

Moses He wanted His tabernacle built. God chose a man named Bezalel to be the General Contractor. He placed His Spirit inside Bezalel so that he would know exactly how to construct the Tabernacle, and how everything should be put together.

In I Samuel we're told that the Holy Spirit came upon King Saul and his men. When that happened they were able to prophesy (I Samuel 19). In the book of Judges, we're told that there were times when the Holy Spirit came upon Samson to give him strength to deal with the Philistines. When that happened, if you were a Philistine, you better be in the next county, because somebody was going to get hurt.

2) ...Is His Guarantee .

But no matter how many times God's Spirit came upon people, or was in people - nobody in the Old Testament ever got what you and I have. God's Spirit had not yet been given as it HAS now been given to those who have become children of God.

Ephesians 1:13b-14 tells us that when we became Christians, we "were also sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. He is the down payment of our inheritance, for the redemption of the possession, to the praise of His glory." No other people had ever had that privilege. But YOU have been marked. You have been sealed. God placed His Holy Spirit inside you to say: This man or woman belongs to ME!

It's kind of like when a couple gets married. They hold hands, light a candle, and exchange vows. But one of the central ceremonies of a wedding is when they exchange rings. That ring declares to everyone this man and woman belongs to each other. In the same way, God has placed His Spirit inside you to say, "Hey, everybody! You belong to Me now."

His Spirit inside you is also His assurance that He's coming back for you. Ephesians 1:14 testifies God's Spirit is His Guarantee that, when He comes back, He's coming back for you.

I once read the true story about a woman who suffered from polio as a child. She said, "When my mother left me in Sunday School I always asked to wear her locket. She thought I liked the locket, but that wasn't it at all. I knew I wasn't worth coming back for, but I knew she would come back for her locket." By giving you His Spirit God is telling you, "I'll never leave, I'll never forsake you. You're mine. I WILL come back for you."

3) ...Is a Big Deal to God.

So obviously, this placing of His Spirit inside of us is a big deal to God. Have you ever wondered why God would do it this way? Why bother to put His Spirit inside of us? God could have marked us any way He wanted. There are three reasons that made sense to me. They may not be the only reasons God did it this way, but I think they are valid.

A) To recognize His Presence .

He wants us always to be with Him. If our Faith isn't on the inside of us - if our relationship with Jesus is something that is only on the outside - it might get misplaced or mislaid. It might even just ... rub off.

A few years ago there was a small controversy over the design of the new \$1 coin. Apparently somebody had the idea that it would be a good design to move the motto: "In God we trust" from the front of the coin - to the outside edge, thinking it would draw more attention there. But almost immediately, people began to complain. Coin experts had pointed out that - if the motto were on the edge of the coin - it would be more likely to rub off over time, and people became unhappy with the prospect that this treasured motto might be worn away and lost.

God doesn't want our faith to "rub off" and get worn away. He wants His Spirit inside us so that our bond with Him doesn't become some casual thing. He wants our relationship with Him to be intense and personal.

B) To remember our Dependence .

He wants to be with us all the time because He knows we need Him. This is a hard world. Too often we feel like we're alone in the decisions and challenges we face. God never want us to believe we're alone and abandoned.

A man had been a pilot and often took his daughters up flying with him in his plane that had two seats, one in front of the other. His daughters told all their friends that when their father would take them flying he would allow them to take the wheel and fly the plane. When his daughters became comfortable with the handling of the plane, he even taught them to do loops.

On hearing this, one of their friends asked the father if he really took his hands off the controls why they were flying. The answer was "no." A daughter was in the front seat flying the plane, but dad was in the back with his hand on the wheel. His daughters felt as if they were flying the plane... but ultimately their father was in control.

That's one of the comforts of God's Spirit being within us. He loves us enough to give us the freedom to fly our own course. But because His Spirit is inside of us, we can have confidence God is still there with His hands on the control as well. He never leaves us or forsakes us... because He's always inside of us.

C) To realize our Faith .

He wanted to be inside us so that we'd realize our faith is more than a "religion." Christianity is more than a religion. It's life empowering relationship. All other religions are based on the idea that the more rules we follow the more righteous we become. In other words, rules change us. Rules make us better people. To some degree that's true. As long as we agree with the rules, as long as we're in the mood, as long as we want to obey the rules, rules can make us better people.

