

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

David Anderson
Kenny French
Bobby Sheumaker

DEACONS

John McShane
Stacey Paulin
Jimmy Sweeney

MINISTER

Hiram Kemp
(386) 405-5372

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Vince Daugherty
(740) 801-1106

SECRETARIES

Michelle Paulin / Dee Parramore

OFFICE PHONE

(863) 682-4702

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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Graham McDonald..Scotland
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Ted Wheeler.....Ghana, W.A.

EMAIL

SFA.church@gmail.com

WEB PAGE

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY

Sundays @ 8:30 a.m. Check local listings

First Corinthians 12 **Miraculous Spiritual Gifts (Part 1)**

Brian R. Kenyon

“Now concerning spiritual gifts” (1 Cor. 12:1) indicates that the three chapters making up First Corinthians 12-14 are Paul’s answer to the Corinthians’ previous questions (cf. 1 Cor. 7:1, 25; 8:1; 16:1). We do not know exactly what they asked about these gifts, but we do have Paul’s extensive answer. In these chapters, Paul dealt with the gifts themselves and from whom they came (1 Cor. 12:1-31); that love should regulate their use of these gifts (1 Cor. 13:1-7), that these gifts would cease in their future (1 Cor. 13:8-13), and how these gifts were to be used in their assemblies (1 Cor. 14:1-40). From the context of the book, it appears that the Corinthians’ misuse of these miraculous gifts contributed to their infamous division (cf. 1 Cor. 3:1-3).

Important Truths About Miraculous Gifts

Before analyzing First Corinthians 12, it is necessary to understand two truths regarding miraculous gifts relevant to this study. There are many contradictory teachings regarding miraculous gifts today. The only reliable source of information, however, is from the Bible. First, one of the main purposes for miraculous spiritual gifts in the early church was to confirm the spoken and written word of God (Heb. 2:3-4 cf. Mk. 16:19-20). For most of the first century, the complete written revelation of God was not finalized. Thus, how would people know that the person claiming to speak God’s word was actually speaking God’s word? Answer: what he said would be “backed up” (confirmed) by “signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit” (Heb. 2:4). Spiritual gifts were necessary in the absence of completed revelation (1 Cor. 13:10). However, the Scriptures today furnish us with all the knowledge we need for conversion and living the Christian life (cf. 2 Tim. 3:15-17). With the completion of the New Testament, there is no more need for the “childhood stage” of incomplete revelation (1 Cor. 13:8-13). By giving us His completed written revelation, God has given to us all things that “pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us” (2 Pet. 1:3). God’s revelation was made known to inspired writers (2 Pet. 1:20-21), and they wrote so that those who read might understand the will of God (Eph. 3:1-7).

Second, after the beginning of the church in Acts 2, the only way a non-apostle was given miraculous gifts was through the laying on of an apostle’s hands. The only exception was the household of Cornelius. They were one of only two groups ever to receive Holy Spirit baptism, the other being the apostles (Acts 10:44-48; 11:15-17). Perhaps the best example of the laying on of hands is with the seven appointed to

serve tables (Acts 6:1-7). Prior to this, no one but an apostle is said to have done miracles in the church (Acts 2:43; 3:1-9; 4:31; 33; 5:12-13). After the apostles laid their hands on them, Stephen, one of the seven, did “great wonders and miracles” among the people (Acts 6:8). Philip, another one of the seven, also did miracles when he went to Samaria (Acts 8:6-7, 13). Consider also the situation with the Samaritans (Acts 8:14-19). Note that they could not do miracles until they sent for Peter and John who laid their hands on them! The laying on of an apostle’s hands is also seen with the Ephesians (Acts 19:1-6), Timothy (2 Tim. 1:6), and the Romans (Rom. 1:11).

True Knowledge Must Come From God

Paul wanted the Corinthians to have knowledge from God concerning their miraculous spiritual gifts: “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant” (1 Cor. 12:1). The term “spiritual gifts” is from a Greek word that literally means “of or pertaining to the Spirit.” The Greek form of the word here can be either masculine (“spiritual people”) or neuter (“spiritual things”). Although there is no significant difference in the context between “people” and “things,” most translations add the word “gifts” to “spiritual.” The usual Greek word for miraculous “gifts” is *charisma* (1 Cor. 1:7; 12:4, 9, 28, 30-31; Rom. 1:11; 2 Tim. 1:6). The phrase, “I do not want you to be ignorant” was used by Paul to introduce something very important (1 Cor. 10:1; Rom. 1:13; 11:25; 2 Cor. 1:8; 1 Thes. 4:13).

