

Acts 5:27-42. (**Proof is in the Pudding**)

The presence of The Holy Spirit in ones life is seen by their obedience to Jesus Christ.

INTRO

An old saying that has resurfaced in my vocabulary to use when appropriate is “**The proof is in the pudding.**” Growing up it was used equally amongst my brothers and I and friends when any one of us was **talking smack** about what they ‘**could**’ do... something which was **clearly doubted** by the listeners for what followed the **boasting proclamation** was... ‘**proof is in the pudding**’..MEANING: “**Show me. DO IT! Validate your words by action. Let’s take this to the mat.**” And...doing so would **reveal the proof** of whether or not they **could accomplish** what they were **boasting about**.

JESUS **spoke similarly** to his disciples...*saying in effect* there is **proof in the pudding** when he used **fruit trees as an example** of **revealing the authenticity** of a true **believer**...“A good tree bears good fruit, not bad fruit... nor will a bad tree, bear good fruit but rather bad.” (Matthew 7:17-18; 12:33, Luke 6:43) **So it is with a believer...It’s straight forward.** There is **no faking it.** **Regardless of what one may say...**the **proof is in the pudding..or in this case...**THE FRUIT. And **only the Holy Spirit can bring forth in the life of a believer,** GOOD FRUIT. Jesus spoke of this distinctly as **abiding in him.** **For example** in (John 15:4 & 8) he says “**Abide** in me, and **I in you.** As the branch **cannot bear fruit by itself,** unless it **abides** in the vine, neither can you, unless you **abide** in me’...**By this** my Father is glorified, that **you bear much fruit and so p.r.o.v.e to be my disciples.**” AGAIN THEIR IS NO FAKING IT. **Only by the work of the Holy Spirit may we bear fruit to God and only by abiding in Jesus are we able to do so.** The TWO **go together.** The indwelling Holy Spirit and obedience to Jesus. (John 8:31) JESUS, *speaking to the Jews who had believed him said,* “**If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples**”...**“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples”**,....

The PROOF is in the PUDDING - Or...**you could state it like this:**

The presence of The Holy Spirit in ones life is seen by their obedience to Jesus Christ.

That is what I intend on having us take hold of this morning.

The presence of The Holy Spirit in ones life is seen by their obedience to Jesus Christ.

We come **upon the apostles in our text this morning** following a **series of AMAZING events.** Earlier on in **chapter 4,** PETER **commands an over 40yro man** who was **lame since birth** to stand up and walk in the **name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.** And...he does....the **lame beggar leaps up** and is instantaneously made whole..in **perfect health..an un..deniable miracle** takes place to which as the **crowds gathered** to see, which **included the religious leaders....**PETER answers their **questioning** as to what happened by **bearing witness to the risen Lord Jesus...**by the power in his name, **Jesus Christ of Nazareth,** in his name, **this man is made**

whole (Acts 4:10). Hearing this, the **religious leaders** are **greatly annoyed** and **charge them strictly**, WITH THREATS, to **no longer speak to anyone** in THIS name. From there the **apostles** go to their **friends**, THE CHURCH in Jerusalem, where they **rejoice together** as to what took place and **pray for boldness** to CONTINUE to speak **boldly in the name of Jesus**....to which they do...they continue to **proclaim the name of Jesus** and God works **many signs and wonders** through the **apostles**..and I mean **signs and wonders**....**a married couple** DROPS DEAD for **lying to the Holy Spirit** who is empowering the work of the apostles....the **sick were brought** to apostles and **laid near them in such a way** so that **just maybe**, JUST MAYBE.....*perhaps* Peter's shadow would overshadow them, **fall upon them** that they may **be healed**.....THAT'S CRAZY!...and **not just in Jerusalem** but from **the outer city** also **were those in need of healing** brought to the apostles and...WERE HEALED....**every one** of them.

