



The South Florida
Avenue
church of Christ



MESSENGER

1807 S. Florida Ave., Lakeland, FL 33803

Vol. 74 No. 21 May 25 2021

ELDERS

David Anderson
Kenny French
Brian Kenyon
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

Tyler Anderson
Jason Hendrix
Stacey Paulin
Jimmy Sweeney

MINISTER

Hiram Kemp

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty

SECRETARY

Dee Parramore

OFFICE PHONE

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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.

EMAIL

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WEB PAGE

SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

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SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist

HOME OF

Florida School of Preaching
since 1969

MISSION FIELDS

Dub Hill.....Russia
Don Iverson.....India
Marc Veary.....Malawi, Africa
Graham McDonald..Scotland
J. Paguaga.....Honduras, C.A.
Joey Treat.....Pacific Islands
Ted Wheeler.....Ghana, W.A.

The Holy Spirit in the Life of Jesus

by Hiram Kemp

When we study the life of Jesus as it is recorded in the gospels, we often focus on His interactions with humanity. We typically take notice of the miracles He did, the lessons He taught, the sins He forgave, and the behavior He rebuked. While looking at Jesus' interaction with humanity is important, we would also be wise to notice how Jesus worked with the Godhead in His earthly ministry. The triune God composed of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have always been one (Deut. 6:4). They are united in purpose, mission, focus, thought, and desire. We read of God the Father interacting with Jesus at His baptism (Matt. 3:17). The Father acknowledged Jesus as His Son on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:5). Jesus thanked the Father often during His earthly ministry (Matt. 11:25-27) and cried out to Him in His greatest hour of need (Luke 22:42-44).

What we may be less familiar with is Jesus' relationship with the Holy Spirit during His time on earth. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to His apostles upon His ascension back to heaven, but we should keep in mind that the Holy Spirit was heavily involved in Jesus' own work while He was on earth (John 14:26, 15:26, 16:7-15). Let us notice a few of the ways the Holy Spirit worked in the life of the Messiah and be further informed about the unity and amazing interworking of the triune God (cf. Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Pet. 1:2).

The Spirit's Work in the Birth of Jesus

Matthew recorded the genealogy of Jesus and linked His family lineage with David and Abraham (Matt. 1:1-17). Matthew recorded the birth of Jesus and wrote, "Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit." (Matt. 1:18, ESV). The Holy Spirit elsewhere is said to give individuals power to perform signs and do miracles. He was the One who gave Mary the miraculous ability to bring the Son of God into the world (1 Cor. 12:11; Heb. 2:4).

Jesus' miraculous birth to a virgin highlights His Divine nature (John 1:1-5). Jesus was not being created as He entered the world in human form. He was taking on human flesh in an act of humility and sacrifice (Phil. 2:5-11). The Holy Spirit came upon Mary and made it possible for her to give birth to God (Luke 1:30-35). The Spirit of God was involved in the life of God the Son as He brought Jesus into the world through Mary. God the Father gave His Son because He loved the world (John 3:16), and God the Spirit brought the Son through His power (Matt. 1:20).

The Spirit Enters and Empowers Jesus

When John saw Jesus approaching, he acknowledged Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29 1:36). John did not come to this conclusion on his own accord. God had communicated with him that "Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God" (John 1:33-34, NKJV). When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended on Him like a dove (Matt. 3:16, Luke 3:21-22; John 3:34). The coming of the Holy Spirit and His abiding presence made it known to John and others, along with God's audible declaration, that Jesus was, in fact, the Son of God.

Once the Spirit entered Jesus, He was led into the wilderness where He was tempted by the Devil (Matt. 4:1). When Jesus faced temptation in the wilderness, the Spirit was within Him, and the Spirit's inspired words were on His lips as He quoted from the Book of Deuteronomy, defeating the Devil's attempt to ruin Him (Matt. 4:2-11).

Jesus was tempted and tried, but He was also indwelt and equipped. He came to Galilee in the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:14). Shortly after His temptation in the wilderness, Jesus came into the synagogue at Nazareth, opened the Book of Isaiah, and read a prophecy that discussed His being filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:16-21; cf. Isa. 61:1-3). At that moment, Jesus was not simply declaring that He was fulfilling prophecy, which He was, but He was also stating that what He would go on to accomplish would be possible because of the power of the Spirit in His life. The entire Godhead was and is involved in the scheme of redemption, and Jesus made this abundantly clear in His preaching and teaching.