Spiritual truth is made known only through the Holy Spirit. As Gentiles, Paul said the Corinthians were “carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led” (1 Cor. 12:2). In Judaism, “Gentiles” almost always referred to non-Jews, but in the New Testament the term sometimes refers to non-Christians (1 Cor. 5:1; Eph. 4:17; 1 Thes. 4:5; 3 Jn. 7). These idols were not real entities capable of leading away people. The description “dumb [mute, NAS]” says they were completely powerless to speak and/or respond when spoken to (Ps. 115:5; Hab. 2:18-19). Rather, as “Gentiles” they walked according to the false religions represented by the idols (Eph. 2:2-3).

No one can truly understand Jesus, except through divine revelation. Paul wrote, “Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit” (1 Cor. 12:3). In this verse, Paul first declared that false statements concerning Jesus cannot come from the Holy Spirit. The word “accursed [anathema, ASV]” is of interesting background. Originally, it meant “something laid up” (especially in a sacred place), and later came to mean what is given to a deity, but since what is given to a deity is totally lost to the giver, the word became used for that which is destroyed, so that by the time the New Testament was written, the word meant “accursed” (1 Cor. 16:22; Acts 23:14; Rom. 9:3; Gal. 1:8) (Morris

MIRACLE MIRAGES

A preacher recently visited a nursing home that was across the street from a denominational church building. Radio ads about this group claim the Holy Spirit has empowered their “pastors” to work miracles, including healing sickness and injuries. The obvious thought occurred, “Why don’t they just walk across the street and heal the people in this nursing home?” The fact of the matter is they cannot do it. Miracles were given for the main purpose of confirming that the one teaching or preaching in the first century was indeed representing God (Heb. 2:3-4). Any body could claim to represent God, but miracles were the way to truly prove it! The miracles performed by Jesus and the apostles were clear, undeniable miraculous evidence that they represented God (Mt. 4:23-25). The so-called “miracles” performed today are subjective and unverifiable. God’s word has been completed and once delivered for many centuries (Jude 3). Let us trust in that infallible word, not miracle mirages!

164). Second, Paul affirmed that true statements concerning Jesus must ultimately come from the Holy Spirit. Although the discussion here pertains to miraculously inspired people, the same, in principle, holds true today. That is, only by the revelation of the Holy Spirit (which in our case is only through the written word of God) can we know the truth about Jesus (Jn. 5:39; Rom. 10:17). The test of true Holy Spirit inspired people was not in their claim of such, but in the truth they taught and by which they lived (1 Cor. 2:6-12; 14:37; 1 Jn. 4:2-3 cf. Rev. 2:2).

Conclusion

This study serves as an introduction to First Corinthians 12. In subsequent articles, we will examine more closely what Paul taught concerning miraculous spiritual gifts. May we truly accept what God has revealed in the Bible and allow God’s plan to dominate our thoughts and actions. *AE Brian*

Works Cited

Morris, Leon. *The First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians: An Introduction and Commentary*. Rev. ed. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Vol. 7. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1985. 164.

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: Joyce Burbage has been moved to Florida Presbyterian Home Rehab, 16 Lake Hunter Dr. Lakeland, FL. 33803 - Room # 126. Peyton Willcut, Woody Khoury, Ray Naschick, Ron Ford, Faith West, Jim Turner, Ginny Hamby, Sharon Washington, and Margaret Coone.

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

Others: Bob McAnally's health has deteriorated significantly, there are not many options left to him. Please pray for him and Grace. Larry Lester, (Toney Wilson's brother), Chrissi Fuesner, Tonya Mathis, Chip Bolding, Tony Seibert, Neil Entwistle Sr. (Neil Entwistle's father), John Beckwork, (relative of Chris Wilson, Toney Wilson's son) and Peggy Nabors.

Upcoming Events

June 30th-July 6th: Central Florida Bible Camp for ages 10-18. If you are interested in sending your child, please see Vince Daugherty.

Tuesday July 2nd: Senior Saints will gather in the fellowship hall at 10:00 a.m. to make 50 more blessing bags.

Sunday July 7th: Fellowship In-Service after evening services.

Saturday, July 13th: Celebrate Summer Fellowship Cookout with water games and fun for the whole family! Games will begin at 2:00 p.m. Dinner will be at 5:00 p.m. Hamburgers, hot dogs and corn will be provided. Please bring a side dish and dessert. We are looking for volunteers to help cook. If you are interested please see John McShane.

Sunday July 14th: Elders/Deacons meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday July 16th: Senior Saints outing to the Polk County 911 center. The van will leave the building at 9:00 a.m. Tour is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Dutch treat luncheon at a local restaurant following the tour.

Saturday July 20th: Men's breakfast at the Griffin Road church of Christ in Bartow at 8:00 a.m.

Baptism

We rejoice at the baptism of Cliff Moore on Monday June 24th. He is a friend of Ray Naschick. Let's welcome him into our family.

Thank You

Your kind expression of sympathy is gratefully acknowledged and deeply appreciated. For all our kindness, flowers, and use of the fellowship hall for our dad's passing, we thank you.

