

July 26 Worship
Reader- Gary Fleming

Announcements/Joys

Time Of Quiet Meditation- *“Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth!” Psalm 78:1*

Opening Scripture- Psalm 128 (page 538)

Opening Chorus- 544- Seek Ye First

Responsive Call To Worship-

Leader: What mysteries there are in God's world!

People: We, so sophisticated, stand in awe at the wonders of the natural world.

Leader: We look at the tiniest of seeds and wonder what will happen

People: From that small seed will grow a large shrub.

Leader: Although we consider our gifts to be small and insignificant,

People: God will use our gifts in miraculous ways.

All: Praise the God of small seeds and mighty power. Amen.

Hymn of Praise- 419- Children Of The Heavenly Father

Unison Prayer/Lord's Prayer- God of small seeds and mighty plants, you take our meager lives and with your love cause them to produce acts of loving kindness for you in this world. You hear our cries and find us when we are lost and wandering in fear. You bring us home with you so that we may be made whole, rejoicing in your goodness. Help us to joyfully serve you all our days, knowing that you are always watching over us. Prepare our hearts to receive your word and our spirits to respond in eagerness to serve you. In Jesus' name, we pray, as He taught us to pray, saying ...*Lord's Prayer*...

“Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

Gloria Patri- Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end.
Amen, Amen.

Old Testament Scripture- 1 Kings 3:5-12(page 293-294)

Special Music- *“In Christ Alone”* Katie Flinkstrom

Gospel Scripture- Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52(page 847-848)

Children's Time/Echo Prayer/Passing of the Peace

Hymn- 515- Sweet Hour Of Prayer

New Testament Scripture- Romans 8:26-39(page 983-984)

Message

“Let The Spirit Teach You!”

When was the last time that you can honestly say you learned something? Now I don't mean that some event happened that taught you a lesson. I mean when was the last time you sat down and actively studied something with the purpose of gaining knowledge? It has been said that when we stop learning, we stop living, this may be true but there is a difference in learning through experience and learning because we want to gain knowledge. I know that we all are busy and taking time to open a book and read for the purpose of instruction may seem like a boring waste of time, but it has been proven that spending time exercising our minds helps to keep our brain in shape.

For people of faith, there is nothing better for us spiritually and psychologically than to go to God's Word and study. We can read the Bible for many reasons. The best reason is to get ourselves in touch with the greatest teacher in the world, the Holy Spirit. What can the Spirit teach us? The better question is what can't the Spirit teach us. One of the primary lessons we learn from the Holy Spirit is spiritual guidance and wisdom. The Holy Spirit helps believers discern God's will in their daily lives, providing insight when facing difficult decisions or moral dilemmas. Scripture teaches that the Spirit can lead us into truth and help us understand God's Word more deeply, acting as a counselor and teacher in our spiritual journey.

When we accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, we are automatically given the gift of the Holy Spirit. There are very few of us who know what to do with this gift and many of us fail to make use of the gift simply because we don't have the knowledge that it takes to make the best use of it. The first question most of us have is what does the Holy Spirit do anyway? First, the Holy Spirit does many things in the lives of believers. He is the believers' Helper. He indwells believers and seals

them until the day of redemption, this indicates that the Holy Spirit's presence in the believer is irreversible. He guards and guarantees the salvation of the ones He indwells. The Holy Spirit assists believers in prayer and "intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God." The Holy Spirit has another important role, and that is to give believers wisdom by which we can understand God. "These are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God". Since we have been given the amazing gift of God's Spirit inside ourselves, we can comprehend the thoughts of God, as revealed in the Scripture. The Spirit helps us understand. This is wisdom from God, rather than wisdom from man. No amount of human knowledge can ever replace the Holy Spirit's teaching.

It is possible for us to learn God's Word without accepting Christ and the Holy Spirit, but it becomes much easier when there is a foundation of learning that is given to you when the Holy Spirit is yours. The Holy Spirit also does work among unbelievers. Jesus promised that He would send the Holy Spirit to "convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment". The Spirit testifies of Christ, pointing people to the Lord. Understand that the Holy Spirit is also God and it was God who created all of us, even those who refuse to believe. God wants all of His creation to be a part of His Kingdom so the Holy Spirit is there for all, to lead, to teach, and to influence.

