

THE PENTECOSTAL evangel

NOT BY MIGHT, NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT SAITH THE LORD

SPIRITUAL LIFE EDITION

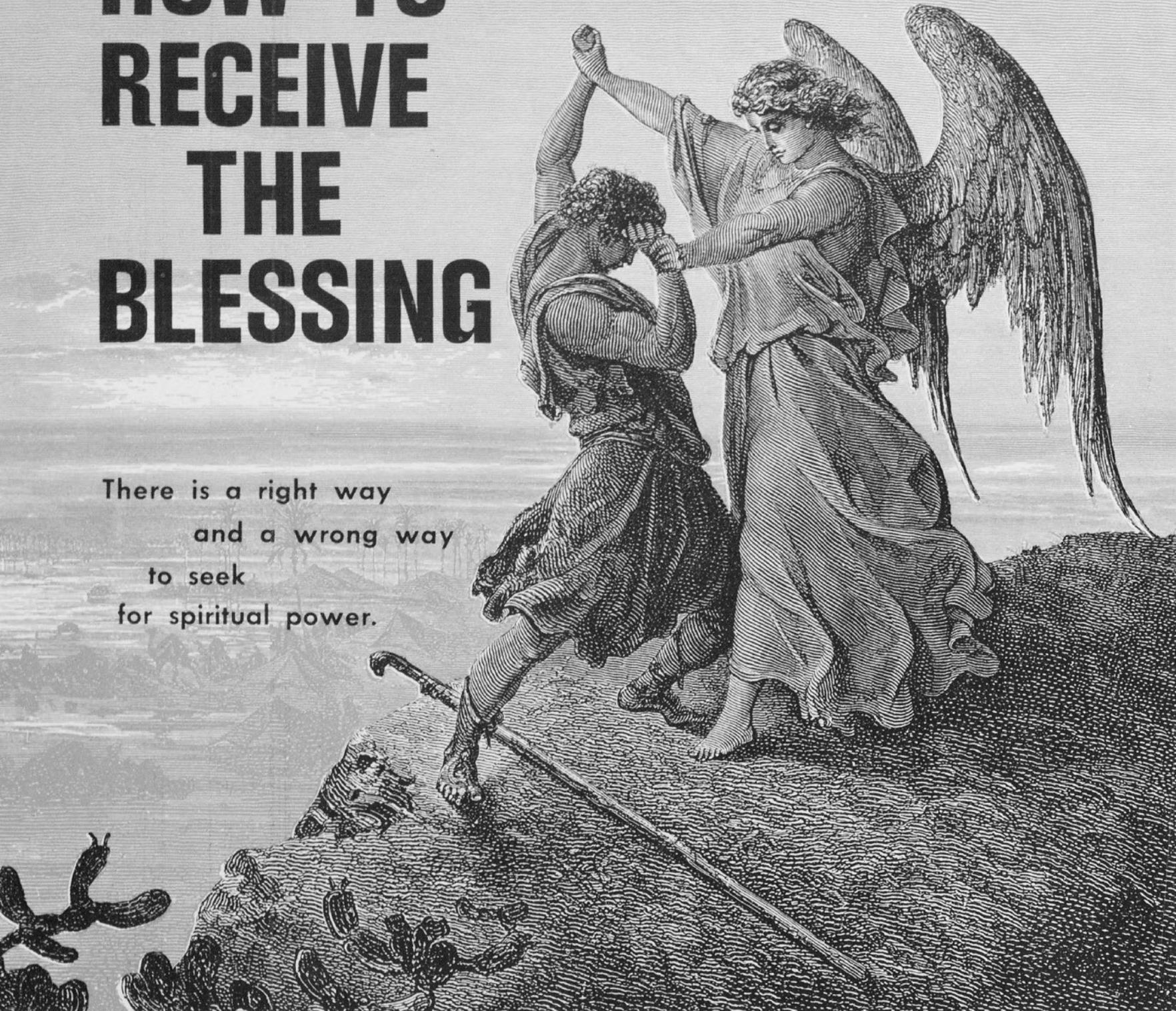


HemisFair's® theme, "The Confluence of Civilizations in the Americas," epitomizes man's longtime goal.

Read **SEARCH FOR UNITY** on pages 8 and 9.

HOW TO RECEIVE THE BLESSING

There is a right way
and a wrong way
to seek
for spiritual power.



AY WHAT YOU MAY about Jacob and his scheming ways, there is one thing you have to admire about the man. He wanted to have the blessing of God upon his life. And God is pleased when any man or woman desires His blessing.

Jacob's desire for spiritual blessings dominated his life. That is one reason why the story of his life is told in such detail in the Scriptures. There are lessons in his life which those who want God's blessing need to learn—lessons from Jacob's good deeds

By **DON MALLOUGH**

and also lessons from his mistakes. Sometimes his methods were faulty and sometimes they were exemplary to all who want God's best.

