

Things to Ponder: Finding the Holy Spirit

By Grant Williams

What ever happened to the Holy Spirit? Francis Chan, in his book entitled, *Forgotten God*, wrote these poignant words in his introduction. “The benchmark of success in church services has become more about attendance than the movement of the Holy Spirit. The ‘entertainment’ model of church was largely adopted in the 1980s and 90s, and while it alleviated some of our boredom for a couple of hours a week, it filled our churches with self-focused consumers rather than self-sacrificing servants attuned to the Holy Spirit.”

Does this help explain why many modern churches have problems? I believe it provides the context for why so many people church hop and never really feel content anywhere!

People are searching for something that satisfies their soul, but don’t find it. The right preacher; the best music; programs for everyone in the family, yet they still feel empty even after finding the perfect church.

A.W. Tozer hit the nail on the head when he said, “We may as well face it: the whole level of spirituality among

us is low. We have measured ourselves by ourselves until the incentive to seek higher plateaus in things of the Spirit is all but gone...[We] have imitated the world, sought popular favor, manufactured delights to substitute for the joy of the Lord and produced a cheap and synthetic power to substitute for the power of the Holy Ghost.” There is no substitute for the Holy Spirit in our churches. Either He is present or we are bound to fail. Emotion has become king and prosperity has become the goal far too often.

Read Galatians 5:13-26. These verses explain the reality of the Spirit in a believer’s life. Without the Spirit of God dwelling in a person it is impossible to please Him. But look at the beautiful life available to the person filled with the Spirit and submitted to the Lord. The joy and peace we long for does not come from strong arming one another like the world does. It comes from a genuine love for God and others. When we make room for sin in our lives we crowd the Spirit out. When we choose to obey God’s Word He empowers us to please Him. When we serve one another with the right attitude His fruit overflows in our life.

James chapter 4 verse 1 raises a very important question. “Do you know where your fights and arguments come from?” James says it is your bad attitude. You want what you can’t have and so you are willing to kill and become destructive to get what you want. Actually, taking some one’s life might not

take place, but destroying someone’s life or reputation can be just as deadly. When our hearts and churches are filled with the Holy Spirit there will be life and growth. People will quit hopping from church to church and start to mature because the soil is healthy and the Lord is welcome.



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Bridge Street Bits

ATTENTION VETERANS: Plans are being made for a once a month breakfast at a yet undetermined place. We are asking for your interest and input in spending an informal time and having a meal with fellow veterans and Community Action Team’s Veteran Officer RUSS CLARK. Call Russ at 503 366 6580 and let’s make a date! Also at some point we will all meet with PHIL BUTCHER, Disability Veteran Unemployment Representative.

PASSPORT TO SERVICES from Community Action Team: “Weatherization Program.” The mission of the weatherization program is “To reduce energy costs for low-income families, particularly for elderly people with disabilities and children, by improving the energy efficiency of their homes while ensuring their health and safety.” Services: The program provides grant funding for measures that help reduce energy costs, such as insulation,

refrigerator replacement, heating system repair or replacement and health and safety repairs. The program currently operates in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook Counties. For additional information call Kim at 1-800-325-8098

CALL KAREN MILLER for your copy of America’s Health Guide for Seniors and Caregivers. Also available is information on becoming a Home Care Worker - call the DHS office at 503 397-5863. Looking for list of classes you can take as a Support Worker or Homecare Worker? Contact Karen/Vernonia 503-366-6581

SHEILA’S LUNCHESES here at the Vernonia Senior Center: All ages welcome; 60 and up on a donation basis, under 60 is \$4. Take out meals available for \$5 - please call ahead.

QIGONG CLASSES still here on each Friday at 9:00 am. Free for seniors.

SENIOR SIGN OFF: One positive thing about older age: The older we get the less peer pressure there is.

LUNCH MENU
5/15 Tacos & Refried Beans
5/16 Egg Salad Sandwich
5/19 Parmesan Chicken
5/20 Sub Sandwich
5/21 Roast Chicken
5/22 Crustless Quiche & Ham
5/23 Clam Chowder & Biscuits
5/26 Memorial Day Holiday
5/27 Five Area Luncheon Oven Fried Chicken & Picnic Sides
5/28 Country Ribs
5/29 Tomato Soup & Cheese Biscuits
5/30 Patty Melt

Vernonia Senior Center • 446 Bridge Street • 503-429-3912

Church Directory (in alphabetical order)

Assembly of God
Sunday School: 9:45 AM
Morning Worship: 11:00 AM
Sunday Evening Prayer: 6:00 PM
Wayne Marr, Pastor
662 Jefferson Avenue
503-429-0373
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Sunday Schedule:
Sacrament Meeting: 10:00 AM
Sunday School & Primary: 11:20 AM
Relief Society, Priesthood and Young Women: 12:10 PM
Marc Farmer, Branch President
1350 E. Knott Street
503-429-7151
Covenant Church Vernonia
Sunday School: 9:45 AM
Worship Service: 11:00 AM
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 7:00 PM

John D, Murray, Pastor
359 “A” Street
503-860-3860
Grace Family Fellowship
Sunday School: 9:00 AM
Worship Service: 10:30 AM
Thursday Prayer: 6:00 PM
Greg “Mac” McCallum, Pastor
957 State Avenue
503-429-6790
Nehalem Valley Bible Church
Sunday School: 9:45 AM
Worship Service: 10:45 AM
Wed. Ladies Bible Study: 10:00 AM
Wednesday Service: 7:00 PM
Sat. Men’s Prayer Meeting: 6:30 AM
Gary Taylor, Pastor
Grant & North Streets
503-429-5378

Open Door Gathering Place
Service: Sunday 6:00 PM
Grant Williams, Pastor
375 North Street
Pioneer Baptist Fellowship
Sunday School: 9:30 AM
Worship Service: 11:00 AM
www.pbfalive.com
John Cahill, Pastor
939 Bridge Street
503-429-1161
St. Mary’s Catholic Church
Wednesday Religious Education: 3:15-4:30 PM
Sunday Mass: 12:00 PM
Rev. Luan Tran, Administrator
960 Missouri Avenue
503-429-8841
Vernonia Christian Church
Sunday School: 9:45 AM
Worship Service in Youth &

Family Center: 11:00 AM
www.VernoniaChristianChurch.org
Sam Hough, Pastor
410 North Street
503-429-6522
Vernonia Foursquare Church
Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 AM
Children’s Sunday School
Carl Pense, Pastor
850 Madison Avenue
503-429-1103
Vernonia Seventh-day Adventist Church
Sabbath (Saturday) Services
Sabbath School: 9:30 AM
Worship Service: 11:00 AM
www.VernoniaSDAC.org
Larry Gibson, Pastor
2nd Ave. and Nehalem St.
503-429-8301