

Schedule of Meeting Times:

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM
 Study Sunday 10:00 AM
 Worship Sunday Morn 11:00 AM
 Worship Sunday Eve 5:00 PM
Singing every 2nd Sunday evening
 Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

Preacher / bulletin editor:

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Our salvation was first spoken through Jesus, and "...confirmed to us by those who heard, **God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit...**"

—Hebrews 2:3b,4

**Servants during February:**

Songleader: Dwight (2), Stanley (9), Larry (16), Dwight (23)

Reading: Larry

Announcements: Marty

Table: Stanley, Marty, Larry

Wednesday Lesson: Larry (5), Stanley (12), Kris (19), Larry (26)

Area Meetings:

Fourth Street (Cullman), 7-9, Colby Junkin; **Eastside (Athens),** 21-23, Gary Fisher; **Pepper Road,** 22-26, Larson Plyler; **Oakland,** 23-28, JP Flores

Hays Mill church of Christ

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The Bible . Examiner

"Examine everything carefully..." 1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

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The Indwelling of the Spirit

By Bill Hall

Few people would question the fact that the Holy Spirit in some way dwells within the Christian. Paul wrote to the saints in Corinth: "...do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you," 1 Cor 6:19a. He further wrote, "...if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him," Romans 8:9b. There is considerable disagreement, however, as to how the Spirit dwells within a Christian. It is not our aim in this short article to deal with that issue, but we do want to suggest three facts that must be remembered as one studies the question.

The age of miracles is past. The only people in the gospel age who ever performed miracles were those who either received the


baptism of the Holy Spirit, Acts 2:1-4; 10:44-46; or received spiritual gifts through the laying on of the apostles' hands, Acts 8:5-23; 19:1-7. No one receives either of these today. The purpose of the miracles was to reveal and confirm truth, 1 Cor 2:7-13; Mk 16:19,20. Since all truth has been revealed, Jn 16:13, there is no further need for miracles. One's conclusion, therefore, concerning the indwelling of the Spirit must be compatible with this fact.

The Christian is led by the Spirit through the scriptures, the word of God, Psa 119:105; 2 Tim 3:16,17; Eph 3:3,4. He does not have some inner voice, separate from the scriptures, that somehow guides him into infallible conclusions in relation to truth and right. Nor is

there anything in the scriptures that suggests that God's providence somehow works through the indwelling of the Spirit. Consequently, one makes a serious mistake if he interprets his feelings or subjective thinking as some kind of message provided by the indwelling Spirit.

Statements concerning the indwelling of the Spirit were not placed in the scriptures as problems to be wrestled with. They were placed there for one's assurance and consolation. A Christian sustains a very close fellowship with deity—so close that it can be said that he dwells in deity and deity dwells in him. In persecution, trials, temptations, and death his recognition of this close relationship sustains him and helps him to become triumphant in

Christ. The apostles never felt the need to explain how this indwelling takes place. Pentecostalism and other misconceptions concerning the Holy Spirit force the Christian of this generation to be concerned with this problem. If, however, statements concerning the indwelling of the Spirit become primarily to him a problem to be wrestled with; if his obsession with the "how" of the Spirit's indwelling blinds him to the "fact" of that indwelling, he makes a serious mistake and may fail to find the joy and consolation that should be gained through the Lord's promise.

Differences will continue to exist, but a constant remembrance of these three facts should protect any one of us from dangerous conclusions in relation to this question. 

One of the intriguing stories of the book of Judges is the death of Abimelech; He murdered his rival brothers at Shechem and ruled Israel for three years. He got his just deserts when, while seeking to expand his dominion, he was killed by a woman at the city of Thebes.

The city had just been defeated by Abimelech and his troops; the

remaining citizens, men and women, gathered in the city watchtower, seeking refuge from Abimelech and his warriors. The army surrounded the tower and was positioned to burn it and destroy all its fear-stricken residents. A woman spied a millstone nearby, picked it up, dropped it from the tower, and it


struck Abimelech on the head and crushed his skull.

Abimelech remained conscious long enough to call on a fellow soldier to finish him off so it would not be said, "A woman slew him," Judg 9:54. When Abimelech's marauding army saw their general was dead, each man departed for his own home. "Thus God," by a woman who had little prowess as a soldier, "requited the wickedness of Abimelech," Judg 9:56.

The same God killed a nine-foot giant with a single rock from a sling wielded by a small lad whose only professional training was watching sheep. He also used a man with a stammering tongue to lead his people from bondage in Egypt, organize them into a mighty nation, and lead them to their land of promise. This God, Jehovah, warns us through His prophet that we must not "despise the day of small things," Zech 4:10.

The simplest of deeds that show interest and concern; the least eloquent words that express love

and care; the sparsest of talent directed toward a desperate person; a smile and a handshake or a warm hug at the right moment; any of these, all of these, or a thousand other tiny deeds can affect great results when our love or service for God is behind them. No limits can be set on God, His providence, and His use of men in accomplishing His purposes on earth.

Jehovah, our God and Father, does not demand powerful and moving sermons, flamboyant and ornate displays of service, educated and magnetic personalities, or talented and important people. God needs men and women of faith, of hope, of love, and of prayer; disciples who are moved with passion to serve at every opportunity; Christians who regardless of their talent respect God's will, seek to follow it, and labor to share themselves and His will with others. Large or small, big or little, brethren—plant and water and leave the results to God, 1 Cor 3:5-9. 

LITTLE THINGS

By L.A. Stauffer

Remember in Prayer

Mike B is in HH W&C ICU, sedated and on a ventilator, but hopefully will be able to simply go on oxygen sometime soon. **Mark Horton** has finished treatments for prostate and bone cancers, and should have more information soon.

Betty is back at home. Please continue to pray for **Barbara; Carolyn; Faye; Hazel; Joshua V; Vickie H; Kathy M; Kaylee and Violet; Deborah and Serenity; Pam; and the Pollard Family.** 