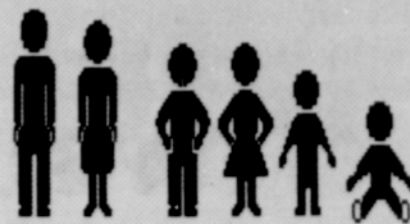




RELIGION

Strengthen Your Faith Through Prayer And Regular Church Worship

Scripture of the Week
entire Book I JOHN



Insight from the Word The Blessings of the Spirit

by Michael Lindsey,
Dean of North Portland Bible College

The Sunday School lesson for February 25 in the uniform series will be John 14:15-27.

Anyone who is active in a local Christian church today is aware of the important role of the Holy Spirit in our teaching and preaching. Unfortunately, teachings concerning the gifts of the Spirit, the filling of the Spirit and the baptism of the Spirit often lead to heated discussion and disagreement within the family of believers. This was never the intent of the Lord Jesus.

In our Scripture lesson today, we continue to hear the words of the Lord, spoken to his disciples on the night he was betrayed, the night before he died on Calvary. He knew he would no longer be with his men in the way they had been together for three years, and he knew they would be grieved and disoriented—scattered like sheep without a shepherd (Matthew 26:31). But Jesus was ready to meet their need, by sending the Holy Spirit into their hearts. There is very little said about the Holy Spirit in the earliest part of the Gospel, but Jesus teaches about the Spirit in each chapter of this Farewell Discourse (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7-15).

The Lord gives us several truths about the spirit in this text, which will help us through the disorienting times in our lives as well. I'd like to explore several of these with you.

First, we note that the Spirit is a "Comforter." This word (in the original language, *paraclete*) has been very difficult to translate into tongue. King James Version says "Comforter," the NIV uses "Counselor," other translations use "Helper," "Advocate," even "Friend." No one word does justice to the original concept. The word could be literally translated, "one who is called alongside." In I John 2:1-2, Christ is described as our *paraclete*, but there the meaning can be derived from context: Christ is our Advocate with the Father, much like a defense attorney or character witness in a court of law. So in this case, Jesus tells us that the Spirit will be an Advocate with the Father as well, interceding for us (see Romans 8:26-27).

The Spirit of God is "another" Advocate, for the disciples had already known the interceding grace of Jesus here on earth, and had been taught by him, and had grown to rely on him as their greatest Helper and Friend. Now the Spirit would be taking up that work for all believer, forever. Unlike some cases in the Old Testament, the Spirit, once given, would not be withdrawn. (Compare Samson in Judges 13-16, esp. 16:20; and King Saul in I Samuel 16:14; also recall John 7: 38-39.)

In particular, the Spirit is called "the Spirit of truth" (14:17), just as Jesus had already declared, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" (14:6). Their Lord would repeatedly tell them things like this: "If you love me, keep my commandments" (14:15, also 21, 23, 24). Surely they loved Jesus! But how would they know what he commanded, once he was glorified and returned to heaven? The disciples needed the Spirit of God to lead them into truth. And Jesus makes this clear "he will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you" (14:26, NIV).

But the Lord makes a clear connection between our love for him, and our obedience to him, and the joy of having the Holy Spirit within as an Advocate from God the Father. In other words, no one should pretend to be Christian, if he is living a life of disobedience to the plain truths of Christ. And no one who is a believer, should expect the fullness of the Spirit in his life, if he is not willing to turn from any sin in his life.

I am afraid this is the real reason so many of our churches (and our own Christian lives) lack the love, joy and peace which the Holy Spirit produces (Galatians 5:22-23). It doesn't matter what gifts of the Spirit you may possess, or experiences you may claim. Sin in the believer's life blocks the flow of the Spirit, and makes the believer miserable, and his witness a shambling. Let us give thanks to God for the Gift of the Holy Spirit; but then let's confess any sins which keep us from enjoying his presence and power in our lives and our churches.

GLORY HALLELUJAH!

by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

Sometimes, when I am
down and out
I lift up my voice
and I shout . . .
"Glory Hallelujah!"

When my day has
just begun
And there are no
songs to be sung
I cry out,
"Glory Hallelujah!"

I looked in the cupboard
and saw no bread
The pain is so great
I can't lift my head,
"Glory Hallelujah!"

My lights are off
and my friends are all gone
"Jesus! My Jesus!
What went wrong?"
"Glory Hallelujah!"

The Lord will supply
A-L-L that you need
And, every day in the year
He's a friend indeed . . .
"Glory Hallelujah!"

All the Lord asks is
that we come to Him in prayer
" . . . Ask and it shall be given."
Try it? If you dare.
"Glory Hallelujah!"

You got to PRAISE Him when you're up
and PRAISE Him when you're down
Have a calm assurance that
your soul is heaven bound . . .
"Glory Hallelujah!"

— by MAC Spears

Kindness is a hard thing to
give away; it usually comes
back.

Nykee C. English, Longtime Businessman, Dies

Mr. English and his wife operated a School Store across the street from Boise School for 15 years. They sold the property and operated a craft shop on North Lombard St. for 10 years. Mr. and Mrs. English were active in the Boise area for many years.

He is survived by his wife Dorothy, son Larry English, daughter Christie Verhoef; three grandsons, Donald, David and Douglas Sellers; one granddaughter, Julie Hansen; two great grandsons, David Sellers and Ryan Hansen.

There will be no services per request of the deceased. Disposition was by cremation. Due to the many years of support from the families of the Boise district, the English family requests any remembrance be given to the United Negro College Fund, Inc., 500 E. 62nd St., New York, NY 10021, in memory of Mr. English and for Students of Oregon.