The Burbage Family

Thank you for the prayers, messages and cards. We appreciate it very much! Peyton is healing and seems to be doing well.

The Willcut family

Visitors

Johnny Davidson, Will & Autumn Vann, Mac and Avery, Heather Glass, John & Janie Glass, Sherman Williams, Jerry Greene, George & Ann French, Steven & Karen Sullivan, and Mike, Liz and Justin Bosley.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

July

Designated Elder During Services - Bobby Sheumaker
Open/Close Building - Kenny French

Bobby Sheumaker..... **Table** Wayne Shearer
Phil Fife **Assist** Ken Walker

Sunday, June 30, 2019
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Kyle Faneuf
Prayer..... Bobby Sheumaker

10:30 A.M.

Sound Booth..... Casey Paulin
Announcements..... Wayne Shearer
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... David Anderson
Sermon..... Vince Daugherty
Closing Prayer..... Frank Hamby
Greeters..... Williams/Sweeney
Cards..... Willcut Boys

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Vince Daugherty
Opening Prayer..... Kenny French
Sermon..... Vince Daugherty
Closing Prayer..... Kyle Bingle

Wednesday, July 3, 2019

Song Leader..... Matt Willcut
Opening Prayer..... Wayne Shearer
Closing Prayer..... Tim Croson

July- Clean-up Jimmy Sweeney (E-K)

Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call Stacey Paulin so he can get a replacement - (863) 838-8911

Sunday, July 7, 2019
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class..... Dave Williams
Prayer..... Josh Estridge

10:30 A.M.

Sound Booth..... Phil Fife
Announcements..... Fred Strickland
Song Leader..... Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer..... Matt Willcut
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Tim Croson
Greeters..... Pratt/Daugherty
Cards..... Caelen/Cam'ron

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader..... Paul Romine
Opening Prayer..... Alex Parramore
Sermon..... Hiram Kemp
Closing Prayer..... Tim Croson

Wednesday, July 10, 2019

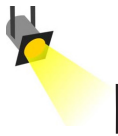
Song Leader..... Jim Turner
Opening Prayer..... Kyle Bingle
Closing Prayer..... Bobby Sheumaker

~ HOW ARE WE GIVING ~

June 2..... \$8,170.90
June 9 \$5,107.45
June 16 \$4,857.11
June 23 \$7,197.45
Contribution Average..... \$6,543.46

~ Communion to Shut-ins ~

June 30th..... Van Allens
July 7th Volunteers Needed



Member Spotlight

Dylan Willcut



Dylan was born in Winter Haven, and he has lived in this area all of his life. He wants to make his living one day as a video game designer. He is currently a student ready to enter the tenth grade. He has visited Mexico and knows a little Spanish. In his free time, he likes to play and develop video games. His favorite drink is Coke. His favorite dessert is chocolate. The weirdest thing he has eaten is calamari. He likes winter. His most satisfying accomplishment is developing his own video game. The best advice he's been given is "Chase your dreams."



Member Spotlight

Carol Pace



Carol was born in Lansing, Michigan, and has also lived in New Mexico, Ohio, Virginia, and Missouri. As a child, she wanted to be her dad's secretary. Her first job was as an info operator with Michigan Bell Telephone Company. Her past hobbies included bowling, crocheting, and making jewelry. In her free time now, she likes to travel and go to garage sales. She is a night owl. Her most satisfying accomplishment is rearing her three sons. The best advice she's been given was from her mom: "Keep the Golden Rule." She has 3 sons and 6 grandchildren.



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 . . .



We rejoice with the angels that Cliff Moore was baptized into Christ on Monday, June 24, 2019. He talked with his friend, Ray, and studied with Hiram about how we respond to God's grace (Acts 2:38, 22:16).

We are glad he's a part of God's family which meets at South Florida Avenue! Let's welcome our new brother!

We appreciate our elders for shepherding God's flock which meets at South Florida Avenue! May we all continue working together to the glory of God!



THINK SOULS! Let's invite our family, neighbors, and friends to Bible classes, church services and/or one-on-one personal Bible studies.



MISSION TRIP PERU

Pray for our young people and their chaperones as they gear-up for a mission trip to Haucho, Peru, July 19-27, 2019. They will knock doors, pass out tracts, and conduct one-on-one Bible studies.

We appreciate our elders for seeing the value in involving our young people. If you would like to contribute, see our elders.

We are **A MISSION-MINDED CHURCH!**

In addition to the large-group mission trip to Peru, several of the members here are going on other campaigns. **Dee & Alex** worked in the Philippines and are due to start traveling back today. See www.ParramoresInPI.blogspot.com. **Casey** is currently in Boquete, Panama, scheduled to return, Lord willing, June 29. Let us continue to pray for safety and the Gospel's acceptance!