

Morning Worship

November 5, 2017

Operation Christmas Child Video *Eva's Story*

Hymn # 425 *He Keeps Me Singing* Don/People

Worship Prayer Allan Lane

Hymn # 424 *Heavenly Sunlight* Don/People

Hymn # 428 *Ring the Bells of Heaven* Don/People

Offering Prayer Fred Kerns

Offering Music Marcia Hart

Message *Revival in Samaria* Allan Lane

Acts 8:1-25

Acts 8:1-25

Hymn # 309 *Lord, I'm Coming Home* Don/People

Chorus # 425 *He Keeps Me Singing* *Don/People*

Revival in Samaria

Acts 8:1-25

When World War II began, the British government distributed posters to encourage resolve among their countrymen. The first series of posters went out in September

1939, and carried this message: "YOUR COURAGE, YOUR CHEERFULNESS, YOUR RESOLUTION WILL BRING US VICTORY."

As the war got much worse, a second poster was released with these words: FREEDOM IS IN PERIL - DEFEND IT WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT. They were scattered throughout the countryside and plastered on trains, restaurants, stores, and pubs.

A third poster was created with two and a half million copies. But this third poster wasn't used, because the British government was saving it for an extreme crisis, like an invasion by Germany. Then, the crisis poster was basically lost for 60 years until a copy was discovered at an auction of old books.

And though this third poster was never used during the war, it's probably the only one you have ever seen. It contained just five words: "KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON." Once found, it quickly escalated in popularity and was put on coffee mugs, postcards, and posters. People appreciated the simple but strong message to resist anxiety in the face of extreme adversity.

Carry on. That's what God's church was doing here in Acts 8. They had faced extreme adversity. One of their most beloved and fruitful leaders had been brutally murdered by the High Court of the Jews, but the church carried on. Most of the other Christians had been uprooted from their homes and scattered to the winds, but the church carried on.

The Day of Pentecost revival in Jerusalem consisted of thousands being added to the church daily, yet no organized effort was made to give the Gospel message to those in other parts. Samaria was the first place outside of Jerusalem to feel the effect of Pentecost. The persecution that broke out upon the death of Stephen thrust the people forth. Philip went to the city of Samaria. His preaching and his works of healing called forth faith from the multitudes. The people in large numbers believed, and were baptized. How did this revival come about?

How can we carry on the work of God's church today?

* Thoughts taken from ***The Revivals of the Bible***, by Ernest Baker, compiled in Cape Town, South Africa, April 1906.

1. By Preaching God's Word.

It must be by preaching God's Word (vs. 9-13).

The only way we can continue the work of God's church is by preaching the Word of God! But why is it so important for us to preach God's Word?

One reason is the problem of false teachers. This world is plagued by false teachers today, and this was one of the biggest problems here in Acts 8. In this case, the false teacher was named Simon. And we see him in vs. 9-13: "But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great, To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the great power of God." And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time.

But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.

Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.

At first glance, we might think Simon got saved in vs. 13, but the rest of this passage proves this was not the case.

John Phillips explained: "Simon's faith was spurious (or counterfeit) from the start. He was not won by Philip's message, but by Philip's miracles. Simon 'believed,' it says. But what did he believe? Whatever it was he believed, it did not regenerate his soul.

He was as lost after he 'believed' as he was before he 'believed,' as the sequel of the story makes clear. Simon deceived Philip. Perhaps he even deceived himself. What Simon coveted was not the Master but the miracles, not the Savior but the signs."

God's Church still faces the problem of false teachers today. We still face men and women who deny Christ, and claim that all kinds of evil are good. That's one reason why it's so crucial for us to preach God's Word.

But a greater reason for our preaching is the power of God's truth. Simon wasn't truly saved, but many of the Samaritans were! So vs. 12 says: "But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized."

Many of the Samaritans were saved! And they were saved by the power of God's Word. That's why in Romans 1:16, Paul could say: "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."

The gospel of Christ is still the power of God to salvation for everyone who truly believes! But the gospel of Jesus Christ must be preached! The Apostle Paul strongly affirmed this truth in Romans 10:6-15.

