

January 20, 2019



FIRST CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

WELCOME to First Christian Assembly, an independent church whose mission is articulated by Jesus in Mark 16:15 when he said "...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature". Following this great commission, First Christian Assembly preaches and teaches the gospel of Jesus Christ. In so doing, we trust that God, working through His Holy Spirit will draw souls to salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Be Filled

An important verse in understanding the filling of the Holy Spirit is [John 14:16](#), where Jesus promised the Spirit would indwell believers and that the indwelling would be permanent. It is important to distinguish the indwelling from the filling of the Spirit. The permanent indwelling of the Spirit is not for a select few believers, but for all believers. There are a number of references in Scripture that support this conclusion. First, the Holy Spirit is a gift given to all believers in Jesus without exception, and no conditions are placed upon this gift except faith in Christ ([John 7:37-39](#)). Second, the Holy Spirit is given at the moment of salvation ([Eph 1:13](#)). [Gal 3:2](#) emphasizes this same truth, saying that the sealing and indwelling of the Spirit took place at the time of believing. Third, the Holy Spirit indwells believers permanently. The Holy Spirit is given to believers as a down payment, or verification of their future glorification in Christ ([2 Cor 1:22](#); [Eph 4:30](#)).

This is in contrast to the filling of the Spirit referred to in [Eph 5:18](#). We should be so completely yielded to the Holy Spirit that He can possess us fully and, in that sense, fill us. [Rom 8:9](#) and [Eph 1:13-14](#) states that He dwells within every believer, but He can be grieved ([Eph 4:30](#)), and His activity within us can be quenched ([1 Thess 5:19](#)). When we allow this to happen, we do not experience the fullness of the Spirit's working and His power in and through us. To be filled with the Spirit implies freedom for Him to occupy every part of our lives, guiding and controlling us. Then His power can be exerted through us so that what we do is fruitful to God. The filling of the Spirit does not apply to outward acts alone; it also applies to the innermost thoughts and motives of our actions. [Psa 19:14](#) says, "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer."

Sin is what hinders the filling of the Holy Spirit, and obedience to God is how the filling of the Spirit is maintained. [Eph 5:18](#) commands that we be filled with the Spirit; however, it is not merely praying for the filling of the Holy Spirit that accomplishes the filling. Only our obedience to God's commands allows the Spirit freedom to work within us and Fill us to overflowing (John 7:37-38).

Missionary Update Afghanistan

Dear praying friends, Thank you for your heart to pray for me and New Life. The New Year has started off and wanted to give you some praise and prayer points.

Praises:

Thank you thank you for praying for me about sleep! Since that request I have slept much better! Your prayers really have an effect, I wish I had not waited so long to request prayer! J, will come from his city this Friday and hopefully Sunday we will have a dunking party! Another of our men is inquiring about the things we hold dear. We have been very blessed financially to start the year. Our first hand made knives are being finished and will be ready soon.

Prayer Requests:

That nothing get in the way of J being dunked
That the man in the program who is open, will continue to be drawn to J and so will the others in the program.
That the man whose brother died and he took on all his responsibilities can find a job to support his brother's family as well as his aging parents. He is suppose to find out about a possible job this Tuesday. Please pray this works out.
For a friend whose family just lost a close relative. I and another friend are suppose to meet with them sometime this coming week. They have shown signs of being open to the good news before. Pray that this death will make them even more open.
For my Dari teacher as I have been sharing with her about the good news almost every class.
I am supposed to take a break and am going to SA for a couple of weeks and debating whether to have a small hernia operation done there or to wait until after next Oct and the marathon. Yes you read that correctly, I have decided to take it on again and have already started training and really don't want the six week recovery time interruption to training. Pray for wisdom.
S, the longest man in the program, thinks his wife may have started using again. He is facing many family challenges so please life him up. His brother is also an addict and wants to come into the program. But S has told us that his older brother always influenced him in negative ways so we are very leery to have him here while S is here.

Thank you so much for your prayers! - John

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The Philadelphia Access Center is a ministry of First Christian Assembly. Our mission is *revealing Christ through compassionate service*. Services available at PAC include social services information and referrals, biblical counseling, support groups, volunteer training, and community outreach. All services are free of charge and available to anyone. To learn more, visit us in person (across the street from FCA) or online at www.philaccess.org or www.facebook.com/philaccess.

WEEKLY SERVICES /MEETINGS

	Meets at FCA	Meets at PAC
Sunday	9:45 AM <i>Bible Study – Phila -location</i> 10:00 AM <i>South Jersey Worship Service</i> 11:00 AM <i>Phila Location Worship Service & Children's Sunday School</i>	
Monday		7:00 PM <i>Stepping Stones</i>
Tuesday	6:30 PM <i>Prayer (Sanctuary)</i> 7:00 PM <i>Discipleship class (Fellowship hall)</i>	
Wednesday		1:00 PM <i>Women at the Well</i> 1:00 PM <i>Coram Deo</i>
Thursday		6:00 PM <i>Prayer Service</i> 7:00 PM <i>Bible Study</i>
Friday		7:00 PM <i>Free Indeed</i>

- *Coram Deo*: A men's Bible study and Christian fellowship.
- *Free Indeed*: Is a Spirit led Men's Fellowship that emphasizes godly counsel, leading to spiritual growth, healing and deliverance.
- *Stepping Stones*: A Christ centered support group for men and women impacted by a loved one's addiction. In a warm and friendly atmosphere, we provide loving support, fellowship, confidential sharing, and intercessory prayer.
- *Women at the Well*: This group is Biblically based and promotes hope, healing, and fellowship for women impacted and struggling with brokenness.

Important Dates;

- **Youth Group meets again on January 27, 2019**
- **Evangelism class begins on Tuesday, January 29, 2019 – 7:00 PM**
- **Be on the lookout for news regarding Sunday Morning and Tuesday Evening Bible studies**

The Spirit-filled life is not a special, deluxe edition of Christianity. It is part and parcel of the total plan of God for His people. – A.W. Tozer