

LED BY THE SPIRIT

Class 5 – A Community Led by the Spirit

Rocky Mountain Bible School 2015

OUR JOURNEY SO FAR...

- The Mind of the Flesh vs. the Mind of the Spirit
- The Operation of the Spirit in the Lives of Believers
- Prepared Unto All Good Works
- By This Ye Shall Know

FINAL CLASS – A COMMUNITY LED BY THE SPIRIT

- Israel led by the Spirit
 - Prayer and the Spirit-led ecclesia
 - Overall implications of being a Spirit-led body
 - Concluding thoughts
-

ISRAEL LED IN THE WILDERNESS



UNIQUE PRESENCE FOR ISRAEL

- The pillar of fire and cloud by day were constant evidence of God's presence
- It provided assurance to a faithful Jew that God was leading them
- Did they live each day aware of the presence?
- Israel's experience was all about neglecting these sure signs of His presence
- They limited the Holy One and failed to trust in Him – never fully experiencing the comfort and spiritual assurance that God offered

EXODUS 40:34-38



“Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all their journeys: But if the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of the LORD was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.”



CLOUD BY DAY, FIRE BY NIGHT – F.E. MITCHELL 1969

“The cloud indicated the will of God. “When it moved they journeyed and when it rested they waited.” Action is always preferable to waiting. Yet sometimes for Israel the waiting time was long, and might even extend to a year. Waiting has always proved irksome to God’s people. The cloud did not always move at times convenient to the children of Israel. Sometimes it was the pillar of fire that moved at night. Whenever the time came, they journeyed. So it must be with us. When we realize God’s will for us, we must do it at once. From time to time, like Israel, we find ourselves directed into ways we do not wish to go. Yet, let us not be disobedient to the Divine guiding.”

ISRAEL BEING LED IN WILDERNESS

- As pilgrims, they were to be unattached to the land, unencumbered – ready to go
- God controlled when, where – the people only controlled their personal responsiveness
- The timing and the direction was under the control of God and unknown to men

2 PETER 2:20

“For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again **entangled** therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to know the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.”

Only other place in Scripture – “No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.” 2 Timothy 2:4

ENTANGLED WITH EXCUSES

“Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.”

Luke 14:20

WHAT CAN “ENTANGLE” US TODAY? PERSONAL



- Too involved in career
- Family pursuits overtake our commitment to ecclesia
- We are overtaken by the lusts of the flesh, which war against our soul
- When we think it all depends on us and our “innate” abilities

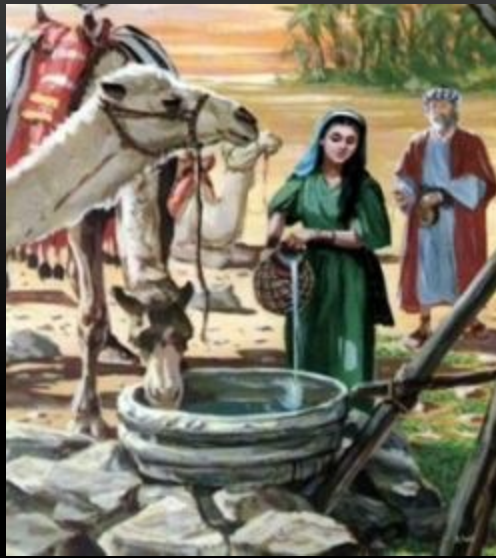
WHAT CAN “ENTANGLE” US TODAY? ECCLESIAS



- Decades-long controversies that tie-up servants and fatigue ecclesias
- Permitting humanistic, not spiritual, evaluation of our course
- Inadequate study and application of the Word

LESSONS FOR TODAY?

- Do you believe that the Lord controls the opportunities to serve in your life?
- Do you believe that the Lord the when and where for our ecclesias?
- Do you believe that He alone knows how to bring us open hearts when we preach?
- When He demonstrates a window of opportunity, are we ready to go forward and commit?



ELIEZAR'S MISSION AND PRAYER

“Then he prayed, “LORD, God of my master Abraham, make me successful today, and show kindness to my master Abraham. See, I am standing beside this spring, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. May it be that when I say to a young woman, ‘Please let down your jar that I may have a drink,’ and she says, ‘Drink, and I’ll water your camels too’—let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. **By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master.**” **Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder.** She was the daughter of Bethuel son of Milkah, who was the wife of Abraham’s brother Nahor.”