God was saving MULTITUDES of men and women **left and right...every day..EVERY DAY**. The **Holy Spirit** was FLEXING His **power in a mighty way** through the apostles and as a result they were **rightly held**, BY ALL,in a **place of high esteem**..VERY high esteem... **All this attention** now caused the **religious leaders** to *go from* being **greatly annoyed** to FULL of **jealousy**....**Severely hot and bothered** by the spot light being taken off them...to be on 'instead'... the very ones they strictly charged NOT to speak **in the name of Jesus**. Their **whole way of life** is threatened to be undone So,..they **imprisoned them**, as you would expect. "*Let's put them in prison...that will shut them up and stifle this movement taking place.*" And then we see **yet another example** of God's **sense of humor**. He sends an angel to OPEN the prison doors, **free the apostles** and commands them to....go **back to the temple** and **speak TO ALL the people**.... ALL the **words of this Life (Acts 5:20)**...the **blessed life of a christian**.And **early in the morning**, as the apostles do just as they were told by the *angel*...the **religious leaders**, who have gathered together, send **officers** to have the very **same apostles** brought **out of prison to be placed before them**...And the **officers** find the **prison secure** in EVERY WAY (**locked doors**, *prison guards* at their **post and alert**)....NOTHING AMISS....excehhpt the **prison cell** is.....EMPT...empty. **No prisoners??**....**Whaaat!?** Was **probably the look** upon their faces in that **moment**...A LOOK landing on the **religious leader's MUGS** also **when the news was shared** with them. **All doubt** of the officers **story goes flat** as **one comes in** REPORTING to the **religious leaders** that they..THE APOSTLES...are **INDEED in the temple**, "*the apostles are in the temple and are teaching about Jesus again.*" **Whaaat!?** **It's in this moment** we find ourselves in the text this morning.

From here we'll see the **ingredients** to this pudding **per se** unfold...What this morning's text provides **as to the evidence** the **presence of The Holy Spirit** in **ones life** .

BODY

- The first ingredient - Obedience to God is not optional.

Let's read (**Acts 5:27-29**).

The apostles are before the High Priest and his whole council once again and they go straight to it. "Did you guys **not hear US** before?.....**WE sternly warned** you not to speak of this **Jesus anymore...PERIOD!** Yet you've continued to **DO SO** and **all of Jerusalem is in an uproar over it.** Do **YOU intend on bringing** upon **US the guilt of this man's blood.**" Now hold up there...Isn't this the **same one's to whom, along with the whole crowd gathered in Jerusalem before Pontius Pilot WHO, while washing his hands to show that he was INNOCENT of the decision to crucify Jesus when all the people chose to release Barabas instead of Jesus.. Wasn't is them, along with all the people who said (Matthew 27:25) "His blood be upon us and our children."** Have they forgotten that?

How about the **fact that the apostles are NOT in prison anymore** and the **prison doors are locked secure...**and the **guards are STILL** at the door. **WHY** are they **not inquiring about that?..."Who helped you escape? How is it possible you are out of prison?"** They **DISREGARD** that **reasonable question altogether** and are **BLIND** to their own words at **Jesus's trial, words stated emphatically that they were FINE** with bearing the guilt of being the one's who condemned him to DIE. "Let His blood be upon us and our children." **It's madness really...BLIND MADNESS of one insisting on their own way.** (Numbers 22:21-31) It reminds me of **Balaam conversing with his donkey** who was saving Balaam's life by not obeying his command to go. **BALAAM didn't bat an eye** when the **Lord opened the mouth of the donkey to speak** asking **Balaam...** "Why are you hitting me these three times? What have I done to you that I deserve this beating?...I've been a loyal donkey to you your whole life up till now.... "Yes you have been a **loyal donkey**, but **right now** you are **making me look like a FOOL** and if I **had a sword** I'd **KILL** you!" **Madness! MADNESS...Balaam was insisting on his own way...NOT the Lords. THE Same here.**