There are 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit; wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. There are also the fruits of the Holy Spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are different from the gifts in that they are the results of paying attention to the teachings of the Spirit. There are very few limitations regarding the power of paying careful attention to what the Spirit has to teach us. The more we learn, the more there is to teach us. God wants us to know and understand His will.

I know that the Bible, the Word of God, can be a difficult book to read and understand. It takes time and discipline to make head or tails out of the words sometime. I understand that we all are busy and there are so many demands on our time but isn't it to our benefit to learn all we can about what may be the most important part of our existence, our eternal soul? God does not want or expect us to be blind followers of some foreign doctrine. He gave us the Bible to gain knowledge and then He sent us someone to show us that it can be lived up to, Jesus Christ. Then, after Jesus rose to heaven He sent us the Holy Spirit to assist us in gaining and using the knowledge. As hard as it may seem, if what God wants for us is important to us, we must put aside some time to spend with Him learning and appreciating the power of His Kingdom.

Of all the gifts given to mankind by God, there is none greater than the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit has many functions, roles, and activities. Everyone has a “God consciousness,” whether or not they admit it. The Spirit applies God’s truths to people’s minds to convince them by fair and sufficient arguments that they are sinners. Responding to that conviction brings us to salvation. Once we are saved and belong to God, the Spirit takes up residence in our hearts forever, sealing us with the confirming, certifying, and assuring pledge of our eternal state as His children. Jesus said He would send the Spirit to us to be our Helper, Comforter, and Guide. “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever”

Among those functions is that of revealer of truth. The Spirit’s presence within us enables us to understand and interpret God’s Word. Jesus told His disciples that “when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.” He reveals to our minds the whole counsel of God as it relates to worship, doctrine, and Christian living. He is the ultimate guide, going before, leading the way, removing obstructions, opening the understanding, and making all things plain and clear. He leads in the way we should go in all spiritual things. Without such a guide, we would be apt to fall into error. A crucial part of the truth He reveals is that Jesus is who He said He is. The Spirit convinces us of Christ’s deity and incarnation, His being the Messiah, His suffering and death, His resurrection and ascension, His exaltation at the right hand of God, and His role as the judge of all. He gives glory to Christ in all things.

The knowledge that the Holy Spirit of God has taken up residence in our lives, that He performs all these miraculous functions, that He dwells with us forever, and that He will never leave or forsake us is cause for great joy and comfort. Thank God for this precious gift, the Holy Spirit and His work in our lives! Let the Spirit teach you. Praise Be to God. Amen

Prayers of the People- Lord, we give you thanks for the word that you hide like a treasure in our heart, for the leaven which is able to penetrate to every area of our life, for the seed that is able to grow into a mighty plant. Help us to value that which you have given us, to make following Christ the most important thing in our daily lives, to concentrate above all upon doing your will and sharing your love and the good news you have proclaimed through Jesus with one another and with the world. We give you thanks for the wonders of our heritage and for the new things that you continue to do in our midst. We praise you for the teachings of the prophets, for the law you revealed unto Moses, for the grace and the love that you poured out and continue to pour out through Christ - and for the guidance, the strength, the wisdom, the peace, the joy, the patience, and the gentleness that you bestow upon us through

your Spirit. Help us to value both the old and the new and to become worthy teachers of the lessons of your eternal kingdom. We pray for the people around us this day - for those who are upon our hearts and minds because of a need that they have. Bless each one according to the need that they have and bring all to a closer walk with you. We ask you to hear all our prayers, O God, we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Closing Hymn- 247- Are You Washed In The Blood

Benediction- As we go from here, never forget: We do not go alone. God's own Spirit goes with us, always ready to help in our weakness. So let's go in confidence and joy, knowing that wherever we go, we are surrounded by the love and mercy of God. Amen.