Genesis 24:12-15

FIRST SCRIPTURAL MENTION OF “LED BY GOD”

“She answered him, “I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son that Milkah bore to Nahor.” And she added, “We have plenty of straw and fodder, as well as room for you to spend the night.” Then the man bowed down and worshiped the LORD, saying, “Praise be to the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not abandoned his kindness and faithfulness to my master. As for me, **the LORD has led me on the journey** to the house of my master’s relatives.”

Genesis 24:24-27 (NIV)

ELEMENTS OF ELIEZAR'S SERVICE

- Faithful in the work that he had promised to do for his Master
- Took with him all the jewels of gold, silver and of raiment – expecting a successful journey
- When he arrived at the City of Nahor, the trail went cold – how would he find this family and the right damsel?
- He asked God to lead him – and specifically asked for a sign that he might know his work was being blessed by God
- The prayer was being answered even while he was praying!
- He knew of a surety that he had been led by the LORD

SEE A PATTERN?

- Longstanding faithful daily service in the household
- Diligent preparation for work that lies ahead
- Doing all that we can to serve our Master, but understanding our own limitations and need for God
- Praying for God to give us “good speed” in our work – to lead us when we know not the way
- Seeing God’s hand in our work
- Praising Him and thanking Him

THE CHRISTADELPHIAN, J SUTCLIFFE, 1930

“We not only work and strive, agonize and labour, but God is also working for us: that is the other side of the matter. Sometimes our striving is of the wrong kind; we are striving against God. We are resisting the spirit; we are quenching the spirit. What we have to do is to allow the word of God to have its work in our minds and hearts. The Psalmist says; “Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee. Here it is, then, a prophylactic, an antiseptic, a protection, a defense against the evil that surrounds us in the world. The word of God hidden in the heart.

SUNDAY MORNING – F.E. MITCHELL, 1969

“As the Lord provided for these needs of old by the pillar of cloud, so antitypically he has met them for His people today, and indeed of all times since the Lord was here. This is achieved by the working of His spirit through Jesus their leader; by means of the Word; and by means of approach to Him for help and comfort in prayer. Acceptance of this kind of Spirit guidance is the key to the true life in Christ Jesus.”

THE SPIRIT AND PRAYER

INITIAL POINTS

- By now, you must have observed that the Spirit and the Lord Jesus Christ are often used interchangeably
 - It is our Lord who directs the Spirit in our lives
 - So, what are we to understand from intercession in our prayers?
 - How is the Spirit active?
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THE SPIRIT AND PRAYER – ROMANS 8:22-23; 26-27

“For we know that the whole creation **groaneth and travaileth in pain** together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves **groan within ourselves**, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with **groanings which cannot be uttered**. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God..”

Our Lord is aware of the spiritual mind because he makes his abode with those who resist sin, follow the commandments, and love God. He is fully aware of our innermost feelings since he dwells with us.

JESUS UNDERSTANDS GROANINGS AND SIGHINGS

“Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, **he groaned in the spirit**, and was troubled.” John 11:32-33

“And the Pharisees came forth, and began to question with him, seeking of him a sign from heaven, tempting him. And **he sighed deeply in his spirit**, and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a sign? verily I say unto you, There shall no sign be given unto this generation.” Mark 8:11-12

“And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to put his hand upon him. And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue; And looking up to heaven, **he sighed**, and saith unto him, Ephphatha, that is, Be opened.” Mark 7:32-34

GROANING AS WE EARNESTLY DESIRE THE KINGDOM

“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. **For in this we groan**, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle **do groan, being burdened**: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.”

2 Corinthians 5:1-5

THE LORD KNOWS THEM THAT ARE HIS!

“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, **The Lord knoweth them that are his**. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

2 Timothy 2:19

THOUGHTS AND INTENTS NAKED AND OPEN

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: **but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.**”

Hebrews 4:12-13

PSALM 1:5-6

“Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. **For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous:** but the way of the ungodly shall perish.”