The **COUNCIL...the High Priest, all who were with him and the party of the Sadducees...INSISTING to keep their position of influence and power OVER** the people are **usurping 'their' authority ...little 'a' authority...OVER the apostles. Fighting against what God was doing to preserve 'their' OWN WAY. It's madness.** **YET, how often have we found ourselves doing the same thing? As a parent, the words "What were you thinking?" Have come out of my mouth on multiple occasions.** And the thing is...**my child whom I am speaking this to WAS 'thinking'... it's just that the 'thinking' was consumed on their own way.** The **same thought has entered into my head** at times...**I've even said it out loud BEFORE.** "SETH, **what were you thinking?"** I wasn't 'thinking',...at least **NOT** how I *should have been.* **My thoughts were self consumed...BLIND to what I should have had my mind set on.** We are to be **on guard against such sin** in our lives...**sin that so often times is very subtle and can slip in unaware.** **PRAY for the Holy Spirit to keep you alert that you may see it beforehand.**

In **STARK contrast (verse 29) PETER and the apostles answer their interrogator "We MUST obey God rather than men."** **Obedience to GOD is NOT optional.** It **doesn't matter what AUTHORITY, POWER and INFLUENCE you hold...IF IT IS in opposition to us obeying God...we simply won't COMPLY...we CAN'T...COMPLY.**

"**We MUST obey God rather men.**" **Must obey...not optional.** A BORN AGAIN christian,...sealed by the indwelling Holy Spirit has God's law written on their hearts and minds.... God promises that He will cause us to walk in His ways. (Ezekiel 36:27) "And I will put my Spirit within you, and **cause you to walk** in my statutes and be **careful to OBEY my rules.**" **We MUST obey God because HE** "is working in us (Hebrews 13:21) that which is **pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and EVER.**"

GOD IS DOING IT. Our **whole being**...every **fabric of who we are**...HEART, mind, BODY and SOUL **MUST obey** God. **It's NOT going to stop.** "And let me tell you why." says PETER.... the next ingredient.

- Jesus is **Leader** and **Savior**.

(Verses 30-31). Read. - "**This Jesus, in whom we speak...remember? We told you this the last time we were under interrogation before you.**" (Acts 4:13-22). 'Our answer is the same.' '**This Jesus**, the God of *OUR* Fathers...you know...the Prophets..Moses...the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob...the **same very God** you **claim to worship**....it is He, **Yahweh** who **raised up Jesus** from the DEAD...whom **YOU killed by hanging him on a tree.** **You CRUCIFIED him...YES,...his blood IS** upon you. **This same JESUS God raised from the dead....He also exalted him at His right hand** as **Leader** and **Savior**, to **GIVE repentance** to Israel and **forgiveness of sins.**" We are **forever under the Authority** (**capital 'A' Authority**) of the **Prince** of heaven **whom the Father sent to rescue us** from the **penalty of sin.**

JESUS, the **King of Glory**, *made a way* of **Salvation**. He **rescued us from a life of slavery to sin** to be **set free to worship God AS SLAVES to righteousness.** He **bore the penalty of sin BY dying on the cross** whereby **He purchased those** who are His,..**back to God**. Those **in Christ** are NO LONGER their own. **They've been bought with a price....** and NOW **joyfully come under** the **RULE and REIGN** of **Christ Jesus** as their **Lord** and **Savior**. HE IS **exalted at the right hand** of **God the Father** as **Leader** and **Savior** and **we MUST follow HIS lead**, WE **must OBEY.** **Through Him and Him only is repentance and forgiveness of sins granted.** **No one can repent and receive forgiveness of sin APART from CHRIST.** **It's the word of Christ that BRINGS SAVING FAITH.** "So **faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.**" (Romans 10:17). By **FAITH** in his name **was the lame beggar made whole** and by **FAITH** in his name **may one be granted repentance and receive forgiveness of sins.**

Oh HOW BLISS it is to **know your sins** are FORGIVEN. **A christian MUST OBEY** God...**they must**..and when **they don't**...when they don't OBEY....the **conviction that comes** by their **disobedience**...**NOT obeying** God...is **so troubling** that their is **NO soundness in their flesh.** They **FEEL IT** in **their bones**...*at least* they **ought to.** Once the **realization comes**, **SPIRIT given conviction** that **they have sinned**...they are **crushed inside** and **eagerly long** for **RESTORATION from the one whom's HEART** they **broke** by **SINNING** against. **So many paradoxes in the christian life.** The **very one** they..YOU..I sin against is **the ONE through whom HEALING** may come. **Only by faith** in **JESUS** may one be **granted repentance and forgiveness of sin.** **Sin** is

confessed, *turned away from* to **turn THEN towards obedience** to JESUS their **Leader** and **Savior** and ONCE AGAIN **experience** the HEALING that flows through your **hidden parts within** of being **washed clean** by the **blood** of CHRIST. A powerful presentation of this is found in **Psalm 38**. (I'd like you to turn their and read it along with me) **Psalm 38**.