The Spirit's Involvement in Jesus' Work

Jesus was sought out by people throughout Syria, Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan because of His amazing ability to heal and cure the sick (Matt. 4:23-25). He opened the eyes of the blind (John 9:32-33), raised the dead (John 11:43-45), and cast out demons (Matt. 12:22). When Jesus was accused by the Pharisees of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebul (Matt. 12:24), He informed them that He was casting out demons by the Spirit of God (Matt. 12:28). The Holy Spirit was at work through the ministry of Jesus as He was assisting Him in the miraculous deeds performed. When Jesus sent out seventy-two disciples on a limited commission, they came back with glowing reports about the demons being subject to them in Jesus' name (Luke 10:1-12, 10:17). Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and thanked the Father as all three members of the Godhead were involved in what was taking place (Luke 10:21-22).

The Spirit and Jesus' Resurrection

Jesus came to earth to die for the sins of the world (Matt. 26:28). He knew what it would take for mankind to be redeemed. To save humanity, Jesus would have to be condemned as a sinner and give His life for us (2 Cor. 5:21). Jesus, as God the Son, was willing to be offered on our behalf (John 10:18). God was willing to give up His only begotten Son to bring many sons to glory (Heb. 2:9-10). Jesus went to the cross and died, but to complete our reconciliation with God, He would have to be raised for our justification (Rom. 4:25). The Holy Spirit is described as raising Jesus from the dead (Rom. 1:4, 8:11; 1 Pet. 3:18). The Holy Spirit of God raised Jesus for our sake, so we could be assured that one day, He will raise us, too (1 Cor. 6:14).

As Jesus was ending His earthly ministry, He breathed the Holy Spirit onto His disciples (John 20:22). After the resurrection and before His ascension, He gave commands to His apostles through the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:2). Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come upon the apostles in a miraculous measure, guide them into the truth, and give them the power to complete the tasks assigned to them (John 16:13; Acts 1:8). The Holy Spirit came as Jesus said, and He equipped the apostles, inspired the messages they wrote down in the New Testament, and He indwells in Christians today (Rom. 8:9). Jesus' ministry was marked from beginning to end by His relationship to God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. May our lives be marked by a healthy and biblical relationship with all three members of the Godhead.

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
Amen (2 Cor. 13:14, NKJV)*

~ YOUTH GROUP NEWS ~

by Vince Daugherty

When it gets hot, kids like to cool off in the water. They go swimming or go to water parks or just run through a sprinkler. Imagine not being able to play in cool water for 3 and a half years! Do you think it would get your attention? Do you think you might question who the true God is over the storm? Do you think you would pray to the God of Heaven to send forth rain? When Northern Israel decided to follow after the false storm god Baal, Elijah told the wicked king Ahab it would not rain for over 3 years. Sometimes we experience times of no rain. Do we think about the God who can send the rain? How long would it take with no water to get our attention?

Senior Saints by John McShane

As I slowly move into the senior citizen category, there are a few truths that I find uncomfortable. It seems that I have become a lot less agile and a lot more fragile. How can this be happening? My mind is still young and active, but the body is not. Parts of our bodies surely do decline as we age, and we have to accept that. It would be a good idea to pass this information on to our younger folks so that they can take steps now to help them live longer and happier lives. Now that we have talked about the physical, what about the spiritual? Have we let our spiritual life decline and blamed it on the decline of our physical life? As we age, our spiritual life should get stronger as we are getting closer to our final home in heaven. Letting our spiritual life decay could have unseen consequences for our eternal life. As we age, we should do what we can to keep ourselves both physically and spiritually strong. The following passages from Isaiah provide comfort. Isaiah 41:10 "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 12:2 "Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation."

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16

Our Members:

Bob Pratt - health	Brenda Mask - health
Jim & Carol Edmonson - health	Linda McShane
Adeline Hine - completed treatments	Darlene Thompson - family
Bernetta Green - health	Jim Turner - health
Bill & Carlene Long	Bobby Simpson - health
Melody Baxter - health	Cieara Edwards - procedure
Brian Smith - heart	Geny Johnson - surgery
Kathy Nester - health	Margaret Coone
Joyce Williams	Sharon M. Washington - health
Annette Phillip	Debbie Bush - health
Ron & Judy Ford - health	Nasheka Medley - pregnancy
Antoine & Marcella Swain - health	

(Please update the office of any changes)

The **EXTENDED FAMILY** and **FRIENDS** prayer requests are emailed every week and posted on the bulletin board

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

Faith West Joyce Burbage Carol Eason
Ellen Shearer Chuck Wyatt

Phone numbers are in the directory. Give them a call.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING

Ellen Shearer is back at Savannah Court and doing better. Phone calls and visits are appreciated.