No wonder Acts 8:25 closes this passage by saying: "So when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans."

2. By the Presence of God's Spirit.

We cannot carry on the work of God's church without preaching God's Word! But we also must have the presence of God's Spirit. And thank God, we do have the presence of His Holy Spirit today! The same Holy Spirit of God we see in Acts 8 is here with us right now, and living in us now, if we have received Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

But as we look at vs. 14-17, we do see a difference in the way God's Holy Spirit was received. This Scripture reminds us of the importance of touch. First, God touched the Samaritans through the good news about Jesus Christ. Then God touched them through the hands of the Apostles.

In vs. 17, Peter and John "laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit." And in that way, God gave those new Christians the best gift He can ever give: He gave them Himself. They received the Holy Spirit. God Himself moved into their hearts to live as Comforter, guide and friend. But the Holy Spirit was only received through the laying on of the Apostles' hands.

That was a special touch for a special time, and it reminds us that our God is a sovereign God! He knows best. He can give His Holy Spirit any good way He wants, and we can trust Him to work any way He sees fit.

Jesus showed us this truth when He healed people. He used different methods at different times, according to God's perfect will. Take blindness for example. In Matthew 9:27-30, Jesus was in Capernaum, still fairly early in His ministry, and there Jesus healed two blind men. Here the Lord simply touched their eyes, and they were healed. Later in Bethsaida, Jesus was in the third year of His ministry, as we see in Mark 8:22-25. Later still, Jesus was in Jerusalem, and He healed a man who had been born blind (John 9:1-7).

The Lord could have healed all of those men in exactly the same way. But in His perfect will and wisdom, Jesus used different methods. That's perfectly fine, because our God is a sovereign God! He always knows best. He can heal blind eyes, and He can give His Spirit any good way He wants.

But there are at least two crucial reasons why God gave the Holy Spirit here through the laying on of the Apostles hands. Two strong confirmations were needed. [1] First, God wanted to confirm the authority of the Apostles. In Acts 8, the church was still brand new. Only a few months or a few years had passed since God sent the Holy Spirit to His church on the Day of Pentecost. These early Christians did not have the complete Bible as we do today. On top of that, Satan had false teachers everywhere. How were you going to know who to listen to? God made sure that people would turn to the Apostles for spiritual truth. God used the Apostles' hands here in Acts 8 to confirm the authority of the Apostles.

[2] But He also wanted to confirm the availability of the Gospel. God wanted to strongly confirm that the Gospel is for all people, and not just for the Jews. "You mean the hated Samaritans can be saved just like we are? The answer is yes!" And God reinforced this truth through the special way they received the Holy Spirit.

So, do we have to lay hands on people for them to receive the Holy Spirit today? The answer is absolutely not. A. T. Robertson explained that "the laying on of hands is not seen at Pentecost in Acts 2:4 and 2:33. The laying on of hands was also not seen in Acts 10, when Peter preached at the home of Cornelius the Roman Centurion. Acts 10:44 simply says: "While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word."

The laying on of hands is mentioned in Acts 9:17 in the story of Paul's salvation. But in Paul's case it was Ananias who laid his hands on him, and Ananias was definitely not one of the Apostles."

Based on these Scriptures, A. T. Robertson said we cannot conclude "that the Holy Spirit was received only by the laying on of the hands of the Apostles or by the hands of anyone."

Almost 30 years after these events in Acts 8, Paul wrote the Book of Romans. And in Romans 8:9 Paul said this to Christians: "But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His." In other words: Everyone who belongs to Jesus by being born again has the Spirit of Christ. When we open our hearts to receive Jesus, we are receiving the Holy Spirit of God.

Also remember what Jesus said in Luke 11:11-13. And what the Bible says about the Holy Spirit in John 7:37-39. Today, everyone who truly believes in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior receives the Holy Spirit of God.

3. By Standing Against the Poison of Sin.

Thank God, because we cannot carry on the work of God's church without the presence of God's Spirit. But we also must stand against the poison of sin.