Are you **able to relate** to any of this? If this is foreign to you and that bothers you... that's GOOD. Be bothered about it BUT don't stay there. **START from there though** and **pursue** God as to WHY. Seek His face and **DON'T stop seeking Him** as to WHY till you experience what the Psalmist describes. **Ask your Heavenly Father for such a contrite heart that is devastatingly BROKENHEARTED over sin. Every christian ought to be** when **conviction of sin** comes. The **magnitude** may **vary**, YES...but it's always a **broken heart**..not "I'm bummed it got found out"...but an absolute broken heart that **eagerly pursues** REPENTANCE and RESTITUTION. If the **sin involved someone else**, *which it often does*, then a **contrite heart** can't SLEEP, is DEEPLY troubled... RESTLESS until **amends** are made. Until they **can confess** their SIN against them and **beg forgiveness**. **This is the heart I long for...and long for continually that it would never grow COLD or CALLOUS but only be all the more SENSITIVE to the slightest straying from my Father's will.**

I trust those **in Christ** HERE **share that desire** with me.

And all of this....is a **work** of God, **through** Jesus Christ, **BY** His Spirit whom **Peter says is given to all who OBEY Him**...Him JESUS our "**Leader and Savior**."

- The **3rd ingredient** is now added to the batter. The **GIFT** of the **Holy Spirit** to those **who obey**. Do you see how they are inseparable? **Obedience** to God and the **Indwelling** Holy Spirit.

Read (**verse 32**) with me.

The apostles conclude their answer by saying "**That all of which we are describing and sharing with you WE are witnesses to it...WE saw it with our very own eyes..EACH ONE OF US....and so is the Holy Spirit, HE also bears witness to it.**"

That's OUTSTANDING! The **apostles have such** an AWARENESS of **His presence** that **they speak of Him** as if HE is **with them in bodily form**. They are **so aquatinted with the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives** they **speak of Him in such a manner**. **We saw this also in the early part of chapter 5**. It was **this sharp awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence** that enabled Peter to **know immediately** that **Ananias and Sapphire were lying and when he confronts them about it he says in effect...'though the deed was done to me and you spoke to me...it was God the Holy Spirit you were lying to.'**... **That's awesome!** Almost in the realm of **tangible** is what is portrayed here in the **Holy Spirit's presence** with the apostles

For the **personhood of God the Holy Spirit is given to all those who...OBEY him**. The **indwelling** Holy Spirit and **obedience** to God. They are **hand in hand**. That is why when a TRUE believer is **convicted of sinning**, they are **broken hearted**. They **grieved the HEART of God and His Spirit that dwells,..WITHIN THEM**. **According to God's promise that He will cause you to walk in His statutes and be careful to obey His rules....** that when we don't...Holy Spirit **CONVICTS.....realization comes that I**

have sinned against the *very* God of heaven whose Spirit lives in me. That's devastating and it places the sinning Christian in a state of misery UNTIL repentance and forgiveness of sins is granted. The apostle John HITS heavily on this truth in his 1st epistle. If you haven't read that short epistle recently,...it will be well worth your while to do so. For now though, here is one verse in which he is arguing the same point. (1John 3:9) "No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God." Did you catch that? He CANNOT keep on sinning....he certainly may stumble in their walk...a christian may and does at times take the bait of temptation and sin...YIELD TO SIN...but they don't practice it...they don't keep on sinning.... What was the apostles answer? "We must obey God." Obedience is NOT optional because it's God's seed that ABIDES in us. The imperishable word of God is written on the heart and mind of His people and His Spirit COMPELS them to obey.....PERIOD. And when WE don't...WE ARE RIGHTLY and ought to be..... miserable.

