

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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“For I am not ashamed
 of the gospel, for it is the
 power of God for
 salvation to everyone
 who believes, to the Jew
 first and also to
 the Greek,”

—Romans 1:16

**Servants during July:**

Songleader: Larry (5), Dwight (12),
 Stanley (19), Larry (26)

Reading: Mike

Announcements: Stanley

Table: Larry, Marty, Mike

Wednesday Lesson: Stanley (1), Kris
 (8), Larry (15), Stanley (22), Kris (29)

Area Meetings:

Anderson, 19-22, Kyle Pope

New Hope, 26-29, Kenny Mooror

Oakland, 26-31, Mitchell Dalrymple

Jenning's Chapel, 26-31, Lowell Sallee

Hays Mill church of Christ

21705 Hays Mill Road

Elkmont, AL 35620

The Bible . Examiner

“Examine everything carefully...” 1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

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Number 1

How does the Holy Spirit work today?

By Kris Vilander

My daughter asked me this very good question one day, to which folks give so many different answers... What do the Scriptures teach?

The Bible teaches that He is a being, and is divine (God), just as are Jesus and the Father. In Acts 5:3,4, Ananias was told he lied to the Holy Spirit; in doing that, he had not lied to men, but God.

After Jesus was resurrected, He told the Apostles to wait in Jerusalem; there, they would shortly be baptized (immersed, overwhelmed) in the Holy Spirit, they would receive power and become His witnesses, Acts 1:4,5,8. This happened about ten days later, on Pentecost, when they spoke in tongues (human languages) they did not know, Acts 2:1-6. There was only one other time this happened: when Cornelius became a Christian, Acts 10:44,45. Peter likened it to what happened on Pentecost, Acts 11:15,16. Both times, it was evidence of God's approval—that

the Apostles were speaking for God, Acts 14:3, or that the Gentiles could also be saved, Acts 11:17,18. Certainly by the time Paul wrote Ephesians, there was only one baptism that remained as far as Christians are concerned, Eph 4:4-6. That would have to be baptism in water (not any kind of spiritual baptism); and it places one in a relationship with Christ, Acts 8:36-38; Gal 3:26,27.

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would personally reveal to the Apostles everything they would need to know, Jn 14:26; 16:13—but this was never promised to all Christians. The apostles were inspired, which is to say, God directly revealed His will to them through the Holy Spirit, 1 Cor 2:9-13.

What that means, though, is that for some time, the early church didn't have the complete will of God revealed to them... so God provided for miraculous spiritual gifts during the first century. Philip was one of the seven

“deacons,” and he performed miracles while preaching Jesus, Acts 8:4-6. People were being saved: they were being baptized into Christ, Acts 8:12,13—but they did not have miraculous spiritual gifts, so the Apostles Peter and John were sent, Acts 8:14-16. Spiritual gifts were only given when the Apostles laid their hand on them, Acts 8:17,18. Apparently, only the Apostles could do that; if Philip could have passed the ability to perform gifts, the Apostles would not have been needed. That means that when the Apostles died off (right around AD 95-100, with the Apostle John) miracles would have died off, too.

The ending of miracles is described in 1 Cor 13. The Corinthians were abusing these gifts; so Paul notes that while miracles are important, love is far more: Why? V8, love will exist even to eternity, miracles will cease. V9-11, at that time, God’s will was not completely revealed; when it is, the partial (spiritual gifts) will be done away. V12, in his day, mirrors were just polished metal, not giving a very good reflection. They couldn’t see all of God’s will at the time; but a time would come in the future when they would see it far better. When that happened, there would be no need for spiritual gifts any more. V13, even after these gifts had disappeared shortly after the first century, faith, hope, and love would continue until Christ comes at the end of time—then faith and hope would end (Rom 8:24,25), but love really is forever.

Modern “healings” are nothing like Biblical miracles: they were instant,

complete, and indisputable. Lepers, paralytics, blind, deaf, mute, those unable to walk—all were healed; to say nothing of the raising of the dead. There was no need for the person to have faith; how much faith does a dead man have? As an example, Peter healed a man 40 years old that had never before walked, Acts 3:2; 4:22, and that had no faith—he only expected money, Acts 3:5,6. The healing was instantaneous and complete, Acts 3:7,8, and no one could dispute it, Acts 3:9,10; 4:16. Today, “healings” are hard to confirm, and never things like a withered, or even a broken, hand. God still works on the earth—but it is by natural means, in providence (as in the book of Esther).

Does the Holy Spirit work today? Yes: by means of the word, Heb 4:12... it “is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” It is the “power of God for salvation,” Rom 1:16, and so can “save our souls,” if we do what it says, Jas 1:21-25. We have to act, but only with authority; or someday we will be told, “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness,” Mt 7:21-23.

We can understand Scripture; and with regard to our subject, what it teaches about the Holy Spirit. Some things may be more difficult than others, but God had the Bible written with the expectation that we would be able to understand it, Eph 3:4; 5:17. 

Praying You Through

I would have pulled Joseph out. Out of that pit. Out of that prison. Out of that pain. And I would have cheated nations out of the one God would use to deliver them from famine.

I would have pulled David out. Out of Saul’s spear-throwing presence. Out of the caves he hid away in. Out of the pain of rejection. And I would have cheated Israel out of a God-hearted king.

I would have pulled Esther out. Out of being snatched from her only family. Out of being placed in a position she never asked for. Out of the path of a vicious, power-hungry foe. And I would have cheated a people out of the woman God would use to save their very lives.

And I would have pulled Jesus off. Off of the cross. Off of the road that led to suffering and pain. Off of the path that would mean nakedness and beatings, nails and thorns. And I would have cheated the entire world out of a savior. Out of salvation. Out of an eternity filled with no more suffering and no more pain.

And, oh, friend. I want to pull you out. I want to change your path. I want to stop

your pain. But right now I know I would be wrong. I would be out of line. I would be cheating you and cheating the world out of so much good. Because God knows. He knows the good this pain will produce.

He knows the beauty this hard will grow. He’s watching over you and keeping you even in the midst of this. And he’s promising you that you can trust him. Even when it all feels like more than you can bear.

So instead of trying to pull you out, I’m lifting you up. I’m kneeling before the father, and I’m asking him to give you strength. To give you hope. I’m asking him to protect you and to move you when the time is right. I’m asking him to help you stay prayerful and discerning. I’m asking him how I can best love you and be a help to you. And I’m believing he’s going to use your life in powerful and beautiful ways. Ways that will leave your heart grateful and humbly thankful for this road you’ve been on.

— Kimberly D. Henderson, 2017 

Remember in Prayer

Please continue to pray for **Carolyn; Betty; Hazel; Dwight** and **Shirley**; as well as **Larry’s** mother, **Polly; Cindy’s** parents (**Don** and **Jackie Churches**), and her brother **Kenny**, who cares for them; and **John, Sylvia**, and

Paige Pollard.

Please pray for our national and civic leaders, 1 Tim 2:1,2. Pray also for all those in areas of war, as well as those persecuted for their faith in Christ, 2 Tim 3:12.