

# WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



“every disciple that is perfect shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

## TO WHOM SHALL WE GO? THE NECESSITY OF PRAYER

Prayer is an expression of our gratitude: *“Rejoice evermore ... in everything give thanks” (1 Thess 5:16-18)* and also of our need: *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” (Heb 4:16)* The mercy and grace we must have can only come from God. Prayer helps us obtain them (Acts 8:22).

But **more** than that: Prayer is a demonstration and **proof** of our faith and trust in God. Prayer shows God we think of ourselves as His **children**. Prayer shows our **submission** and **union** to Him—that He indeed **is** our God and Father.

God tested Abraham’s faith (Genesis 22:2,12). Our faith also is tested every day. Do we pass the test? Do we go to God in **prayer** for what we need?

The message we send in our prayers isn’t as much the words as the fact that we’re **doing** it. Prayer is a **demonstration** that we **know** we can not do it alone; that we can not provide for ourselves— God is **not** our co-pilot! Solomon prayed *“I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.” (1 Kings 3:7)* and it **pleased** God (v10).

Prayer shows God we know we have a need that only He can provide. And when we go to God in prayer acknowledging this, as Solomon did, God will be pleased and give us much **more** than we ask as He did Solomon (1 Kings 3:10-13).

We must know that the **only** place we can get what we really need is from God. Read **Luke 11:5-9**. If we **don’t** go to God, if we don’t **importune** Him as the example here shows, then we’re saying we either don’t want it badly enough, or that we think we can get it elsewhere. Is **that** the message you want to send to God? That his mercy and grace are **not** important! If not then PRAY! Be as Peter who cried in desperation to the Lord when asked if he would go elsewhere: *“Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. (John 6:68)*

By prayer we **show** and **prove** to our Heavenly Father our: **gratitude, humility, faith, trust, submission** and the fact that we **are** His children. Prayer is an **essential** demonstration of our faith in God – that we have no other god but Him.

“Pray without ceasing.” - 1 Thessalonians 5:17

- Ed Kelleher, West Columbia church of Christ, South Carolina

**PRAY! IN ORDER TO ... OUT WITH SIN IN 2010!**

VOLUME 36, NUMBER 27 July 18, 2010

RECORDS 7/4/2010

Sun 10 AM Bible Study: 63  
Sun 11 AM Assembly: 101  
Sun 6 PM Assembly: 57  
Weds 7 PM Bible Study: 53  
CONTRIBUTION: \$1509

SERMONS 7/18/2010

AM: Jerry Manning  
A LIBERATOR FROM GOD  
PM: Jerry Manning  
NEGATIVITY

“HE THAT IS SLOW TO ANGER IS BETTER THAN THE MIGHTY” - PROVERBS 16:32

“OPEN REBUKE IS BETTER THAN SECRET LOVE” - PROVERBS 27:5

*A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!*  
[www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org](http://www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org)

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### SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study  
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly  
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study  
Office Phone (803) 794-5320  
Nursery provided

*Bible Classes for all ages*

### LADIES CLASS

2nd Tuesday of month 7-9 PM

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## **“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16**

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Jimmy Gist, Jean Godley, Amy Wintermute, Lamar Reeves, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- Frank Allen is in Missouri with his with his mother, who is ill.
- We have many that are ill: Jean Boyd, Eddie Sheppard, Margaret Herring, Marilyn Brooks, Ron Banks, Deborah Stoyk, and Margie DeYoung.
- Remember all these in your prayers. Write them a card, give them a call, let them know you're praying for them and see if they'd like a visit:
- Brother Manning has many Bible studies during the week, remember them.

**"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:  
Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;  
Who redeemeth thy life from destruction;" - Psalms 103:2-4**

## **“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42**

- John Manning will be moving to New York in July to do the Lord's work.
- Building Cleanup volunteers needed for July and months following.
- Vacation Bible School coming up, Mon-Fri July 26-30
- Gospel Meeting with David Pharr coming up Sep 12-15!
- Youth Devo SATURDAYS 7 pm.
- Pantry items to bring to the church building. Remember, pop-tops are best.