THE WORD AND THE SPIRIT, BRO. FRED PEARCE, 1984

“How can the Spirit make intercession apart from Christ? Are there two intercessors? Paul must be referring to the intercession of Christ (“the Spirit:”) on our behalf. Another difficulty is the expression “with groanings that cannot be uttered”, often interpreted as “inarticulate longings” in the minds of the saints. Brother Alfred Nichols has a most helpful passage in *The Spirit of God*, pp. 107-8, which all readers are recommended to study. The Greek implies not so much that the “groanings” are inarticulate as that they cannot “be known or repeated by us.” The communion is between Christ and God on behalf of the saints.”

THE PSALMS DIVERSIFIED – 1885, THE CHRISTADELPHIAN

“Personal meditation seems too insignificant for the ear of the Eternal Creator. To whom does it so seem? To mortal man. But man cannot judge for God. Man’s thoughts concerning God are tainted by human feeling. They cannot rise to Divine feeling.

Even we cannot give form to our thoughts, and “know not what to pray for as we ought, the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us, with groanings that cannot be uttered.” There is at last not other comfort in life.”

THE CHRISTADELPHIAN, 1898 – BRO. C.C. WALKER

“Christ making intercession for us (Romans 8:34) **is the Spirit making intercession for us**. The Spirit reflects to heaven our unuttered feelings and desires, and Christ in heaven, who is conscious and cognizant of all things by the Spirit, takes note of them and makes them the subject of intercession with the Father – the fountain of all Spirit and life.”

FIRSTFRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

“And not only they, but ourselves also, **which have the firstfruits of the Spirit**, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.”

Romans 8:23

PRAYER AND THE SPIRIT

- Much of the intimacy we are called to in Christ involves our prayer lives
- We need to live lives that appreciate the fellowship prayer provides
- We need to have a deep appreciation that the Lord knows us better than we do ourselves and can understand our hearts well beyond the imperfections of our ability to communicate
- Indeed, we need to foster personal prayer by drawing together in fellowship as a people of prayer
- Being led by the Spirit **MUST** involve a strong prayer life

PRAYER AND BEING LED BY THE SPIRIT



REFORMATION, HARRY WHITTAKER, 1985

“One of the best known Christadelphians in the world wrote rather sadly: “The fact has to be faced, I fear, that we are not a praying community.”

One imagines that very few would be disposed to disagree strongly with such an assessment. But, at least, if we are aware of this spiritual deficiency there is some hope that something might be done about it.”

CHALLENGES



- Some lament that there is an inadequate sharing of our personal journey in the Truth
- We often shy away from talking about how the Lord has worked in our life and what we have learned
- We may miss out on a significant source of comfort and strength

MISSION VIEJO CHRISTIAN CHURCH,



Congregation Prayer Requests

Please Remember these requests
in your daily prayers
June 14, 2015

Prayer Requests

Dave and Karen Hicks- Pray for Len & Elaine Sole, David & Char Eaves, Brian & Almee Eaves. Also pray for David, Karl and Parker Hicks as they will be coming to visit for 3 weeks on 6/25/15. Diane Lombardi- Please pray for me as I travel to Chicago to help my parents pack up their stuff, sell their house and our travels back to CA.

Gladys Baker- Please lift my friend Madeline in prayer as she is holding Larry Weaver.

Carol Knowles- Please pray for a house for Amy Magallanes and family; a new job for Humberto Magallanes; Salvation for the Knowles family and a Christian preschool for Johnny and Kinney in FL.

Linda Donahoe- Please continue to lift grandson Gage in prayer; He is home now but has a long journey still to go; Pray my daughter and the results from the up coming test that she will not have cancer.

Gilbert Chavez- Please pray for our marriage and that we can resolve our issues with direction from God, pray for restoration and putting God first and center.

Dave & Karen Hicks- Pray for Len & Elaine Sole, David & Char Eaves, Brian & Almee Eaves.

Shandra Isaacs- Please lift my husband and I in prayer as his best friend just passed away after battling cancer for 20 plus years; Please pray for peace and comfort for his family.

Carol Knowles- Please lift Amy Magallanes in prayer; also pray for safe travels for Jim and myself and for wisdom in sharing the gospel with the people in Colorado.

Nancy Giddings- Please pray for healing and comfort as I have been unable to get out of bed lately as I am in a lot of pain (back, legs and throat).

Linda Donahoe- Please continue to lift grandson Gage in prayer; He is home now but has a long journey still to go; Pray my Son and Daughter will start going to church and drawing close to God.