There are two high points in Jacob's pursuit of the blessing of the Lord and they stand out in vivid contrast. One took place in Beersheba and is recorded in Genesis 27:1-29. The other transpired at Peniel and is pictured in Genesis 32:24-30. One evidently presents the wrong way of seeking the blessing, and the other the correct method.

DECEIVING HIMSELF

At Beersheba Jacob used strange methods to receive his father's blessing. He stooped to extremely underhanded tactics to defraud his brother of his rights. Perhaps he justified himself by the fact he had purchased the birthright from his brother, reasoning that if he owned the birthright, he had a right to the blessing that was handed down when a father laid his hand upon his oldest son; but the plan he used was shamefully deceitful.

The way he fooled his old blind father is well known. He used goat meat instead of venison. He dressed in his brother's clothes instead of his own, and put hairy skins over his own smooth arms. He lied to his father by saying he was Esau; and worst of all, he even took the name of God into the lie.

God could not condone such tricks as these. Jacob managed to deceive his father but he never could obtain the blessing of God through such sly methods. Ultimately Jacob was only deceiving himself when he thought that as long as his motive was good, his methods were unimportant. God places a high value upon honesty and truth. The blessing He offers us is genuine, and He wants us to be scrupulously honest in the way we go about receiving it.

It is interesting to notice that the Lord originally purposed for Jacob to have the divine blessing and also the place of leadership. (See Genesis 25:23.) If only he had been patient and received it God's way, how much better it would have been. Let us learn to be patient and let God give us the blessing in His way, not ours.

PREVAILING IN PRAYER

The episode at Peniel was quite different. There Jacob wrestled with a heavenly being until day-break. It is a picture of a man wrestling with God in prayer and refusing to give up until he received the blessing. "I will not let thee go, except thou bless me," Jacob said. By persistently hanging on he obtained the favor of the Lord, and there is no doubt about the profound effect this experience had upon his life. From that moment on he was a changed man. Even his name was changed. He now became a sanctified and eminently devout character. Instead of being a supplanter and a thief he became "a prince with God."

Let us learn from his experience. If we want the blessing, we should show the same determination as Jacob when we pray for it. The Bible says that God will give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him (Matthew 7:11) but it does not say they will receive it the first time they ask. They may or may not.

We must pray very earnestly and determinedly Jesus said: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Luke 11:9). He also taught that when men want something from God, they should keep praying and not grow fainthearted; and He illustrated

these statements by telling about the importunate friend (Luke 11:5-8) and the widow who prevailed upon the unjust judge (Luke 18:1-5). In both cases it was the petitioner's persistence in asking—a refusal to take no for an answer—that brought results.

GOD'S WILLINGNESS TO GIVE

It is not that God is unwilling to give His blessing to the petitioner. Far from it. We know that God is more ready to give than we are to receive. The Scriptures picture Him with open arms, ready to bestow every good gift upon His waiting children. If the blessing is delayed, it is that our hunger for the blessing may be tested, and not that some reluctance on God's part has to be overcome.

Someone asks, "What is your method of receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit?" My answer is, "There is only one scriptural method of getting any blessing from the Lord, and it is summed up in a four-letter word—PRAY." Intimate communion with God brings His power into our lives. There are no shortcuts, no human devices. God cannot be tricked into giving the blessing!

I heard of a boy with a questioning mind who for a long time wondered what caused the wind to blow. After much reasoning he arrived at what he thought was a logical answer. He decided the wind was made to blow by the moving of the branches on the trees.

You may laugh at such an idea, but you must agree it was a logical deduction. There is life in a tree, and the branches always move when the wind is blowing. The boy concluded that the movement of the branches caused the air currents! Not until he was older did he discover the truth.

Let us not use the same reasoning with regard to the baptism in the Holy Spirit! Because the incoming of the Holy Spirit is accompanied by speaking with tongues, do not suppose the speaking with tongues brings the Holy Spirit. Because certain manifestations such as shaking may be evident when God baptizes a person in the Holy Spirit, do not think that by shaking yourself you will obtain the blessing. You may deceive yourself by such methods, but the real power that attends the incoming of the Spirit will be lacking. You may possess the outward ritual of an experience, as Jacob did at Beersheba, but you will lack the inexpressible joy of a face-to-face encounter with God such as he had at Peniel.

The way to receive the blessing is to pray and to keep praying until the answer comes. There is a definite, genuine, glorious Baptism of spiritual power and divine blessing for every honest seeker who wants God's blessing more than anything else in the world and who is unwilling to accept any substitute for that which is real and scriptural. This Baptism will fully satisfy the soul. The secret is to be determined and persistent—to say with Jacob, "I will not let thee go, except thou bless me." 

