

**Noteworthy**

**Kid's Review Class:** On July 5th, shortly after the PM service we will review with children (and reinforce) what they've been learning in their Bible classes.

**Young Adult Study:** The young adult study will resume in October, Lord willing (James 4:15).

**Prayer Requests:** *Our brethren:* Marian Church, Mildred Church, Reagan Cunningham, Betty Eubanks, Mary Henderson (She has a appointment set for this Tuesday, the 23rd), and Cindy Hicks. (Cindy's procedure went well last week) Please remember also Linda James, Leon Miller, Butch Morgan, and Danielle Sheffield. Jim Abram has been transferred to the Wedgwood Rehabilitation facility. Continue to pray for he and his sister, Denise Jacobs.

*Our friends and family:* Continue also in prayer for Diana Anderson, Elnora Bennet (Moses Stevens' sister), Hal Lewis, Joan Mott (A friend of the Days), Heather Tyre, Waylon Townsend, and Canera Wisdom (Larry Wisdom's mother's health has digressed greatly; let us be praying for their family).

**Group Meeting:** Group (3) meets tonight after worship.

**Traveling/Out of town:** Audrey Davis, Betty Eubanks, the Goodalls, the Groenhofs, Yvonne Jordan, Bob & Steph Marschall, and Paula Sullivan.

Fourth Sunday: Next week will be the 4th Sunday of the month, and Sherman Johnson is preparing to present a sermon for the evening worship service. Let us encourage him (and all who are preparing) for his example (Philippians 3:17; 2 Timothy 2:2).

**Assignments for Worship Service**

**Wednesday Night: 6/24/15**

Song Leader: Bob Marschall  
 Opening Prayer: Eric Stevens  
 Invitation: Clay Sadler  
 Announcements: Mike Sadler  
 Closing Prayer: Sherman Johnson  
 Parking Lot: Colby Sadler

**Sunday Evening: 6/28/15**

Song Leader: Larry Wisdom  
 Opening Prayer: Jordan Lawson  
 Lord's Table: Sherman Johnson  
 Announcements: Larry Hicks  
 Closing Prayer: Ronnie Henderson  
 Parking Lot: Leon Miller

**Sunday Morning: 6/28/15**

Lord's Table: Sherman Johnson (B)  
 Clay Sadler (C)  
 Serving: Eddie Lawson  
 Keith Marschall  
 Song Leader: Nick Ross  
 Opening Prayer: Ben Cunningham

Announcements: Larry Hicks  
 Closing Prayer: Eric Stevens  
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Mike Sadler  
 (9:50) Paul Lloyd



**Lakeland Hills  
 Leader**

**LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**ELDERS**

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**SERVICES**

Sunday  
 Bible Study 9:00 A.M.  
 Morning Services 9:50 A.M.  
 Evening Services 6:00 P.M.  
 Wednesday  
 Bible Study 7:30 P.M.

**DEACONS:**

Robert Marschall  
 Charles Rawdon  
 Michael Sadler  
 Moses Stevens  
 David Williams

**EVANGELIST:**

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

***“Hearing What the Spirit Says”***

There are many who believe that the Lord speaks to them today in an audible fashion (vocally), or by making some sort of “mental impression” on them. That is what folks are referring to when saying things such as, “Oh yes, Jesus speaks to me”, and/or, “the Lord laid on my heart”. Many believe the Bible is the written word of God, yet will contend that the Lord somehow speaks to them today as to provide “more revelations”. So then, is the Bible sufficient -- or must we depend upon later revelations?

In 2 Peter 1:3, we read that God has granted unto us “all things that pertain to life and godliness”. In Ephesians 3:3-5, we are taught that God made known the truth of Christ through his holy apostles and prophets “by the Spirit”. This fulfilled the promise that Jesus had made earlier to his apostles when He said, “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now.”<sup>13</sup> However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” (John 16:12-13) Jesus had previously told his apostles that the Holy Spirit will guide them into ALL TRUTH -- and the Spirit did just that!