But, by contrast - when God placed His Spirit within us, He did so, so His Spirit could change us on the inside. As we read earlier in Ezekiel 36:26b-27 God promises us He will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh, and put His Spirit in you and move you to follow His decrees and be careful to keep His laws.

That's what Galatians 5 is all about. It tells us that when we walk by the Spirit and allow God's Spirit to guide our lives, then our lives change. When God's Spirit is in control of our lives, we will live a certain way with certain qualities (Galatians 5:22-23). Most people aren't truly loving, joyful, patient, etc., when they first come to Christ. So, as His Spirit works within them, they begin to be more and more like the God they gave themselves to serve.

Conclusion

The decision to trust in Jesus can be compared to signing a contract. Several years ago when Ellen and I bought our house in Lawson we went into to an office at the mortgage company. We sat down at a huge table across from the people from whom we were buying the house. There on that table was a contract. At the bottom of that contract were two sets of lines. One set of lines were for Ellen and I to sign, and the other set for the sellers of the house.

Now tell me: could we have bought that house without signing the contract? Of course not. Did our signature on that paper buy the house? No... the money we borrowed from the bank did that.

This is how it applies: Faith, Repentance and Baptism are our signature on the contract. Yet those things don't buy our salvation. Christ's blood does that. But God requires faith, repentance of baptism of us as our acceptance of His free gift.

But here is the cool part – when we sign the contract... so does God. He signs the contract by placing His Spirit inside of us. And make no mistake – His signature is far more important than ours is. For His signature is the mark of His ownership of us.

Signature Marks Ownership!

There was no evening worship this week.

Yesterday Remembered

A little boy was playing with his friends in the yard. His grandmother watched with enthusiasm as the little guys burned off energy. After a while her grandson came over and asked her to join his team. As a woman in her early seventies, she automatically said, "I'm too old to play those games now." The six-year-old looked up at her and asked, "Grandma, when were you ever new?"

New research finds the happiest Americans are the oldest. Older adults are more socially active than the stereotype of the lonely senior suggests. Social activity can help keep away the blues. Duke University aging expert Linda George reported the odds of being happy increase 5% with every 10 years of age. 33% of Americans report being very happy at age 88, vs. 24% of those age 18 to their early 20s. Throughout the study years, most Americans reported being "very happy" or "pretty happy." Less than 20% said they were "not too happy." A separate University of Chicago study found 75% of people 57 to 85 engage in one or more social activities at least weekly (socializing with neighbors, attending religious services, volunteering or going to group meetings). Those in their 80s were twice as likely as those in their 50s to do at least one of these activities.

Dr. James Dobson said, "The world seems to worship youth and is terrified of aging. But there was a time when getting older was associated with wisdom and experience. In fact, some of the greatest accomplishments in history came very late in life. Immanuel Kant wrote one of his best philosophical works at the age of 74. Verdi penned his classic 'Ave Maria' at age 85, Michelangelo was 87 when he completed *The Pietà*, his greatest work of art, and Ronald Reagan was one of the most influential men in the world at age 75 . . . This notion that life should be winding down at 50 or 60 years of age is crazy."

The idea that we can grow too old to serve the Lord and the notion that once we reach a certain age we have served *our time* is crazy as well. Someone has well said that as you grow **older** don't grow **colder** in the things of God. Take advantage of those golden years all the more to proclaim the glories of God to the generations.

The Saint Joseph Baptist Association is sponsoring a Senior Adult Revival October 4-8. We are scheduled to host the first meeting, October 4th at 4 pm. Dr. Tom Cox, a Senior Adult himself, will do the preaching. The other meetings will be held at 10:00 am each day (check schedule for locations). Plan to be a part of this event. Invite someone to attend with you. Even if they aren't a Senior Adult, they still can hear the Gospel proclaimed.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, September 20, 2015

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: George Ferbert, Ken Nice, Fred Kerns, Don Sharp

Alternate: Isaac Waters

Collection Day for Food Pantry.

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Tuesday, September 22

SJBA Annual Meeting.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, September 23

See You At The Pole

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, September 24

Food Pantry

W Team.....6:30 pm

Sunday, September 27, 2015

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, Bill Schottel, Ken Kirkpatrick, Isaac Waters

Alternate: Ken Nice

Evening Worship..... 6:30 pm

Monday, September 28

Sunday School Workers Meeting.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, September 30

Youth Study 6:30 pm

Prayer/Bible Study.....6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, October 1

G Team.....6:30 pm

♦ John and Beverly Lewis have a new phone number:

259-3438

Up-Coming Events.....