RESPONSE OF THE COUNCIL

How do you think the 'Council' the high priest, those who were with him and all the senate of the people of ISRAEL...How do you think they responded to this? They started out as greatly annoyed. Then went on to being filled with jealousy. And now (verse 33) "When they heard this, they were ENRAGED and wanted to KILL them."

Their BLIND madness continues to ESCALATE. So is the pattern of repeated obstinance to the gospel message. It serves to further HARDEN the HEART of a sinner. "The same sun which melts wax hardens clay. And the same Gospel which melts some persons to REPENTANCE, hardens others in their sins" –

But then, something remarkable happens in this moment. A Pharisee is introduced in (verse 34) GAMALIEL...a teacher of the law HELD IN HONOR by all the people...A SAGE if you will...who has been present through all these proceedings.. BUT SILENT....taking observance of all the happenings...he now stands up and gives orders to have the apostles removed from the presence of the COUNCIL for a little while so he can address the COUNCIL privately. Being held in honor by all, the council doesn't hesitate to do so. This guy had SWAY...a respected teacher of the LAW...respected highly,... even by the Sadducees,..who had pointed differences in beliefs with the Pharisees such as GAMALIEL whom they outnumbered in this COUNCIL...AND all of them ACTED immediately, in one accord,...as GAMALIEL ordered. The words of a respected teacher DEMAND attention...as they ought to. The apostles are removed and the whole council gives ready ear to HEAR what he has to say.

Beginning in (verse 35) Gamaliel says "be careful about what you decide to do with these men. The SAGE is giving a warning advice and substantiates the warning with 2 past examples in the next couple verses. He says: "Do you remember Theudas? He was the guy not long ago who made significant claims about himself and rose to a position of great influence and had many followers of his revolt...400 followers to be exact...WELL, he was killed and all quickly fizzled to NOTHING. Furthermore, there was the other guy who came after him, JUDAS the Galilean. With him also there was a time when 'he',...gaaained a following and lead a

movement AGAINST our place of POWER and INFLUENCE. He also died and afterward.....nothing..bubkiss....NOTHING of 'his' movement remains. It ALL came to nothing. "So I warn you (verse 38) in this current movement through these apostles...just let them be. For if it is a revolt *contrived by man...it will ultimately fail JUST LIKE the others,...history repeats itself.* However, (verse 39) if God is behind this...if this is a work of God *through THESE men...you are not going to be able to stop it.* IN FACT, attempting to do so will put you in a place of opposing, not man,..but GOD! Solid warning right? The COUNCIL thought so, "for they took his advice."

GAMALIEL - (a Pharisee), was a **respected teacher** of the scriptures...held in high honor of **all the people** and **his words of council** are ADMIRABLE in that they **are right in what he says**, YET, they **reveal how one** can be CLOSE TO the **Kingdom of Heaven** but **still not in it.** JESUS himself had a **similar conversation** with a **Jewish leader**, a Scribe, who asked him..."Which commandment is the most important of all?" And Jesus answered, "The most important is 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 'There is no other commandment greater than these."

(Matthew 12:28-34) then he, **the Scribe**, affirmed Jesus's answer...**that he was right in what he said,..and does so by adding additional scripture** to it *saying...."fulfilling those two greatest commandments is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."* but **listen to what Jesus replied to his affirmation.** 'You are not far from the Kingdom of Heaven'. Not far...but not 'IN'. **So close YET worlds APART.** Not OF the kingdom of God. Not CITIZENS with the **Saints in heaven....but** rather...STILL **condemned**, STILL **under the WRATH** of a Holy...**Just God....because** of their guilt of sin. STILL **on the pathway** to HELL **where the fire is never quenched...Eternal judgement..AWAITS YOU!**

