

***From the Pastor***

There is a great deal more information that pertains to prayer in the Bible. Asking is just one of the vital keys to answered prayer. For a discussion of five of the biblically stated keys please read the Life, Hope and Truth website article “5 Keys to Answered Prayer.”

Please read Matthew 7:7-11 again. Luke’s account of Jesus’ words adds a little more. Luke 11:9-12 records basically the same thing as Matthew’s account. However, verse 13 adds more. “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?”

It is important to understand how God’s Holy Spirit works. In the New Covenant era that began with the sacrifice of Jesus and His shedding His blood as the blood of the New Covenant, there is a new biblical formula established for the receiving of God’s Holy Spirit. Peter was inspired to give that formula, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38)

Real repentance and baptism must precede the receiving of God’s Spirit in us which occurs at the laying on of hands of God’s servants.

In this New Covenant era, before baptism, God’s Holy Spirit is working with all whom God calls. (Acts 2:39) The Holy Spirit is not in us until the laying on of hand after real repentance and baptism. This is what Jesus was saying in John 14:17 “Even the Spirit of truth...for It [as it should read] dwells with you, and will be in you.”

When we pray and ask for God’s Holy Spirit, what are we asking? We are asking (or should be asking) for God to lead us by His Spirit. Romans 8:14 says, “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” God’s Spirit will lead us in the path (reveal to us the path) God wants us to follow (live), if we ask Him.

But we must understand, God’s Spirit will force us to do nothing. As muscle is strengthened in us by use, God’s Spirit is strengthened in us only as we use it (Hebrews 5:14). As we use God’s Holy Spirit to live by what God says is right, we will grow more adept in its use and we will grow stronger spiritually.

The point is: we can’t wait until we grow strong enough to resist sin. We grow stronger as we use God’s Holy Spirit to resist sin. We know what triggers a sinful response in us. We need to ask for God’s Spirit to lead us so we recognize those situations before we sin so we can implement the right (righteous) response.

We also need to pray to be alert to the leading of the Holy Spirit so we do not quench it. We should always be asking for correction (Jeremiah 10:24). We should be asking for God to lead us by His Spirit. And, we need to use the Holy Spirit that God has given us to become stronger in resisting—overcoming—sin.

	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>Corpus Christi</b>	<b>Harlingen</b>
Sunset Today in:	8:01pm	8:01pm	8:00pm
Sunset Friday 5-4	8:05pm	8:04pm	8:04pm

# Church of God South Texas

**Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen**



April 28, 2018

## Victoria

*Sermon:* Jim Chapman

## Corpus Christi

*Sermonette:* Arnold Mendez

*Sermon:* Steve Moody

## Harlingen

*Sermonette:* Orlando Mascorro

*Sermon:* HQ DVD

“You have tested my heart; you have visited me in the night; you have tested [examined] me and have found nothing [evil]; I have purposed that my mouth shall not trespass.”  
Psalm 17:3

## Announcements and Schedule

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<b>Sabbath 4/28</b>	Regular times and locations for Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Harlingen, and Victoria.
<b>Sabbath 5/5</b>	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Corpus Christi will have a HQ DVD. Mr. Chapman will be in Victoria and San Antonio. Mr. Mendez will be in Harlingen. Harlingen will meet in the home of Michael Watts.

### From Clyde Kilough:

We are pleased to introduce a new website dedicated to our COGWA teens! Your thoughts, trials and experiences are unique to you. You'll find blogs, sermon messages and more—all with topics just for you! Don't see what you're looking for? You can even suggest a topic! We hope you'll find this website useful in dealing with everyday life as a teen following God's way. Visit the new site today at [teens.cogwa.org](http://teens.cogwa.org)!

### Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

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**San Antonio Potluck:** The next regularly will be May 5, 2018.

**Harlingen Texas Potluck:** On May 5<sup>th</sup> Harlingen will meet at the home of Mr. Michael Watts. We will have a Bible Study followed by a Covered Dish Social.

### Feast of Tabernacles:

In the first week we have over 60 percent of our U.S. COGWA members registered for the Feast of Tabernacles! While Festival registration will continue to be open over the next few weeks, we strongly encourage those members who have not yet registered for the Feast of Tabernacles to do so soon. This includes those who will not be able to attend the Feast. These registration numbers greatly assist us in our early Festival planning.

Please note: Rapid City, South Dakota, is now closed to further registration, as it is at total capacity. Those members who have not yet registered may want to consider San Diego, California—a wonderful West Coast destination—for the Feast this year. In addition, there remains plenty of room at all remaining U.S./North American Feast sites.

- May 7: Early housing reservations begin.
- May 14: Regular housing reservations begin at 10 a.m. in the time zone of the Festival site/location.