All September — Missouri Missions Offering Emphasis

September 20 — Luncheon and Business Meeting at Noon

— Collection Day for Food Pantry

September 22 — SJBA Annual Meeting 7:00 pm

September 23 — See You At the Pole

September 24 — Patee Park Food Pantry Day

September 27 — Diversicare (Saxton Woods) 2:30 pm

October 2-3 — Women of Faith Simulcast, Wyatt Park Baptist

October 4-8 — Senior Adult Revival

October 5 — Food Kitchen 5:30 pm

October 10—Beth Moore Study "Children of the Day"

October 17 — T4T Training, Journey Baptist Church

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** Everyone make a contact! Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Nights

We will have evening service tonight at 6:30. Hope to see you there.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

We will be meeting this Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Please make plans to attend. Prayer and Bible Study matter!

See You At the Pole

is Wednesday, September 23, at 7:00 a.m. local time.

Missouri Missions Offering

We will be emphasizing Missouri Missions throughout the month of September. Prayerfully consider how God would lead you to give.

Coming Soon

Women of Faith Simulcast

Wyatt Park Baptist Church

10/2—7-10:30 pm

10/3—9 am-5 pm

**Beth Moore "Children of the Day"
Beginning Saturday, October 10**

**Luncheon and—Business Meeting
Today, September 20, at Noon**

Please plan to attend and fellowship with us as we share a meal and also conduct the business of the church.

Food Pantry

Today, September 20, is our collection day for Patee Park Food Pantry. If you would like to donate monetarily please see Margaret Dotson. You may place your canned or boxed goods in the hallway basket any time.

Diversicare (Saxton Woods)

Nursing Home

September 27, 2015 at 2:30 pm

Please join us as we minister to those who can no longer attend their own churches.

THANK YOU

- ♦ Thank you to my dear church family for all of the visits, calls and prayers during my hip surgery and recovery.
Shirley Wilson
- ♦ The Hutcherson family would like to express their gratitude to the church family for providing the memorial service for Doug last Saturday. Thanks to every one

who had a part.

The Hutcherson Family

For the Record-

Attendance: September 13, 2015

Sunday School.....	37
Visitors.....	2
Total.....	39
Contacts Made.....	7
Morning Worship.....	52
Children's Worship	11
Sunday Night	7
Wednesday Night	20

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget.....	\$ 2,040.52
Offering Received...	\$ 1,750.15
MMO Goal	\$ 1,500.00
Received	\$ 390.00

Offering Received by Mail:

September Counting Team:

Larry McKahan and Mike Green

September Van Driver:

George Burgess

Remember to call 232-3747

before 8 am if you need a ride.

September Birthdays:

05...Nellie Reynolds
12...Grant Schottel
20...Elmer Mayse
20...LoLeta Middleton
20...Tim Waters
20...Steven Buckley
21...Joyce Izer
22...Rachael Molloy
23...Kenny Kirkpatrick
29...Lindsey Rasmussen

September Anniversaries

No anniversaries are recorded for the month of September. If we have missed yours in error, please let us know. Thanks.

Prayer Requests ...

Pat Puckett—health issues
Linda Rails—Doris' Richardson's sister
LoLeta's Family in Doug's death
Shirley Wilson—recovery
Allen Jennings—recovery
Clyde Elder—Finally Home!!!
Nellie Reynolds—health decisions
Russ McCamy Jesse Dunn
Grant Schottel—advanced training

Sharon Yarbrough—healing
Leona Reynolds — strength
June Fritchle—decisions for her future
Maxine and George Ferbert
Henrietta Caballero—Brigida's Sister
Austin Chalfant—Abby's nephew
Gary and Marilyn Singleton—health
Bob Barquist—cancer
Jim Winans—strength
Jozy Winans—rehabilitation
Bill and Juanita Haskins—family
Dean and Ellen Blanton
—Elvera Crow's daughter
Louanne Laurence—Joyce's Mother
Lester Buck Kathryn Beavers
Margaret Dotson Dorothy Post
Kevin Duty Opal Roberts
Madeline Swink Bobby Griswold
Lois Pace Susan Patten
Debbie Sands Sue Higgins
Brenda Burgess Judy Anderson
Carolyn Houts Roscoe Lane
Larry and Flora McKahan's grandsons
-T C Thompson -Keon McKahan
Missionaries Don and Diane Combs
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Jeanette Swackhamer—Beja Peopl
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people
Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
