

FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

“We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete.” – 1 John 1:3-4

To maintain a daily fellowship with the Father and His Son, Jesus, we must first be born again. Then we must devote quiet time each day to the Word of God and prayers of praise and petition. As we devote ourselves to such fellowship, we will grow from a “carnal Christian” into a more “spiritual Christian”. Spiritual maturity can be achieved only through our fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

We witness spiritual growth in the apostle Peter. In his younger days Peter displayed marks of the carnal life. His self-confidence all came to a head when Jesus said to the disciples at Caesarea Philippi, “The Son of Man must be crucified”. Peter rebuked Him and said, “Lord that can never be”. Christ had to say to him: “Get behind Me, Satan!” It is hard to believe that the apostle was “carnal” enough that even after confessing Jesus as the Christ, he would rebuke Him and tell Him He was wrong in His beliefs!

On more than one occasion Jesus’ disciples demonstrated their carnality when they quarreled over which of them was the greatest and would have the chief seat in the Kingdom of God. In his pride Peter assured the Lord that even if all of His disciples forsook Him, “I am prepared to go to prison and even to death for you!” There is no question but that Peter loved Jesus. By the Holy Spirit God had taught him that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of the living God, but the flesh still controlled Peter which is why Jesus declared at Gethsemane, “The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak”. The sad result is that Peter denied his Lord three times. The flesh was still in control of his life.

On at least seven times Jesus taught Peter and his fellow disciples of their great need for humility. He took a little child, set him in their midst & taught them, “he that exalts himself shall be abased, and he that humbles himself shall be exalted”. During the last supper Jesus totally humbled Himself and washed the feet of His disciples. Yet Peter still had not learned humility through Jesus’ teachings. A man may study God’s word and spend a lot of time with Jesus, but this will not automatically make him “spiritual”. Peter and the other disciples first had to experience the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost before they could (by the power of God) become “spiritual men”.

As a “carnal” disciple, even a woman could frighten Peter into denying Christ, but after the Holy Spirit came into his life on Pentecost, Peter was bold (!)—bold enough to confess His Lord at any cost! As a spiritual man, Peter was beaten, spent time in prison, and according to church history met his death by being crucified upside down for his Lord! The Holy Spirit changed Peter, and He longs to do the same for you and me today! When the Spirit is in us we will grow to become more spiritual. Rather than denying their Lord spiritual men deny themselves daily!

Ralph Weinhold
Danville, Arkansas



That meets at 215 South Thomas Ave, Sayre, PA 18840
(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, evangelist- (607) 280-1732

January 24, 2016

WELCOME!

Sunday Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Class- 6:30 p.m.



Today’s Sermon: *Is Christ Divided?*

- Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.
- Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org
aicoc.org

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Hymns: 233 O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing; **628** Will You Not Tell It Today?; **361** Nailed To The Cross; **480** Blessed Assurance; **674** I Have Decided To Follow Jesus

UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Ladies Class**, Tuesday, January 26th. Maxine will lead the lesson on the second chapter of Esther.
- Fifth Sunday singing will be at Endwell next Sunday, on Jan 31st.
- Potluck Dinner- Sunday, February 21st.
- Spiritual Giftedness Seminar- April 23-25. Doug Hamilton from the Camp Hill church will present this program here at Valley Cities.



- Our church received a substantial gift of money from an individual in the Camp Hill, PA church.
- An exploratory team from the Antioch Initiative will be coming up to Tunkhannock, PA the first week in May to start making plans to plant a church there.
- There will be a campaign in June to contact all interested people in the Tunkhannock area for Bible studies and worship.

PRAYERS...

- Linda Hicks needs to have a procedure done on her spine that allows her to self medicate for pain.
- Darla Towell, Katie Barry's aunt, from the church in Soldotna, AK, has cancer in her liver and pancreas. She survived breast cancer last year.
- Lori Kashorek, wife of Doug, the preacher at the church in Plattsburg, has had a recurrence of lung cancer, which she first had several years ago. She has begun chemo and plans to continue her teaching job as long as she is able. She has asked for prayers.
- Please pray for the outreach effort of the Antioch Initiative to start a church in Tunkhannock, PA in the spring.
- Ted Chacona was sick with a bad cold last week.
- Joe Perry, of Atlanta, GA, brother of Joe Perry of Anchor Point, AK, suffered heart failure on Friday and lost consciousness. He has been kept at a low temperature to preserve his internal organs, but will soon be warmed up in an attempt to revive him. Joe is a brother in Christ, as is Charlie. Please pray for his complete recovery.

If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy Barry barnecat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.