

Journey with us, destination greatness!

*As each one has received a special gift,
employ it in serving one another as
good stewards of the
manifold grace
of God.*



1 Peter 4:10

Knowing-Jesus.com

Pastor's Message

I am giving a series of message on the Holy Spirit. It seems to me that the most crucial thing that any Christian can do is learn the art of listening to and obeying the Holy Spirit. I say this for a couple of reasons. One is because neither God the Father nor God the Son is on earth in the present time we are living. They are, according to Scripture, both in heaven. Jesus is at the right side of God the Father and He is interceding for us – right now. But it is God the Spirit who dwells among us and within us in these present moments. So, it only makes sense that we need to learn how to discern how and when God the Spirit speaks to us.

The second reason is because Jesus himself, when he walked on earth, clearly stated that those who follow Him must learn to listen to and heed the counsel of the Spirit. The Spirit is who causes the Word of God to come alive and to be actively planted into our mind and into our heart. Obviously you and I have to do our work in the Bible – studying, reading, memorizing. We must inundate our mind with God's Word on a regular basis. But we're told that the Word of God is a living Word which is sharper than a double edged sword.

Jesus even made the statement that it was better for him to go than to stay. Why? Because then God's Spirit

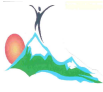
would come and dwell in and amongst us. It must be that the fullness of the Holy Spirit couldn't come and dwell amongst us until Jesus had completed His earthly assignment.

Now there is a lot of controversy or disagreements regarding the Holy Spirit. There are some who believe that initial evidence of being baptized in the Spirit means that you will speak in tongues. Others believe that the Spirit does not any longer use certain gifts (the 5 biggies): Apostles / Prophets / Evangelists / Shepherds / Teachers. I think all of us would agree on the last three. But the first two we might have disagreements about.

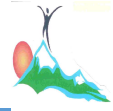
Most of the controversies we have, I would say, are due to our own personal experience – in Churches and in life in general. And the working of the Holy Spirit is very personal and experiential. And we all know that we have different experiences and will continue to. And we need to be careful to not let our experiences determine our faith or our understanding. And we must also be careful to not let our experience determine what is a right experience or a wrong experience for others. After all, God is Spirit and He touches each of our lives in a variety of ways. That is up to Him.

The Christian Faith teaches that God is 3 in one. He is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. He is the same God and He is only one God but there are 3 facets of Him. This is called monotheism – one God.

I've been wondering if it's because of the controversy amongst Christians over the working of the Holy Spirit that has been the cause for the lack of understanding of the Holy Spirit and how he works. Or is it because the Spirit works on such a personal level that we don't want to draw any definitive statements regarding the Holy Spirit? I don't know which the case is, but I do know this. We who are Christ Followers are better able to follow Christ in the day to day activities when we are tuned in and discerning what the Holy Spirit is teaching us and leading us toward. I would make the case this way. Do all you can to pay attention to the Holy Spirit throughout the context of the Bible. Be willing to learn



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and be constantly asking to be taught how the Spirit of God is leading you in each situation.

Here is one final thought regarding this. The Holy Spirit is always going to lead you to bringing honor and glory to the Son – Jesus. We are talking One God with 3 facets. And it is Jesus who came to dwell amongst us as a human. Jesus is the one who took and bore the sins of all humanity. Jesus is the one who is the way – the truth – the life and no one comes to the Father if not through Jesus.

This does not give a full level of understanding of God the Holy Spirit. But it will make you think about and hopefully get you to be hungry for God's Spirit working in and through your life.

God bless the remainder of your summer and see you @ worship.

Your Friend in Christ, *Pastor Vern*



Administrative Board

A note from your Administration Board:

Just like owning a home (or anything for that matter) upkeep is required. We have made a list and are acquiring estimates on many projects needed by our Church and Parish House buildings that we feel are beyond asking our members to volunteer to do.

Parish House: We have been experiencing water coming in from the outside in both of the rooms in the back of the basement. Running two dehumidifiers (emptying daily) has helped, but we know this is not the answer. This issue also brings in moisture to the rest of basement which, if allowed to continue, will bring mold. We have received two estimates for digging down around the back of building, adding drainage and using sump pumps to remove the excess water.

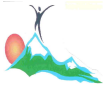
The electrical at the Parish House needs to be updated (we do not have estimate yet), and lastly the exterior of the building needs windows caulked, building scraped, and painted. We have received one estimate and are waiting for at least a second. There are also, several windows that should be replaced.

Our Church building: Exterior needs scraping, painting and window caulked. The foundation (on the left-side facing church) needs to be replaced/repared with some support work done under that area. We have received one estimate on foundation work, and our waiting for an estimate on the paint project.

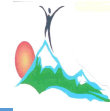
These are major repairs and come with a large price tag. We are not expecting to accomplish all this work, BUT want our church family and members to know that these are projects that need to be addressed (some sooner, some later) and with that comes expenses (not in church budget).

We are prayerfully planning that decisions on these repairs can be made at our annual meeting on September 15th. We are sharing this information with you (and will continue to update you) as we collect the estimates with the scope of work and the dollars involved.

We thank you in advance for your willingness to share your ideas, ask questions and be involved with the planning as we care for the buildings that we have been entrusted with.



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Christian Education

Thank you! Thank you!! We want to thank you all for your prayers, help and donations for another great VBS! We averaged about 35 students a night and had 18 teens who volunteered so they all heard the message. Our theme this year was "Time Lab" where we discovered Jesus from Eternity Past to Eternity Future! We had a student volunteer to travel in our "time machine" and to share her travels with the rest of us. The kids brought in their change and donated a total of \$352.86 to the Salvation Army!

Come join us next year!

Pastor Vern Linda Lisa Janet

Smallest action

can bring the biggest smile ☺

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Aug 1~~Carol Clendenning

Aug 2~~Margaret Wiltsey

Aug 5~~Jon Brown

Aug 5~~Dale Wiltsey

Aug 7~~Kayleen Chiesa

Aug 8~~ Daniel Wood

Aug 11~~Bob & Bev Petley

*Aug 16~~Tim & Pat Winters

*Aug 16~~Mike & Holly Harris

Aug 18~~Alexandra Travis

*Aug 24~John & Barb Lidell

Aug 26~~Franklin Carl Benedict

*Aug 26~Ted & Posie Bolton

Aug 26~Harry & Ann Ludke

Aug 29~ Jon & Lisa Benedict

Calendar of Events

Sunday Worship – at 10 am (August 4, 18, and 25)

Worship August 11th at the Fairgrounds 10:30 am

Tues morning prayer – 8:30 @ Pastor Vern's office

Wed. evening prayer – 6:30 @ Ginny Moore's

Men's Group- August 10th and 24th

August 5th –at 7 pm Admin and Spiritual Bd meet

August 8th -11th– DeRuyter Fireman's Fair

September 8th –Annual reports due

September 15th –Annual Meeting

Volunteers Needed

Are you able to spare a few hours a week serving your Church? Every position is open to you and all you have to do is say yes! Positions of all types are available so contact Pastor Vern if you have the time to devote to your Church. There is a position waiting for you and all you have to do is

know where you would like to serve.

Administrative and Spiritual Board elections are in September.

**CHURCH IN THE
COMMUNITY
SERVING THE
COMMUNITY**