



THE GOOD NEWS



The Chic Shaver Center for Evangelism Newsletter June 2015

I'm Writing a Book

Yes, a book of daily devotional articles about sanctification and the Spirit filled life in language understandable to everybody. Here is a recent article. More are coming. What do you think?

-Chic Shaver

A Spiritual Battle

"For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want." Galatians 5:17

What a predicament! If you are halfway serious about following Jesus Christ, this struggle has got to shred your soul. This was written to Christians in Galatia. And many today who belong to Jesus Christ still experience a battle between the Holy Spirit and remaining self centeredness.

We should have had a clue from other sources. To the Ephesian Christians, Paul affirms that they used to live in transgression and sins, but now they are saved from that lifestyle by the grace of Jesus Christ. (2:1-2, 5). But then he drops the clue. Behind the committing of sins, there is an internal force prompting those actions - "gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts" (Eph 2:3). Behind the sins-cravings, behind the cravings - the sinful nature or we might call it self centeredness.

The Galatians faced the same issue. The law cannot resolve this problem. There is a subtraction and an addition.

Subtract: "Those who belong to Jesus Christ have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires" (Gal. 5:24). Crucified sounds like death.

Addition! "Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit" (Gal 5:25). This obviously is an ongoing relationship, but to live this relationship, you must enter it. To live the marriage, you must have the wedding. And once there, how dynamic. "Keep in step with the Spirit".

It's true, from the moment you accept Christ and begin to follow Him, you are "born of the Spirit" (John 3:5-8) and have the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:9). But you may not be "filled with the Spirit."

The minute you walk into your living room and turn on the light switch, light moves naturally to every corner of the room. You do not have to stand on a chair, reach up to your ceiling light bulbs, and push the light to the floor and far end of the room.

Yet a careful inspection of the room reveals shadows. Furniture is blocking the beams of light. For the light to fill the room, furniture will have to be moved out as in a thorough spring cleaning. So in the spiritual realm there should be no surprise, that to be filled with the Spirit and walk in the Spirit, the sinful nature must be crucified.

David had been attending his church faithfully for thirteen years. Converted, he heard of a deeper Christian life, called "sanctification". He thought he

<u>MINISTRY UPDATE</u>		
	Total Attendance	Seekers
First Church of the Nazarene		
Joplin, MO	125	10
Witness Seminar	11	
Westside Church of the Nazarene		
Olathe, KS	979	35
Witness Seminar	32	

could work his way into it. Periodically he would go to the front of his church and pray a prayer or two, but nothing happened. He concluded "This is not for me". However, to prepare for an intensive week of services called revival, he was challenged to pray for five others to find spiritual help, but ended up praying for himself. On Monday night, October 23, he felt as if he didn't make his step tonight, he never would. He went forward and knelt, and was empowered to believe God for this answer.

David recounted, 'I felt so peaceful. The battle is over. So long roller coaster". He emailed his pastor, "I just want you to know you have a new church member and it's me."

He began praying daily. Read the Bible daily. He was keeping in step with the Spirit. He exclaimed "Why didn't I do this sooner".

For Galatians, for David, for you and me - the battle can be over by the crucifixion of the sinful nature and the filling and leading of the Holy Spirit.

He Said It

For 38 years Rev. Jay Dick has pastored mainly in small churches in rural communities. At the end of the April revival services in Joplin, MO he said to me "It's the greatest revival I've seen in the churches of my ministry".
- *Chic Shaver*

The Evangelism Award

This award is given at graduation to "that student who shows greatest concern for, and effectiveness in reaching lost persons for Christ." The award includes a cash gift and Dr. Shaver's DVD album, Witnessing Without Fear. Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City, awarded Jessica McConnell. Nazarene Bible College, Colorado Springs gave the award to Michael Mockerman. (See the stories following) In addition each graduate at these schools was given a copy of Basic Bible Studies for New and Growing Christians, and Basic Bible Studies for the Spirit Filled and Sanctified Life. Similar Bible studies were given to grads at Kansas City College and Bible School, Overland Park, KS.

