

~ Kevin's Kolumn ~

His precious indwelling

At the moment we take Christ Jesus on in baptism, His Spirit indwells us. He strengthens us with His Spirit in our inner self so Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith. All this is done so we'll be rooted and grounded in love so we can know the width, length, depth and height of Jesus' love for us. The only way I'm able to know the width, length, depth and height of Jesus' love for me is to have a special, personal, effective relationship with God. At one time I was taught that the Holy Spirit works only through the Word. But, then I read John 3 when Jesus has a discussion with Nicodemus. Jesus tells him in v. 7f, "*Do not marvel that I said to you, 'you must be born again. THE WIND BLOWS WHERE IT WISHES, AND YOU HEAR ITS SOUND, BUT YOU DO NOT KNOW WHERE IT COMES FROM OR WHERE IT GOES. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.'*" Just because the Spirit and the Word have different functions within the salvation process doesn't mean one is more important than the other! Read John 14: 16-17. The Spirit that Jesus sent can be seen and known by Christians but not non-Christians. If that's true, how can what Jesus "has sent" be referring to the Bible? I know quite a few lost people who own and even some who diligently study the Bible. Jesus said that only Christians possess and experience the indwelling of the Spirit. When Jesus spoke of Living Water, He was referencing the Holy Spirit. This promise is to anyone who is thirsty, not just those on whom hands might be laid by an Apostle. The promise is to whoever believes on the Christ. Once received, the Holy Spirit will "flow from within" the believer. Could Jesus have been speaking about the Word? Was the Word not received until Jesus was glorified? Do Christians receive the Word when they are saved? Isn't it rather they "hear" the Word and receive it *before* they believe, and believe before they are saved? Jesus said that this Living Water would come to those who have *already believed*. (Gal. 4: 6) He sent His Spirit of His Son into our hearts because we ARE his sons/daughters. Do you thirst for the Word? You should! We all need more knowledge of God's Word and we are NEVER filled. But, once we have the Spirit, we never need receive Him again. The Spirit gives life—eternal life! Moreover, this life-giving occurs not just at baptism, but throughout the life of the Christian. Embrace the presence of God's Spirit. Allow him to convict you of sin. Be sensitive to the things of God. Live your life in such a way as to glorify the One who loves you!

Have a blessed day, and remember the One who gave it to you!

Kevin

Welcome!

News and Notes

Covered Dish Luncheon – There will be a Covered Dish Luncheon TODAY immediately following our morning service. Everyone is welcome! **We will not be having evening services.**

Whitehall Nursery School – There are many items on the "Giving "Tree" in the front foyer next to the library that are needed to help start the Nursery School for the upcoming school year. If you would rather make a monetary donation, please see either Edwina Summers or Dianne Tonkery. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Church Picnic – A church picnic is being planned for Saturday, August 13th from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM at Wave Tek Park. Lunch will be served at Noon. For more details, see Phil Dotson.

Camping Trip – A church camping trip is being planned for August 19th -21st at Cedar Creek just outside of Glenville. If anyone would like to go, please see Steven or Carla Lough by August 3rd so that they can confirm the sites. Anyone that would like to just go down for the day is more than welcome! Questions, please see Steven or Carla.

Prayer Requests

♥Continue to lift up Edwina Summers, Harold Phillips, Kaylyn Lipscomb, Margret Brand, Dallas Shaffer, Mary Smallwood, Becky McCoy and Buck Osborne in your prayers.

♥Frank Perry has been struggling with his health recently. Please keep him and Joan in your prayers.

♥Funeral services were held for Dorthea Fortney at the Blueville Church of Christ this past Thursday at 2:00 PM. Please keep JR as well as the entire family in your prayers.

♥Harold and Jean Phillips ask that we keep Jean's mother (Hazel Mock) in your prayers as she struggles with her health.

♥Darrell Freeman is in the Fairmont Regional Medical Center after suffering from a fall and broken hip. Please keep him and Doris in your prayers.

♥Sandy Gooden has been re-admitted to Ruby hospital. Doctors have discovered another infection.

♥Butch Payton (relative of Gary Clayton) was killed in a tractor accident last week. Please keep the Payton and Clayton families in your prayers.

To all those who donated blood: THANK YOU!!!! Our goal was 21 units and WE REACHED OUR GOAL! This is the first year we were able to do that!