During the week of August 11-14, 1988, the Bethel AME Church became host church to the 97th Session Puget Sound Conference.

There was singing, preaching (2 to 3 times a day), eating, praying, workshops, eating, board meetings, and just plain old fellowship with one another.

There was a banquet held on Wednesday at the Red Lion Lloyd Center to open the four day event. Dignitaries from the city and state government offices came to welcome the new Bishop and his wife and the delegates to the city of Portland and the state of Oregon. It was a night of sopranos: Mrs. Ernestine Dillard, Mrs. Dorothy Butler and Mrs. MAC Spears. Mr. David Flannigan, Mr. Edgar Mitchell and Mrs. Lorene Wilder also performed. The speaker of the evening was Bishop Anderson.

There was a special Luncheon held on Wednesday for the crowning of "Miss Puget Sound".

Thank You!

God in His glorious wisdom, has supplied me with so many good friends, well-wishers and praying saints. In a very short space, I merely want to say "Thank You so very, very much for all the calls, flowers, visits, and cards; but, most important of all — your prayers."

A very special thanks to the "Uhuru Sa Sa Organization" in the Oregon State Prison. I shall never forget your offerings. I shall cherish your card with all your names. My family members, my Portland Observer family, and my mission sisters.

God has blessed me with a speedy recovery; but, I still have to take it easy and have physical therapy until I regain total usage of my left arm and leg.

To all my readers and everyone mentioned above, again, "Thank You and May God Bless you all."

Yours in Christ Jesus' Name,
Mattie Ann Callier-Spears
Religion Editor
Portland Observer

A Prayer for Strength

Lord, help me live my life for thee;
To think of others instead of me,
And help me give my very best
Without regard for need of rest,
Until I've run the race you've set
And every righteous goal is met.
Then will I pause to give thee praise
For all the grace that blessed my days.
Then lovingly will I lay down
A life of work, to thee a crown,
Unworthy token though it be
To you who gave so much for me.
— Glenda Fulton Davis

Andrew Young for Georgia Governor

by Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

The 1990's will continue to see the national political landscape change both at the national level and state levels. African-Americans and other racial and ethnic candidates will continue to make significant progress in challenging the past racial exclusivity of top state and national elected offices.

Andrew Young is now running to be the Governor of Georgia. The former Mayor of the city of Atlanta, Georgia if elected will be the first African-American elected Governor of the state of Georgia. Young has had an outstanding career as an effective civil rights leader with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the 1960's; a member of the Congress of the United States and a vibrant presence at the United Nations in the 1970's; and as a progressive elected official in Georgia in the 1980's.

We are aware that there are some people who believe that it will be impossible for Young to win the Governor's seat in a state like Georgia that continues to have racial problems. But the truth is, there are racial problems in all 50 states of the United States of America. If there were more people who would work harder to challenge racism throughout the nation, particularly at the local level, then the 1990's would see profound social changes. Let us forget, there were many who did not believe that Douglas Wilder had a chance at being Governor of the state of Virginia. Therefore, no one should conclude that Young does not at least have a chance in being elected as Governor of Georgia.

We believe Andrew Young's chances of winning in Georgia are very good. In a recent interview in New York's *Amsterdam News*, Young stated, "I really do feel a calling to the state of Georgia." During the last several months, there has been a ground swell of expressed support for Young across the state in rural as well as urban areas.

Young is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ. The church and the ministry for Young have provided a wealth of experience in leadership development. Young has noted what he calls "the democratic tradition of the United Church of Christ has served as a framework for dealing with political offices." Young affirmed, "The church has been good training for politics." According to reporter Jesse H. Walker of the *Amsterdam News*, Young emphasized, "The ministry is a combination of preaching, or sharing ideas, and pastoring or caring for the needs and concerns of its members. I've always felt that's been the model for my leadership."

Of course the entire world will be watching to see what develops in Georgia as the campaign for Young expands. At a time

when democracy and greater freedom is being called for throughout the world it will be important to monitor the Georgia elections.

However, we are also concerned that people should not see this election campaign as a carbon copy or replay of the Wilder campaign in Virginia. Most of the issues will be different although the basic issues of education, health, economics and crime remain high on everyone's agenda. Yes, race is a factor because we live in a society polarized by racism. Andrew Young is keenly aware of this and his campaign will attempt to rise above those who would try to inject race as a negative factor in the campaign.

It appears that while the federal government under the leadership of George Bush has already been extremely slow in calling for our nation to be more racially inclusive in the political process, African-American and others who have been historically excluded continue to make remarkable progress. This progress puts to rest all of those detractors who claim to see no lasting impact or legacy of the civil rights movement during the last thirty years. The benefits of the civil rights movement extend to all Americans. Equal justice under the law and the democratic process can only be realized when all of the people of a given society have both an equal access and a sharing of the economic as well as the political power of the society.

Social and political change in the United States toward true democracy has only happened when the just demands of all of the people have been organized and mobilized. Elections at the state level provide opportunities and challenges for grass roots organizing. In Georgia every rural community and urban center will have to be mobilized if Young is to win the election. Voter mobilization volunteers are now being organized from across the nation to help get out the vote.

Among those who also will be running for Governor in Georgia in opposition to Young is the segregationist, former Georgia Governor Lester "ax handle" Maddox. Lt. Governor Zell Miller also will be running. Once again, this election will have far reaching implications for the rest of the nation as we face the 21st century.

Andrew Young's candidacy offers Georgia and the nation an opportunity to move forward on the road of participatory democracy. Like the days of the 1960's, this challenge should be met with the voice and energy of masses of concerned and committed people. As the "Midnight Freedom Train" now heads to Georgia, "joy will certainly come in the mornin'!

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Psalm 34:3

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