God's church must always stand against the poison of sin. In today's Scripture, Peter took a bold stand against the sin of the false teacher Simon (verses 18-23). Back in vs. 13, it looked like Simon got saved, but he surely didn't. Remember that John Phillips said, "What Simon coveted was not the Master but the miracles, not the Savior but the signs."

And there was no doubt about Simon's spiritual condition after the Apostles got to town. In the New Living Translation (verses 18-19).

Well, God doesn't sell miracles! And Peter knew that, so in verse 20, Peter said, "May your money perish with you for thinking God's gift can be bought!" That word "perish" is based on the same word the Bible uses for being "lost." Simon was lost, so in verses 21-23, Peter said that to Simon. John Gill added this important background: "There is no reason to believe that Simon truly repented from the accounts given of him by ancient writers. They always represent him as an opposer of the apostles and

their doctrine, as the father of all heresies, and as a blasphemous wretch. Simon shows us the poison of sin, and we must stand against sin every way we can, both in our own lives and in our society.

4. By Praying for the Lost.

How can we carry on the work of God's church today? We must take a stand against the poison of sin. And we must be praying for people's salvation. What can we do for people in Simon's condition? Simon himself tells us in verse 24. And how should we pray? Pray for the same things that Peter talked about in verses 22-23:

- Pray that lost people will turn from their wickedness.
- Pray that they will pray to the Lord for forgiveness.
- And pray that they will be set free from bitterness and sin.

Pastor Rick Crandall tells of back in the 1990s, when he was blessed to serve for 6 years as pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in West Monroe, Iowa. There, he learned that his little church had experienced one of the greatest revivals ever seen in town. Over a couple years in the 1960s, over 50 people were saved and baptized at that church. One of the deacons told him about the revival. He said it all began when some of the people there got an incredible burden for the lost.

Before the revival, they put together a list of 49 names of lost people to pray for. They were so burdened about these lost friends and family members that they began to pray for them. For two whole weeks before the revival, someone was praying for those lost loved ones 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. And during that revival, 48 of the 49 got saved. It was an incredible miracle. The deacon told him that Sonny Mercer was the 49th person on that list. Sonny got saved in the hospital two years later, after an accident that should have taken his life. Sonny lost both legs in that accident, and two deacons had to carry him down into the water to be baptized. Later, he served for many years as Chairman of the Deacons in that church. Sonny Mercer was still the Chairman of the Deacons when Crandall was pastor at Emmanuel.

Conclusion:

God touched people's lives in a miraculous way, and by His grace God has touched our lives. Now, He wants us to carry on the good work of His church.

And we can!

- By preaching God's Word.
- By the presence of God's Spirit.
- By standing against the poison of sin.
- And by praying for the lost.

May God help us all to carry on! Carry on the Work of God's Church!

May God Help Us Carry On!

Redeem the Timing

Someone once said that the definition of "luck" was "preparation meeting opportunity." Their point was that those people we consider "lucky," having fallen into some overnight success are really people who quietly and diligently prepared for an opportunity they believed would one day come. Because of their preparation, they were ready to take advantage of opportunity when it arrived.

Surely by now in your life you know that things don't just happen by chance or accident. It's all a part of God's plan. You were created for the unique purpose God has planned for you; it's in your DNA. Your life experience and circumstance, the path you've traveled, has been leading you to and preparing you. In order to take on your role in His purpose, you have to relinquish control of the steering wheel. In order make your life matter eternally, you have to be willing to surrender your own say-so about where your life is going right now.

Your purpose and your behavior are two different things. What's required of you every day isn't so unique; it's required of each of us. And you can't be on purpose and off behavior at the same time. You can't disobey the rules that were set out for all of us and expect to successfully follow the unique purpose the Rule Maker has laid out specifically for you. You can't follow the Leader without ever talking to Him or listening to Him. The One who gave you purpose expects relationship. Without it you'll never be able to stay on the path because He's the one leading you. You may have one big task in your lifetime that defines the reason God put you on this earth or you may have been given a lot of little tasks that together define why He put you here. People have a tendency to always be looking for the "big task," the big reason that will define their purpose. Too often we romanticize or glorify the "big task" and ignore or downplay the little tasks. But little tasks add up.