Jessica McConnell

Three years ago this September, I moved to Kansas City, Missouri. While here, I have found my heart stirred by the lost, the least, and the last. Being in grad school and seeing a need and then finding the time to do something about it is tough! But in this past few years, I have had the privilege of working with organizations like Kansas City Rescue Mission, Harvesters, Veronica's Voice, Crossroads Hospice, and Sheffield Place. I had the privilege of directing a VBS in Raytown one summer. I'm currently saving money to help my church with a building program that will help make them more accessible to people with multiple kinds of disabilities. It's an honor to work in the name of the Lord and it is my prayer that God would continue using me to help reach out to those who have not heard the Good News and aren't aware of the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. I have a heart set on fire for Evangelism through Compassion.

Michael Mockerman

Michael has been and is involved in various outreach ministry programs. Michael and his wife Consuelo are currently involved in a church planting project in Rancho Midway, Colorado. Michael preaches regularly in these churches in Spanish and also in English. Michael has worked as a missionary with Operation Mobilization in Brazil over the last several summers. Consuelo and Michael have plans to relocate to Brazil to head up the outreach and ministry branch of Operation Mobilization after Consuelo finishes her master's degree in Counseling. Michael has a heart for missions and for reaching out to the lost.

Olathe—Awesome

- Pastor of Westside Church, David Shore, and staff, led their people to prepare for revival through prayer.
- 32 attended a Saturday session on witnessing.
- Sunday morning at the church has been running about 325 and Sunday night, about 100. The

church had not had a revival for a long time, and there was uncertainty about night attendance. The four night crowds averaged 169 each.

- Wednesday night 20 or so sought God at altars and front seats with tears and clear victories.
- An awesome week. Thank God!

Spirit Led—Rich & Brenda

“Brothers, chose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom.” Acts 6:3

“They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip....” Acts 6:5

‘The Spirit told Philip, ‘Go to that chariot and stay near it’. “ Acts 8:29

It started with a party—a Sunday school class sponsored chili cook-off. Lenny invited relatives Rich and Brenda to it. He tricked them by asking them to vote for his chili recipe. Rich and Brenda experienced food, fellowship, and fun. They said it was “a blast.”

Brenda’s background was Catholic and Rich’s Protestant, but they had been attending nowhere. They had been saying they needed to find a church. A follow up phone call invited them to Sunday school and church worship. They came.

Rich and Brenda had been married three years. They had four daughters from previous marriages. Rich was manager of a plumbing supply store. Brenda was project manager for institutional research, Barton County Community College.

Though originally thinking adult Sunday school was stupid, that’s for kids, they were impressed with friendliness and a follow up welcome card. Worship service was comfortable. They began attending regularly.

Eventually some people in the class who’d built relationships with them asked if they could meet with Rich and Brenda, get to know them even better and share what the church believed. They were open.

That February 19th, by the Spirit opening doors, the Gospel was shared. Rich and Brenda were challenged to receive Christ into their lives. At 8:20 p.m. they did.

Rich describes the change. He said: “I was taught to always win—baseball, football, basketball. I was almost the patriarch of the eleven children in my family. I was on a pedestal. It was a lot of pressure and I didn’t like it. When I prayed I felt emotional release. Brenda said, “His shoulders lifted. The weight went off him. He’s been different ever since.”

Rich continues, “Now I can pray. It means something. I have a conversation with Jesus. I’ve changed in my life. People at work notice I’m different.”

Brenda describes her spiritual response to the sharing of the Gospel:

I didn’t much change at first. I was a little afraid. Then I began growing as I watched Rich. At first I thought I was good, then I knew I wasn’t as good as I thought. I was hiding. Now I’m doing more than going through the motions. As we are studying in Basic Bible Studies I feel like I’m eating the Word. It nourishes me. As Rich and I do our Bible studies, we’re getting to know each other better and we are closer. It’s helping me heal. Jesus is now front and center. He has to steer my ship.

