Ladies Day, 8:00 registration, 8:30 welcome.
- 2/23 - Men's training class, 9:30 am
- 2/25 - FSOP Ladies' class, 7:00 pm - Romans 16

Welcome To Our Family!

Andre, Nasheka, & Nya Medley
 Ruby Lewis
 We are happy you are here!

Thank you for visiting

Ray & Dee Wilt	Michelle Marshall
Larry Laster	Robert & Gail Jackson
Janet Moore	Emauel & Marcia White
Wanda Powell	Sherman Williams
Jerry Green	Tiffany & Sam Hash

Thank You Notes

Thank you for your prayers and generosity for baby Nya. She should be home anytime this week. She's excited about coming home to her parents.

Love, the Medleys

Dottie Fife's sister, Thelma Rachford, did have a heart attack but is now home. Thank you for your prayers on her behalf. Dottie & Phil

Communion to Shut-Ins

February 9th	Van Allen
February 16th	Youth Group
February 23rd	Deal
March 1st	Deal

Please add your name to the list to serve!

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

February

Designated Elder During Services - Kenny French
Open/Close Building - John McShane

Josh Estridge**Table**..... Alex Parramore
 Dennis McCarter **Assist** Gabriel Brownlow-Dindy

Sunday, February 9, 2020

Song at Bible Class/Prayer Terrance Brownlow-Dindy, Jr.
Sound Booth Tucker Sweeney
Announcements Frank Hamby
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Wadi Khoury
Sermon Hiram Kemp
 "Things We Must Not Forget"
Closing Prayer Kenny French
Greeters...before: Sweeney
Greeters...after: Darlene/Brenda
Cards Kevontre/Colby

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Vince Daugherty
Scripture reading/Prayer..... John McShane
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
 "How Can God Be Good If...?"
Closing Prayer..... Terrance Brownlow-Dindy, Sr.

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Song Leader/prayer Brian Kenyon
Closing Prayer Wayne Shearer

Sunday, February 16, 2020

Song at Bible Class/Prayer Paul Romine
Sound Booth Alex Parramore
Announcements Frank Hamby
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer Edward Atkins
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer Wesley Brunson
Greeters...before: S. Smith
Greeters...after: McShane
Cards Willcut (Sawyer)/Klark

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Vince Daugherty
Scripture reading/Prayer Jimmy Sweeney
Sermon Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer David Deal

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

Song Leader/Prayer Tucker Sweeney
Closing Prayer Charles Paulin

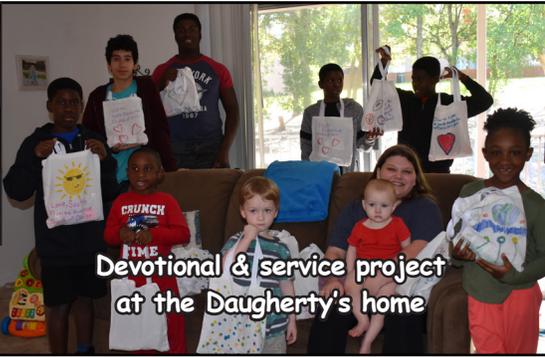
~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

Jan. 12	\$7,999.01
Jan. 19	\$7,489.00
Jan. 26	\$5,994.32
Feb. 2	\$8,340.61
Contribution Average	\$7,400.14

SERVICE ORIENTED YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR PARENTS AND CHAPERONES



Andre & Ellis getting it done!



Devotional & service project at the Daugherty's home



Visiting Joyce and conducting worship at the assisted living facility

SPECIAL THANKS

to Vince and our amazing parents, chaperones, and organizers who come up with these great ideas of service and who sacrifice so much to make these events happen for our young people! The psalmist declared, "Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward" (Ps, 127:3). Let us be thankful we have such dedicated Christians to work with our youth! Invite young people you know to join our group in devotionals and service projects!

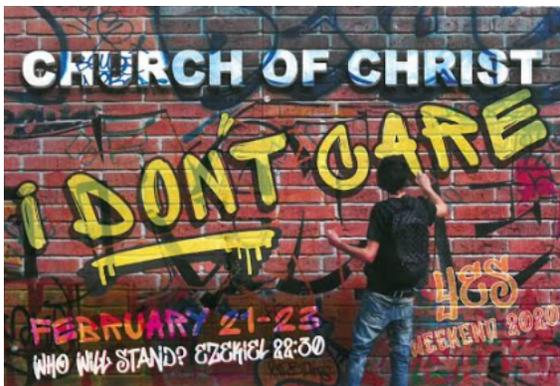


South Florida Avenue
CHURCH OF CHRIST
 1807 South Florida Avenue
 Lakeland, FL 33803-2653

Return Service Requested

The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

Young People Make Plans to Attend



YES Weekend hosted by the Forrest Park church of Christ in Valdosta, Georgia. Lord willing, we will meet at the fellowship hall Friday, Feb. 21, eat lunch, load up the vehicles, and go to Georgia. We will return Sunday afternoon, Feb. 23. Let Vince know if you would like to go!



Gospel Meeting with Bill Davis

Save the Date
 March 8 – 11, 2020



Let Us Sow the Gospel Seed everywhere we go by inviting others to church services, church events, church activities, and/or one-on-one Bible studies!