In 1 Corinthians 2:10, we learn that the Holy Spirit searched “the deep things of God” and revealed them to the apostles. That which was revealed was then preached orally, and also put in written form under the direction of the Holy Spirit. The apostle Paul made note of the fact that what had been revealed to him; he “wrote” in such a way so that others could “read” and “understand”. (See Ephesians 3:3-5)

Consider also the principle of Galatians 1:9. “As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches **any other gospel to you than what you have received**, let him be accursed.” Compare that statement with 2 John 9, which says, “Whoever transgresses **and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God**. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.” Unfortunately, most who profess that the Lord speaks to them in some sensational fashion today are the very ones denying the necessity of baptism (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38) and/or other matters (1 Corinthians 4:17; 14:33-37; 1 Timothy 2:11-14). Paul wrote to Timothy that, “All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,<sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, **thoroughly equipped for every good work**.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17) Jude later would write, “Beloved, while I was

very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for **the faith which was once for all delivered** to the saints.” The point is that inspired revelation is “complete”, and we are completely & “thoroughly equipped for every good work”. Being that faith has been “once for all” delivered to the saints, this does not leave room for additional revelations.

In God's word is the power “to salvation” (Romans 1:16), and it is the standard by which we will all be judged. Jesus said, “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I **have spoken** will judge him in the last day.” (John 12:48) God's word is the standard by which all will be judged (James 2:12)... Jesus calls us by the gospel (2 Thessalonians 2:14), and Jesus speaks to us through the word (Hebrews 1:1-2). Consider next what the Bible has to say concerning our “hearing” of what the “Spirit says”. Paul wrote (while inspired by the Holy Ghost), “Now **the Spirit expressly says** that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons”... (1 Tim 4:1). By reading that text for ourselves, we can observe that Paul expected the younger Timothy to understand what “the Spirit expressly” said -- by reading the letter in which was sent to him (particularly this passage). Consider also how Jesus

“spoke” to the churches in Asia. Jesus instructed, “To the angel of the church of Ephesus **write**” (Rev 2:1), “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna **write**” (Rev 2:8), “And to the angel of the church in Pergamos **write**” (Rev 2:12), “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira **write**” (Rev 2:18), “And to the angel of the church in Sardis **write**” (Rev 3:1), “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia **write**” (Rev 3:7), “And to the angel of the church in Laodicea **write**” (Rev 3:14). Do we see the pattern? Through their reading of these passages, the members of these various churches were instructed to **“hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (Rev 2:7; 11; 17; 29; 3:6; 13; 22)**.

As far as mental impressions are concerned, remember that our feelings are not infallible. Our feelings are not to be our standard. Proverbs 16:25 says, “There is a way *that seems* right to a man, But its end *is* the way of death.” Also, Proverbs 21:2 says, “Every way of a man *is* right in his own eyes, But the Lord weighs the hearts.” And let us not forget about Paul, would look back at the time when he had been in error, and yet was able to say, “I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day” (Acts 23:1; 26:9). “The heart is deceitful above all things...” (Jeremiah 17:9a), therefore, let us put our trust in the Bible -- God's Holy Word! The evidence through which we can know that we stand approved before God

— is whether our conduct is in accord with what He has already revealed (See Philippians 1:27; James 1:21; 1 Peter 1:22-23; and Jude 3). We simply cannot know whether we stand approved before God in just going by our feelings, *even in good* conscience!

There is simply no evidence to suggest that Jesus speaks directly to anyone today by making mental impressions, i.e., “laying things on their heart”. If we want to hear Jesus speak today, then we must listen to His word by reading the Bible, particularly the New Testament. Jesus was well aware of how faith in Him would come about, and that is why he prayed for all believers to heed the apostles’ doctrine, **“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;**<sup>21</sup> that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, **that the world may believe** that You sent Me.” (John 17:20-21)

(All Bible quotations taken from the New King James Version of the Holy Bible, unless otherwise noted)

-Ian Rice