How do conversions like this happen? The layman, Philip, in Acts was Spirit filled and Spirit led. Led to

Chic Shaver's Upcoming Ministry Schedule

June 13-19	Iowa Holiness Association Camp University Park, Iowa	Camp Meeting
Sept 12-16	Church of God (Holiness) Fulton, MO	Revival
Sept 19-23	Williams Lake Church of the Nazarene Waterford, Michigan	Revival
Oct 10-14	First Church of the Nazarene Paris, Illinois	Revival
Oct 17-21	Church of the Nazarene Monticello, Illinois	Revival

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the chariot, he led the Ethiopian to Christ. Jesus had promised His followers that when they were filled with the Holy Spirit, they would be empowered to witness (Acts 1:8). More than 2000 years later, the people who talked to Rich and Brenda on February 19 were filled with and led by the Holy Spirit too. You too can be Spirit filled and led. Remember at the end of that leadership will be another Rich and Brenda.

Tremendous in Tulsa

In the fall of 2014, The Central Discipleship Committee decided that every adult and youth Sunday School class would begin the first 16 weeks of 2015 using The Journey: Eight Basic Bible Studies for New and Growing Christians and Eight Basic Bible Studies for the Spirit-Filled and Sanctified Life. As a pastor, I am passionate about Evangelism and Discipleship. It is my responsibility to help my brothers and sisters find tools to help share the Gospel and participate in the Discipleship process. Every church needs a system that encourages action. Most people feel they do not have the gift of evangelism or teaching, but every believer should be equipped to take a new believer through a basic bible study. Our goal was to equip all of our adults and teens with the tools of leading a basic bible study and to help explain the Spirit-filled life. As we prepare to engage in a year of focused evangelism, we feel we are prepared to disciple those the Holy Spirit will save. This strategy has already given us results. Vijay and Vishali moved from India to work at Williams Company he, as a computer programmer. Vishali was a born again Christian who prayed for her Hindu practicing husband. After attending Central for a few months, Vijay gave his life to Jesus. We began the BBS and used The Spirit-Filled and Sanctified Life to help him understand Holiness. He was so excited about what he learned that he had two of his work friends from India in Sunday School and Worship. These lessons have given us a united strategy for evangelism and discipleship and given our Christians the confidence to share God's Word in a life transforming way!

Anticipating, Steven R. Lester, Pastor, Tulsa Central, Followers of the Nazarene

718,00

Beacon Hill Press reported as of March, 2015, Basic Bible Studies for New and Growing Christians had passed 718,000 sold in the English language.

Basic Bible Studies for the Spirit Filled and Sanctified Life has sold over 4,300 in the last eighteen months.

Wesley on Sanctification

June 16, 1785

Rev. Freeborn Garrettson

Whatever they do, let them do it with their might; and it will be well, as soon as any of them find peace with God, to exhort them to "go on to perfection." The more explicitly and strongly you press all believers to aspire after full sanctification, as attainable now by simple faith, the more the whole work of God will prosper.

The Works of John Wesley, (Kansas City, MO.: Nazarene Publishing House), XIII, 70

Because You Gave, We Gave

- Bible studies to graduates of Nazarene Theological Seminary Nazarene Bible College, Kansas City College and Bible school.
- Spanish Bible studies for a Joplin restaurant owner to use with his workers.
- Basic Bible Studies in English as a Second Language to a ministerial couple going to pastor and teach in Korea.
- Lord Teach Us to Pray to a young couple getting married.
- Discipleship materials to pastors and leaders in California, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa.
- Bible studies to the Kansas City Rescue Mission.
- Discipleship materials to CRU (Campus Crusade) and Francis Asbury Society.

Florida in January

Dr. Shaver is scheduled for a witness seminar and revival services at the Church of the Nazarene, Naples, Florida, January 16-20, 2016.