How many 'would be church goers' fit that **position?** Well acquainted with Christianity, it's **teachings**, it's **way of Life..YET** have NEVER experienced the **Holy Spirit GRIP** there **HEART** like the **Psalmist describes in 38.... Felt physically tormented** in HEART, SOUL and BODY over **their SIN** and **crying out to** the VERY ONE whose **hand of judgement** is UPON THEM that they **may find deliverance... repentance....forgiveness.... BELIEVISM fit's into this category.** Oh the DANGER of BELIEVISM. **Simply believe...that's all...JUST believe.** The **demons believe** and **TREMBLE (James 2:19).** **Satan** knows the Bible and **QUOTES scripture.** They are **clearly NOT saved.** They are NOT of those who **bring about the obedience of FAITH** and **so are many whom claim christianity but bear no evidence of it.** "THE PROOF IS IN THE PUDDING"... **Is your life marked by obedience to Jesus Christ and does it BEAR FRUIT as a result of ABIDING in Him?... Or are you ONE who has an interest in Spiritual matters but NOT a transformed life...NO pursuit of holiness...NO pursuit of knowing Christ...**

Gamaliel's council is spot on. He is right in what he is saying, but we don't see him join up with the apostles. We have NO account of him repenting, being broken over his sin and looking to Jesus as his Leader and Savior. Placing himself along with ALL the other followers of Christ who live under the RULE and REIGN of him in their hearts. Abiding in God's word and living a spirit filled life. NO record is given of him doing that. NOW, it's certainly possible that later on,...this did take place. For upon his very own words of advice to the council he would see that INDEED what was happening there in Jerusalem was NOT an act of man, but GOD. It did not fizzle out to nothing. Perhaps upon hearing the apostles teach the words of Christ saying (Matthew 12:30, Luke 11:23) "Whoever is not with me (with Christ) is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters." Upon their testimony Gamaliel very well may have PASSED from death to LIFE. Conversion to life in Christ could have taken place as conviction came to him that he was in a place of being a scatterer... and therefore,...OPPOSING God! We ultimately don't know and I believe it's left as such to serve as a warning to us now.

Is your FAITH based on intellectual assent only or is the power of the presence of the Holy Spirit evident in your life. One bonafide test is true contrite repentance. "The proof is in the pudding" OR,...in Christ's words...we are known by our fruit and a distinguishable fruit that validates the seal of the Holy Spirit given you is the fruit we bear in keeping with repentance. (Matthew 3:8) "Bear fruit in keeping with repentance." When conviction is GIVEN by the Holy Spirit when WE ARE NOT obeying GOD, are you grieved by that sin? Does it abhor you? Do you detest it?

Paul hits the same button when addressing sin in the Corinthian church. He says in (2 Corinthians 13:5) "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? —unless indeed you fail to meet the test!" Paul is saying the same argument. "The proof is in the pudding" and it brings assurance of your sonship IN CHRIST. There is a working out your salvation with FEAR and trembling...a wrestling on the mat with God as we see pictured with Jacob who wrestled all night and would not let go till God blessed him. God wrestles with the sinners heart...ridding sin from our lives..testing our hearts...permitting afflictions that bring us to the END our ourselves so we have nothing in our GRIP but Him and Him alone. This is normal for that awareness and fighting against INDWELLING SIN...the body of death that still clings to us as Paul described it....(Romans 7:24)...but in seeking deliverance FROM IT we are driven to THE ONLY REMEDY...to the cross where we are granted repentance and forgiveness of sin. At the cross we find peace and rest for our souls because we know that (1 John 4:4)..."greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world." We can have confidence in the battle for He (Jesus) already won the war by defeating SATAN, SIN and DEATH on the cross on Calvary. All the wrestling and striving within serve as strong evidence that you are His child and that His Spirit is in you. At the cross (Psalm 85:10) "Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other." Cling to the CROSS and don't let go.

- We finish this morning in (verses 40-42) with that final touch that affirms ones LIFE in Christ.

