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## Calendar

**August 5**  
Men's Breakfast

**August 6**  
Prayer Meeting & Membership Class

**August 12**  
Gospel to the Valley & Church Picnic

**August 16**  
Wednesday Night Bible Study Resumes

**Mall Evangelism**  
August 26

Prayer Meeting  
Sunday  
August 6

From 5:00-6:00pm  
Here at the church.  
Come pray together  
as a church family

## New Format for Wednesday Bible Study

Written by Luke Kirkendall

On **August 16** our Wednesday night Bible study will resume. This year we are making a slight change to our format and want to make sure you're a part of these exciting changes. We will begin in our usual way, by having people bring their own dinners and eat from 6:00-6:30pm. At 6:30pm we will sing a couple worship songs together, which is followed by an Elder giving a devotional from the **Family Discipleship Book**. At about 6:45pm children and youth will be dismissed for their classes. The adults will stay together in the sanctuary. Pastor Luke will teach for about 25 minutes. After he teaches, the men and women will split up into a men's group and a women's group. Once in their groups, they will discuss the passage in greater depth. This will give a concentrated time to ask questions and apply the text to their lives.

### There are great benefits to this new format

- Husbands and wives will be studying the same passages together. This means that the family will be united in what it learns regarding the Word of God.
- The separate men and women discussion groups will allow questions to be asked in a safe environment.
- The adults in the church will be united in their growth in their understanding of the Bible, but at the same time the discussion groups will allow a greater sense of community to emerge within the church.

### The Study for the 2017/2018 year will include:

- Titus
- I Peter
- II Peter
- I John

## For I Am Sure

Written by Houston Groves

This past week we had the privilege of taking some of the youth of Southwest to summer camp. I always love camp, not only because camping in general is great, but more because we get to take the students and ourselves away from all of the normal distractions of everyday life and focus on what's truly important: God. This week our theme for camp was to address the question, "How do you know if you are a Christian?" Through the course of camp, we walked through some basic steps in this process, beginning with confessing our guilt and our absolute dependency on Christ for our salvation, to having faith in God, repenting and turning from our sin, becoming disciples of Christ, and finally, ending the week on the topic of assurance. I'd like to just highlight the conversation for us here because I truly believe this is something that any Christian can benefit from, not only our youth.

### So how can we have assurance in our salvation?

In typical church format, allow me to present us with three truths from where our assurance can come.

- **Holy Spirit**

*In Ephesians 1:13-14 we read, "In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory."* We see right here that those who have been saved are blessed with the Holy Spirit to serve as a seal from God and a guarantee of our inheritance to be fully received after death. Dwelling within us, the Holy Spirit serves to sanctify us, transform us into the image of Jesus (1 Corinthians 3:18), works in and through us, causes and empowers us to do good works (Philippians 2:12-13), and reveals truth to us which would have previously remained hidden from our sinful understanding (John 6:13). *Romans 3:10-11 informs us that, "None is righteous, no not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God."* Our encouragement and assurance of the Holy Spirit being within us as a seal for salvation comes in the manifestation of His works. We are not anything like Christ, so if we are becoming more like him, that is the Spirit at work within us. We do no good works, so if we find that we are, that is not ourselves, but the Spirit at work within us.

*(article continued on back page)*

# For I Am Sure

(continued article from front page)

We do not understand or seek for God, yet if we find the truths of Scripture being revealed and we begin to develop a genuine longing to pursue God, that is also the Spirit at work within us.

- **The Faithfulness of God**

**Hebrews 10:23 reads, "Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful."**

Paul's assurance as well as our own, is rooted firmly in the faithful and steadfast nature of our God. Unlike us, who often find it difficult to carry out promises we make, God will absolutely be true to his word 100% of the time. If you ever have doubt of this, simply look to the countless times in Scripture where God did exactly what He said He would. Hebrews 6:18 further reminds us that, "it is impossible for God to lie" and so, when He promises the forgiveness of sins and salvation (1 John 1:9, Romans 10:9), we can be rest assured that, "He who promised is faithful."

- **The Completed Work of Christ**

In **Hebrews 10:11-14**, the writer, in referring to the daily need of sacrifices to be performed by priests says of Jesus, "**But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until His enemies should be made a footstool for His feet.**" We sin on a daily basis and before the work on the cross, it was continuously necessary for more and more sacrifices to be performed for sins to be forgiven. Can you imagine if our salvation relied upon our own works? We would never be able to do it, not even through daily sacrifices. If our salvation was dependent upon us, then we would have every reason to doubt, and the only assurance we would have would be of our eternal damnation.

**But praise God, that we are saved by the work of Christ and not ourselves! We can have absolute faith that, while our own work is undone everyday, Christ's work can never be undone.**

## Nebuchadnezzar Humbled

In the book of Daniel, King Nebuchadnezzar was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon and made this claim:

<sup>30</sup>and the king answered and said, "Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?" <sup>31</sup>While the words were still in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, "O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you, <sup>32</sup>and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will." King Nebuchadnezzar was immediately humbled by God. He spent a long period of time as an animal! When the King finally came to admit that God was the Most High, he was restored as a man. "At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, 'What have you done?'" **Daniel 4:34-35.** Everything was restored to the King, his sanity, his kingdom, and his people. King Nebuchadnezzar rightly acknowledged God's power, control, might and grace towards anyone He chooses. "I Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble" **Daniel 4:37.** Take some time to meditate on this scripture passage and listen to what God wants to have you hear today. Take these truths to heart! (ESV)



# The Holy Spirit and the Christian

Written by Luke Kirkendall

One of the promises to a Christian is that he is gifted with the Holy Spirit at conversion. The presence of the Holy Spirit in the Christian's life is a permanent indwelling that is filled with the power of God. Here are 9 benefits of having the Holy Spirit present in the daily life of a Christian.

- 1) **The Christian experiences the power of the Holy Spirit when He is convicted of sin and repents.** *John 16:8 - "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:"*
- 2) **The Christian experiences the power of the Holy Spirit when he is counseled by the Spirit.** He brings to remembrance the words of Christ; "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you" (*John 14:26*).
- 3) **The Christian experiences the power of the Holy Spirit when He is sanctified and made more Christ-like,** The Holy Spirit is responsible for the Christian's sanctification; ". . . so that my offering of the Gentiles may become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit" (*Romans 15:16*).
- 4) **The Christian experiences the power of the Holy Spirit as he puts faith to action and pursues sanctification.** *Ephesians 5:15-20* teaches that as the believer consciously submits to and obeys God's Word, he is *filled with the Spirit*.
- 5) **The Christian is assured of salvation by the presence of the Holy Spirit.** The Holy Spirit is a pledge from God of an inheritance for the believer; ". . . who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory" (*Ephesians 1:14*).
- 6) **The Christian is uniquely gifted by the Holy Spirit to serve the church.** *1 Corinthians 12:7* says, "To each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."
- 7) **The Christian Experiences the power of the Holy Spirit when he puts into action his spiritual gift.** *Romans 12:6* says, "Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly,"
- 8) **As the Christian proclaims truth, the Holy Spirit brings to remembrance essential truths.** When put in difficult situations, the Holy Spirit will give the believer the words necessary; "for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute" (*Luke 21:15*).
- 9) **The Christian experiences the power of the Holy Spirit as he communes with God.** The Holy Spirit gives all Christians bold access to the Father; "for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father" (*Ephesians 2:18*).