Gloria Aqueche- Please lift my grandson Zachary up in prayer, pray for healing and comfort as he broke his back.

Carol Knowles- Pray for continued healing and salvation for Alicia.

Dave & Karen Hicks- Pray for Len & Elaine Sole, David & Char Eaves, Brian & Almee Eaves.

Michelle Belltran- Pray for Andrea, Jake, Avery, Sheila, art and Kahu.

Rick Harrington- Please pray that God will help deliver me from my depression, anxiety and evil. Pray for healing in our family and protection.

Nora Estrada- Please lift the Estrada family in prayer and pray for salvation.

Linda Donahoe- Please continue to lift grandson Gage in prayer; He is home now but has a long journey still to go; Please also lift daughter Linda in prayer as she will be having surgery to remove a tumor on 6/19.

Amy Magallanes- Please pray for healing for my husbands back; Also pray for our marriage and that we continue to seek the Lord and stay faithful in Him.

Carol Knowles- Please lift David Klerman in prayer as his goes to court on 5/20 for custody of his two beautiful children; Also pray for healing and salvation for Alicia Klerman.

Shane Sutton- Please pray for God to be with me and help me thru these difficult times I am

VOLUNTEER MINISTRY

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PRAYER REQUESTS - POSTED

- Gilbert Chavez- Please pray for our marriage and that we can resolve our issues with direction from God, pray for restoration and putting God first and center
- Shandra Isaacs- Please lift my husband and I in prayer as his best friend just passed away after battling cancer for 20 plus years; Please pray for peace and comfort for his family.
- Carol Knowles- Please lift Amy Magallanes in prayer; also pray for safe travels for Jim and myself and for wisdom in sharing the gospel with the people in Colorado
- Nancy Giddings- Please pray for healing and comfort as I have been unable to get out of bed lately as I am in a lot of pain (back, legs and throat)
- Linda Donahoe- Please continue to lift grandson Gage in prayer; He is home now but has a long journey still to go: Pray my Son and Daughter will start going to church and drawing close to God.
- Gloria Aqueche- Please lift my grandson Zackary up in prayer, pray for healing and comfort as he

POINTS TO CONSIDER

- Consider special prayer as a community for those about to do a work on behalf of the ecclesia
- Regularly have intimate prayer as a part of our worship (prayer requests, smaller prayer circles)
- Enlist and engage others in praying for us for help in times of trouble
- Focus our prayers on specific needs in our ecclesias or global community

ORANGE COUNTY MEETING



- Standard Memorial Service (4 regular students, 10 baptized)
- At conclusion of Memorial Service, we break for 15 minutes
- We come back and spend 45 minutes discussing the exhortation and the challenges it posed for us
- We then take prayer requests
- The presider leads a prayer, including these personal and intimate prayer requests
- Then, of course, we eat!

WHAT HAPPENS, PRETTY REGULARLY

- Individuals share specific items that are troubling them, especially if it was connected to the exhortation
- The list of items to pray for are never less than 15
- Many prayer requests are deeply emotional and bring tears
- Some seem almost trite – maybe initially not seen as fully worthy of prayer
- But, it is what is on their minds and in their hearts
- Members tell us weeks later what happened – often attributing our prayer together as having brought this about

NEW TESTAMENT ECCLESIAS

- It wasn't Spirit gifts that brought them together – that was often what caused division
- It was prayer that was at the very heart of their Spirit-led fellowship
- There was a “service” of personal prayers (Paul's prayer list – 1 Thess. 1:3)
- There were pleas to pray on behalf of a person, the work or about adversaries
- In Acts, during times of trouble the ecclesia was found in a house engaged in prayer
- “Pray without ceasing.”

A COMMUNITY LED BY THE SPIRIT IS A
COMMUNITY OF PRAYER!

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13 NIV

“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”

THANK YOU!

- It's our prayer that these lessons will spur you on to further study
- May we each be a holy habitation, a dwelling place for the Father and His Son
- May we each be prepared to do the wonderful work that He has prepared in advance for us to do
- May we accept that He is moving us, prompting us, guiding us to have the faith needed to accomplish His Will
- May we demonstrate that we are being led by the Spirit by the love we have
- May we live lives of earnest prayer, joining together in worship and praise of Him who saved us by His Son