DISHONOR by the world on behalf of the name of JESUS is equivalent to HONOR from the Father

Upon taking the advice from Gamaliel, the COUNCIL releases the apostles, but only after they beat them. They are NOT repenting of their rage against them, so...it's gotta be expelled and they do so by beating them while all along telling them to NO longer speak in the name of Jesus. The council remained indignant in opposing God. To which the apostles RESPOND in a way that could only be done BY the POWER of the Holy Spirit. (Verse 41). "They left the presence of the council rejoicing...REJOICING that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name" TO BE SHAMED for the name of Jesus...the very name they were told to NO longer speak of. And what did they do? They, of course, (verse 42) "continued afterward EVERY day in the temple and from house to house, they DID NOT CEASE teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus." "They MUST obey God"...it's NOT an option..NOT to. (Acts 4:20) "They can't BUT speak of the things they have seen and heard"...Jesus has rescued them..Peace with God is possible in his name. Repentance and forgiveness of sin is possible in His name and ONLY in his name....This is the most wonderful news in all the world..and like any good news...I WANT TO SHARE IT...especially knowing that others can be brought into the same joy of knowing JESUS and Leader and Savior... Seeing others come under His Righteous RULE and REIGN serves to expand my JOY in Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:15) because, so that as grace extends to more and more people it MAY increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God....AND if bearing witness to it RESULTS in receiving dishonor from the world..that only serves as FUEL to the Holy Spirit fire within them as HONOR from the Father that they are walking obediently and in this they greatly rejoice. (Only by the indwelling Holy Spirit is this possible) which itself serves to further AFFIRM their adoption as a child of God.

CONCLUSION

The Christian life is one that can have absolute assurance in their salvation. NOT because of anything they have done. NOT because of anything intrinsic in themselves BUT because of the presence and ongoing work of the Holy Spirit "who has been given to all who OBEY Him."

May the text given consideration this morning SERVE as a help.....as a help in solidifying our assurance in Christ and lifelong pursuit to live in obedience to him as our LEADER and SAVIOR to the glory of GOD the Father.

COMMUNION

As the music team comes and leads the congregation in song once again. Time is given for response. The elements of communion are provided that proclaim the death of our Lord Jesus till he return. The bread representing his body that was broken as an offering for sin and the cup which represents his

blood that was **shed** that we may **have forgiveness of sin**.

THOSE IN CHRIST, *who joyfully look to* JESUS as their **Leader** and **Savior**, may come **as the Spirit leads**. Come and partake.

BENEDICTION

2 Corinthians 4:6-18

Family

Table Talk



May 27, 2018

Family Discussion

There is calm then there is storm
There is peace then there is war
There is love then we are torn, oh Lord
There's a void then there's a song
There's a death then we are born
There is blood then we are home, oh Lord
(Chorus)
If you're free, prove it
If you're free, prove it
If you're not, lose the chains on your soul
Come, freedom

Above are lyrics to a song by David Crowder (fun music video to watch - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ofskOK9yLE0>) In this song David Crowder is cleverly admonishing Christians through song to live out their life in Christ boldly.

1. Read Romans 6:16-23 to learn about the radical transformation that takes place for those in Christ. What are the two things we are either enslaved to? (Not both at once but either/or)
Slavery to sin leads to _____?
Slavery to Righteousness leads to _____? Who makes the change from slavery to one to then be towards the other?
2. The key verse speaks of "bearing much fruit to God and so prove to be a disciple of Jesus." "And the fruit we get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life." (Romans 6:22) Read the passages listed to see what sort of fruit the power of the Holy Spirit bears in your life by your obedience to Jesus.

GOD'S TRUTH

Obedience to Jesus by the Power of the indwelling Holy Spirit!

Key Verse

"By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."
John 15:8 (ESV)

TABLE READING

Lead your kids into God's Word...

1. Romans 6:16-23
2. Galatians 5:22-24; Matthew 3:8; Colossians 1:3-11



Scripture Memory: Acts 5:42

"AND THESE WORDS THAT I COMMAND YOU TODAY SHALL BE ON YOUR HEART. YOU SHALL TEACH THEM DILIGENTLY TO YOUR CHILDREN, AND SHALL TALK OF THEM WHEN YOU SIT IN YOUR HOUSE, AND WHEN YOU WALK BY THE WAY, AND WHEN YOU LIE DOWN, AND WHEN YOU RISE. YOU SHALL BIND THEM AS A SIGN ON YOUR HAND, AND THEY SHALL BE AS FRONTLETS BETWEEN YOUR EYES. YOU SHALL WRITE THEM ON THE DOORPOSTS OF YOUR HOUSE AND ON YOUR GATES." - DEUTERONOMY 6:6-9 (ESV)