**7/18 Delmonte Sliced Pears 7/4 Chef Boyardee Ravioli**

**"I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord  
in the land of the living." - Psalm 27:13**

**NOTE FROM EDITOR: My apologies that no bulletins were printed 7/4 and 7/11 while I was out of town on vacation.**

## **FAITH ALONE IS NOT BELIEF IN GOD**

**“He that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life” (John 3:36 ASV).** This truth is seen when **“Jehovah said unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed not in me, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel” (Num. 20:12 ASV).** They had not the "conviction" to do just what God said do. God said unto them, **“...speak ye unto the rock before their eyes” (Num. 20:8 ASV).** But they **“smote the rock” (Num. 20:11).** Hence God says, **“Ye believed not in me” (Num. 20:12 ASV).**

What is it to "believe in" God? It is to do trustingly and lovingly just what He says. This "faith alone" system is the popular doctrine in pulpits and on rostrums of the modern pastor and money-loving evangelist. There is nothing that they put over with a show that is more deceiving and soul-blighting.

**- A. G. (Arvy Glenn) Freed, 1863-1931, Gospel Preacher, educator**

## **THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT**

**“And take the helmet of salvation,  
and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: “ - Ephesians 6:17**

"In conversion and sanctification, the Holy Spirit operates on the hearts of men only through the word of God." A burr under the Calvinistic saddle, that truth can be unwittingly diluted by a misapplication of Ephesians 6:17. The argument is sometimes made that Holy Spirit wields the sword of the Spirit in conversion and sanctification, thus proving the Spirit's work through the medium of the word. That argument not only fails to prove the proposition, but actually concedes the Calvinist's position. In his 1938 debate with N. B. Hardeman, Ben M. Bogard made that very argument in his affirmation that the Spirit exerts a direct influence upon man.

"The Spirit works as if there were no word and the word is used as if there were no Spirit. Not separate and apart from each other but together, side by side on the same thing. The gospel is the sword of the Spirit and as the sword is distinct from the soldier and the soldier distinct from the sword, yet both soldier and sword work together to slay the enemy, even so the Spirit and the word work together to save the soul." (Ben M. Bogard, 2nd Affirmative, "The Work of The Holy Spirit, Hardeman-Bogard Debate, Gospel Advocate Co., Nashville, 1938, p. 31).

Those today who say the Holy Spirit wields the sword make the same fundamentally flawed argument. In the context of Ephesians 6:17, Paul delineates the defensive and offensive items of spiritual warfare to be utilized by the Christian soldier. The truth is girt about his loins, he wears the breastplate of righteousness, is shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, holds the shield of faith, wears the helmet of salvation and wields the sword of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit wears none of the armor, nor does He wield the sword.

"It is said that the Word is the sword that the Holy Spirit uses. Rather, the Word of God is the sword that the Holy Spirit forged for us to use. The Spirit does not wield the sword — we ourselves wield it, and if we do not wield it, then it will not be wielded. If the Holy Spirit performs some direct operation in wielding the sword, the action and method should be subject to definition and description, and demonstration...

As the smith forges instruments and weapons, the Holy Spirit by inspiration in the apostles of Christ forged the sword of the Word for us to wield." (Foy E. Wallace, Jr., The Mission and Medium of The Holy Spirit, Foy E. Wallace, Jr. Publications, 1967, p. 85).

If the Spirit wields the sword, advocates of the direct operation of the Holy Spirit are correct in their assertions and Bogard was right in his debate with Hardeman. But they argue from a faulty premise. The Holy Spirit does not wield the sword any more than God wears the "whole armor of God." (Ephesians 6:11). The "armor of God" is the armor God provides and the "sword of the Spirit" is the sword the Holy Spirit forged. If the "sword of the Spirit" means the Spirit wields and uses the sword, then the "armor of God" means God wears the armor as a defensive measure. If not, why not?

**- Jerry C. Brewer, Gospel Preacher, publisher**

**USE WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN US AND ... OUT WITH SIN IN 2010!**