Tanner Estridge had a procedure on Tuesday morning for tubes. It went well. She is home resting.

UPDATES & PRAYER REQUESTS

Jim Edmonson is back in hospital with pneumonia.

Rejoicing in hope

Romans 12:12

The Lord recently added another soul to His kingdom. Let's welcome our new sister in Christ:

Dorothea Lauther (5/23/21)

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase." 1Cor. 1:6

5TH SUNDAY COLLECTION

The next 5th Sunday collection for the Building Fund will be May 30, 2021.

If you would like to give additional funds at other times of the month, please mail or bring them to the office. Be sure to designate the contribution as part of the Building Fund. It will be collected by the elders.

PRAYER LIST

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

May

Designated Elder - Bobby Sheumaker

Wednesday, May 26, 2021

Song Leader/Prayer Vince Daugherty
Devo Brian Kenyon
Closing Prayer Jeff Stewart

Sunday, May 30 2021

10:30 A.M.

Sermon Vince Daugherty
"Barriers to Faith"
Mark 2:1-12

6:00 P.M.

Sermon Vince Daugherty
"As Long As I Am In This Tent"
2 Peter 1:13

10:30 A.M.

Open/Close bldg (both times) Jason Hendrix
Greeter Shearer
Song/prayer before class Kyle Bingle
Announcements Bobby Sheumaker
A.M. Song Leader David Williams
Scripture reading/Prayer Nigel St. Bernard
Lord's Table Wayne Shearer
Closing Prayer Jeff Stewart

6:00 P.M.

Greeters Sweeney
P.M. Song Leader David Williams
Scripture reading/Prayer Rick Kenyon
Lord's Table Wayner Shearer
Closing Prayer Charles Paulin

Wednesday, June 2, 2021

Song Leader/prayer Kyle Bingle
Devo Stacey Paulin
Closing Prayer Charles Paulin

ASSEMBLING UPDATE

Beginning Sunday, **June 6, 2021**, wearing masks will be optional. This policy may be adjusted if covid numbers in the congregation warrant such. Thank you for your patience!

We still request you stay home if you are not feeling well or have covid symptoms.

We will continue live-streaming the services on YouTube as we have since March 22, 2020. Thanks for your cooperation. - Elders

~ **HOW ARE WE GIVING** ~

May 9 \$9,199.00
May 16 \$8,224.00
May 23 \$5,643.00
Contribution Average \$7,196.78

Sisters in Christ come in all ages, and we need all of them because they keep us accountable in our faith while still loving us. As sisters, we all have a common goal of striving to go to heaven. Proverbs 3:15 says of wisdom personified, "She is more precious than jewels and nothing you desire can compare with her." A wise sister has a positive impact on us and can help bring us back to Christ in difficult times. Other friends may share the same hobbies or activities as us, but a faithful sister should connect on a different level. She has the most important interest, wanting us to grow deeper in our faith. Let's consider ourselves blessed to have each other. Proverbs 7:4 says, "Love wisdom like a sister; make insight a beloved member of your family."

Dates to remember

May

- May 27** - Youth Group Kahoot, 7:00 pm
May 28 - Singing Night at Orange Street, 7:00 p.m.
May 31 - **MEMORIAL DAY**

June

- June 2** - Quarterly Challenge
June 5 - VBS, 10:00-3:00 pm
June 6 - New quarter begins
 - Ladies' Day meeting, after morning worship
 - Lads 2 Leaders Workday, see board for times
June 17-19 - WWCC, K-5th grade
June 20 - **FATHERS DAY**
June 22 - Ladies' Night Out, TBD
June 27-July 3 - CFBC, age 10 - 12th grade



Saturday, June 5, 2021
 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

 **Orange Street**
 CHURCH OF CHRIST



Will Host A Singing Friday,
 May 28, beginning @ 7:00 pm

310 Orange Street, Auburndale, FL 33823

www.SouthFloridaAvenueChurchOfChrist.com

Email us: SFA.church@gmail.com

Find us on social media



WHEN HE HAD BEEN BAPTIZED,
 JESUS CAME UP IMMEDIATELY
 FROM THE WATER; AND BEHOLD,
 THE HEAVENS WERE OPENED TO
 HIM, AND HE SAW THE SPIRIT OF
 GOD DESCENDING LIKE A DOVE
 AND ALIGHTING UPON HIM.

MATTHEW 3:16

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