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Essentially, Paul uses all of these various expressions in this context interchangeably, to express the same basic understanding. While using a little different wording, all of the expressions mean essentially the same thing. He is clearly taking about the direction by which an individual lives his life, his mind-set. Indeed, Paul expresses the same basic understanding in his letter to the Colossians when he instructs them to "*Set your mind on things above, not on things on earth*" (Colossians 3:2).

A person sets "*his mind on things above*" by focusing on living his life according to God's teachings communicated in God's word. God's word, *scripture*, was written by men who were guided to write what they wrote by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:19-21). So, a person who faithfully lives his life by the teachings of God's word is a person who walks, who lives his life, "*according to the Spirit*." The way he lives demonstrates that he has set his mind "*on...the things of the Spirit*," that he is "*spiritually minded*." In living by the Spirit-guided word of God, he is a person who is "*led by the Spirit of God*." As such, he is truly "*in the Spirit*."

Nothing miraculous, nothing supernatural. Nothing seized control of his life. When a person makes up his mind to truly live by God's word, he lives his life "*in the Spirit*"...

Welcome

to the
Church of Christ
meeting at Mack Road

This morning's sermon:

The Holy Spirit's witness concerning the message
of Jesus
John 16:8-15

Tonight: What message are you as a seeker modeling!



Congregational Meeting Times:

Sunday

Morning Bible Study 9:30 am

Worship Service 10:30 am

Evening Service 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Morning Bible Study 10:00 am

Evening Bible Study 7:00 pm

For additions or corrections to the directory please contact Mike Mendez

Church of Christ, P.O. Box 231005, Sacramento, CA 95833
(916) 428-1956 / 428-1967 website: www.mackroadchurchofchrist.com

For corrections, suggestions, or to have something included in the bulletins, please contact Ryan or Jennifer Stiltz at 924-0435 or email at stiltz_family@sbcglobal.net

Visitors

The members here would like to offer a special welcome to our visitors today. Please allow us to shake your hand and talk with you, as we take great joy in getting to know you. Visitor cards are available at the pews for you to provide us with a record of your attendance. We appreciate you taking the time to fill these out.

Important dates to remember:

March:

Sun 28th - Elders and Deacons meeting at the building, 5:00 pm

Fellowship Opportunities:

Sun 14th - Group 2 meets after evening service

Fri 26th - Family night potluck at the Uptegrove's, 6:30pm



Ladies House to House Fellowship

Next meeting: Sunday, March 28th at Linda Riemer's home following morning services. We will be choosing new material.

Help choose a new lesson book! We will be selecting a book from five different books written by members of the Church of Christ. These books have come highly recommended and all deal with women issues. Please plan on being there to provide your input on which topics and books interest you most!

Classes

Young Adults Class: Fridays at Caleb's home. See Caleb for details.

"Gathering" meeting: meets 3/14 at 5pm

Philip Chung was baptized February 24th.

In The Spirit

By:

Gary L. Hutchens

A number of descriptive expressions are used by a lot of people, not always accurately, in regards to the Holy Spirit. One such expression is "*in the Spirit.*" Many people seem to use this phrase to describe a person who is supposedly overwhelmed, overcome, or taken over by the Holy Spirit. In some cases, a person so described supposedly no longer has control of himself, the Spirit has temporarily taken control and basically manipulates him to do what the Spirit wants him to do. At times, such a person may appear to be in something of a trance-like state.

Such an understanding would appear to be largely a product of misguided imagination and/or very narrow application. It is an interpretation that seems to be a product of a seemingly predisposed tendency on the part of many to associate almost all things related to the Holy Spirit with the realm of the miraculous. There are many references in scripture that include the phrase "*in the Spirit.*" Most of them do not indicate a state wherein the individual does not have control over himself. The most common sense of what is meant by being "*in the Spirit*" has nothing to do with being *taken over* by the Holy Spirit, nor does it have anything to do with the miraculous.

In Romans 8:1-14 the apostle Paul uses all of the following expressions: "*walk...according to the Spirit*" (vs. 1, 4), "*live according to the Spirit*" (vs. 5), "*set their minds on...the things of the Spirit*" (vs. 5), "*to be spiritually minded*" (vs. 6), "*you are...in the Spirit*" (vs. 9), and "*as many as are led by the Spirit of God*" (vs. 14).

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