Timing is being ready to jump when you're called. It's also about not worrying if what you're being called to do is the "big task" or not. If you've already heard that call and jumped out of the boat and the waves are getting big and the wind is starting to scare you, stop for a second and remember Who called you out of the boat in the first place. Do you think the disciples in the boat thought Peter was an idiot when he jumped overboard? Don't you think Peter thought he was an idiot himself as he started sinking beneath the waves? It was only afterward, after everything turned out okay that everybody patted him on the back and considered him a man of great faith. If you just jumped out of the boat, don't spend a lot of time worrying about the waves or dreaming about the ticker-tape parade you'll get on shore; just keep your eyes on the One who called you and keep moving. If you're still in the boat, waiting for the big call, take a look around you. Purpose is everywhere.

How did you do today? Did you let your light shine? How about at home? Did you praise God for your family and consider them with wonder and thanksgiving?

You get the idea. If you're still in the boat waiting for the "big task," pick up a rake and get to work; you may just be surprised how easy this purpose thing is. You may also be surprised that the measly little nothing act of mercy you just did, leads to another, and another, and another.

God Bless You!
Bro. Allan

Jaki and a Toothbrush

I've never met my birth mother. People at the orphanage told me that she brought me there when I was a few months old. At the orphanage in Guatemala, the caretakers provided for our basic needs. They taught us, fed us, and clothed us, but their limited resources meant that we ate a steady diet of rice and beans and wore whatever clothes were available, no matter what the size. Sometimes, the girls wore boy clothes because that's what the orphanage had on hand. I don't remember us having any combs or brushes. We did have a toothbrush—one toothbrush for 10 girls. We shared it, like we shared everything else.

That's why I was so excited when we each received our own Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift. My favorite thing I received in my box was a toothbrush of my very own. I got a lot of use out of it. It was a prized possession. To this day when I pack shoebox gifts, I don't just include one toothbrush—I pack at least four of them in each box! That way, the children can use them for a long time, or have enough of them to give to their friends or family members.

I also received a stuffed animal. I was 5 years old, so I loved to hug it. I was delighted to receive crayons and coloring books. When the girls and I colored, there was no white space left on the pieces of paper. We filled every available space with color. We received our gifts in plastic containers, so we kept our larger gifts in them. The possessions we really cherished we kept underneath our mattresses. I didn't receive a photo in my shoebox, but some of the other girls did. They kept the photos underneath their mattresses so they could pull them out to look at them then tuck them away again for safekeeping. I always include a photo and a letter in the shoeboxes I pack because I remember how much the girls treasured them. Even if they couldn't read the writing, it meant something to them that they were from those who had given them the gifts.

I had heard about Jesus at the orphanage. When we had received our shoeboxes, we learned the song, "Jesus loves me." But it wasn't until later that I truly knew who He is and that Jesus really does love me. A year after I received my shoebox, I was adopted by a couple from the U.S. My

parents took me to church and, within the year, I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I still love the song, "Jesus loves me." I love to sing—I'm on the worship team at church. I'm also a nanny, so I get to teach the song to the kids. Many of the children are from my church, which has packed shoeboxes for many years—long before I became a part of the congregation and began sharing my story. I get to help the children pack shoeboxes. I tell them that I received a shoebox gift and answer their questions about what to put in the boxes. I explain how important basic items like paper and pencils are to a child who doesn't have them. They're amazed that I had to share a toothbrush—they couldn't imagine having to share things like that. But they grasp at an early age what it is to give to others.

I hope that my story will make a difference in other children's lives—both those who pack shoeboxes and those who receive them. I'm so thankful that someone took the time to pack one for me.

* Testimony from <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/shoeboxstories-jaki-and-a-toothbrush/>

Opportunities For Service

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

Sunday, November 5, 2017

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: KenNice, Fred Kerns, Don Sharp ? ? ?

Alternate: ? ? ?

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Monday, November 6

Food Kitchen.....5:30 pm

Wednesday, November 8

Prayer Warriors..... 10:00 am

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

Worship Team 7:30 pm

Thursday, November 9

R Team.....6:30 pm

Sunday, November 12, 2017

Choir Rehearsal.....9:00 am

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: John Lewis, Gary Yarbrough, Joseph Coats, ? ? ?

Alternate: Larry McKahan

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, November 15

Prayer / Bible Study.... 6:30 pm
Worship Team 7:30 pm

Thursday, November 16

O Team 6:30 pm

Up-Coming Events.....

November 5 — Daylight saving time ends! Set clocks back 1 hour.

November 6 — Food Kitchen 5:30 pm

November 8 — Prayer Warriors 10:00 am

November 12 — Reception for Don and Jolette Boyer at Grand Oaks

Camp from 2-4 pm

— Operation Christmas Child Collection Day

November 19 — Business Meeting and Dinner at Noon

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 meet tonight, Sunday, November 5.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

Come pray for the direction of our church. Also, we will continue our study on **Fearless**. Please plan to attend and pray at 6:30 pm

Servants Needed

Help! Our current van drivers need some relief! Would you be willing to drive one month (or more) out of the year? (Thanks Joe Coats for volunteering!)

Operation Christmas Child

Shoe Box Collection Day—
Next Sunday, November 12

There are a few boxes on the front pew along with some items Don Beavers has graciously donated.

Also, there are printed labels

on top of the piano. The suggested shipping price for this year is \$9.00.

Grand Oaks Camp Reception for Don and Jolette Boyer

November 12, from 2-4 pm

Please come and share in a time of grateful appreciation for all the faithful years of service
Don and Jolette have spent serving the Lord in the capacity of camp manager.

Calvary Baptist Church

*Thank You so much for hosting us last Sunday. We were
abundantly blessed by your love and support.*

God Bless You All!

*Love Christy, James, Johnny
Sing for the King
Ministries*

Special Missions Worship Service for Miriam Misner

Tonight at 6:00 pm

*Journey Baptist Church
5708 King Hill Avenue
Saint Joseph, Missouri*

For the Record-

Attendance: October 29, 2017

Sunday School.....	44
Visitors.....	3
Total.....	47
Contacts Made.....	0
Morning Worship.....	45
Children's Worship.....	15
Sunday Night	N/A
Wednesday Night	12

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget \$ 2,040.52

Offering Received ... \$ 1,694.63
Sing for the King..... \$ 392.00

Offering Received by Mail:

November Counting Team:

John Lewis and Bill Schottel

November Van Driver:

George Burgess
Remember to call 232-3747
before 8 am if you need a ride.

November Birthdays:

07...Alva Lou Schottel
13...Shirley Wilson
14...Ann Riddle
16...Nancy McCamy
22...Linda Dotson
23...Floetta Conard
27...Linda Kerns

November Anniversaries

Bill and Donna Dunn
November 3, 1995
Jack and Flo Conard
November 4, 1956
John and Dottie Wildberger
November 23, 1962
Jim and Brigida Winans
November 28, 1975

Prayer Requests ...

Brigida Winans—heel surgery
Mike Green—knee replacement
Curtis Conard
Emily Jones & baby
Gina Harr—upcoming surgery
Chad Bradford—heart surgery
The Waters Family—guidance
Stephanie & Jason Terpack
Shawna Hughes—home isolation
Gary and Sharon Yarbrough
Larry Danner—cancer
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Troy Griswold—cancer treatment
Gary & Peggy Fewins and family
Cynthia Burdick—cancer recovery
Karissa and Matt Long and family

Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
LoLeta Middleton—strength
Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
Rev. A. B. Brown Betty Campbell
George Ferbert Kevin Duty
Ellen Blanton Lois Ulmer
Jim Winans Nellie Reynolds
Madeline Swink Ann Riddle
Kathryn Beavers Keon McKahan
Louanne Laurence Leona Reynolds
Jozy Winans Kenny Duty
Pat Means Buddy Means
Bill & Juanita Debbie Sands
Pat Puckett Judy Anderson
Brenda Burgess Roscoe Lane
Carolyn Houts Tim Izer
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people
Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