Be Filled with God

THE WORD *Pentecostal* is taken from the Bible (Acts 2:1). It was on the Day of Pentecost that the Holy Spirit fell upon the followers of the Lord Jesus, soon after He left them and returned to heaven.

The word *Pentecost* used to be better known than it is today. In fact, one writer says, "There was a time when the Christian Church celebrated Pentecost Sunday, the anniversary of the coming of the Spirit, more than she did Christmas, the anniversary of the coming of Christ." And well she might, for nothing more revolutionary could ever happen to human beings than to be filled with God the Holy Ghost.

Christmas is a happy event, for it commemorates the day when God became flesh to dwell *among* men. Pentecost is equally happy, for on that day God came down to dwell *in* men.

Easter, too, is a sacred occasion, signifying the time when the physical body of the Lord Jesus, which lay cold and still, was suddenly imbued with resurrection life. Pentecost is no less sacred for it marks the time when powerless men and women were endued with power from on high, and their entire beings were electrified with the same mighty Spirit that raised Christ from the grave.

Jesus had told His disciples that the Father would give them the Spirit. "He dwelleth *with* you, and shall be *in* you," He said (John 14:17). This promise was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost when "they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4). This happened to every member of that little group which constituted the nucleus of the Christian Church. There were 120 individuals in that group, both men and women, and they were all filled with God that day.

The visible results of that spiritual infusion were so spectacular that 3,000 other Jews were converted to Christ before the day was over. These 3,000 Jews were religious people, but nothing in their religious experience could compare with what they saw and heard that day. Here was life—the life for which their hearts were thirsting. Here was power—the power for which their spirits longed. Here was a miracle performed before their very eyes—the miracle of ordinary men and women being filled with God, set aglow with a heavenly hope, transfixed with a radiant joy, and transformed into vehicles of spiritual might for a demonstration of the Lord's supernatural power.

It was this sight of ordinary men and women filled with God that caused the infant Church to grow so rapidly in those early days. Multitudes of people turned to the Lord when they saw the love those Christians had for one another. Throngs were impressed with the simplicity of their faith, and the zeal with which they witnessed for their Leader.

Those Christians acted like people who knew in whom they had believed! They evidently had found a cause to which they could abandon themselves without reserve. They were filled with the presence and power of the living God!

As Stephen explained to the wide-eyed leaders of Judaism who were so proud of their beautiful temple: "The Most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands" (Acts 7:48). No, He dwells in human bodies. He will dwell in all who yield themselves to Him.

Every believer may know the inexpressible joy of being filled with God as were those first Christians at Pentecost.

—R.C.C.

THE PENTECOSTAL evangel

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STATEMENT OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible and authoritative Word of God. WE BELIEVE that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. WE BELIEVE in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal future return to this earth in power and glory to rule a thousand years. WE BELIEVE in the Blessed Hope, which is the Rapture of the Church at Christ's coming. WE BELIEVE that the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Christ. WE BELIEVE that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation. WE BELIEVE that the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing of the human body in answer to believing prayer. WE BELIEVE that the baptism of the Holy Spirit, according to Acts 2:4, is given to believers, who ask for it. WE BELIEVE in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life. WE BELIEVE in the resurrection of both the saved, and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation.

FAMILY LIFE IS A PRIVATE MATTER. It is meant to be. Every family has its secrets. But I have been asked to tell how the baptism in the Spirit has affected our family life; and if it will help someone else, I am willing to tell some of my secrets.

Yes, my husband and I were baptized with the Holy Spirit. I received the Baptism at home while sitting in a rocking chair, and Bob later. What a difference it made in our home!

I was so happy when, some time later, our girls began to seek God for this same experience. Renee, my younger daughter, then but four years of age, would bow at the altar and weep and pray, arms lifted high. Lynn, our 10-year-old, was becoming very hungry to be filled with the Spirit. She received at a meeting when the Holy Spirit was moving in depth and power among the young people. Renee received at home after family devotions one night, and God gave her a precious experience.

For some time our family life was so beautiful, so complete—we sailed a veritable sea of domestic bliss. But this perfect state didn't last forever. Trials came, some of them severe, and it was then we learned the worth of the Spirit's indwelling presence. Each member of our family discovered that when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord lifts a battle-flag against him. In the darkest moments there is victory through Christ Jesus.

For instance, I will tell you this secret. Just last night Renee, now 10 years old, tangled rather badly with her father. The problem? Renee disobeyed. Her father had to punish her. She was quite dramatic afterward and declared to me openly that she didn't like him! In fact, she used stronger words than that. We talked for some time. We looked at God's Word about this matter, and then I urged her to go to her father and ask forgiveness. Well, that wasn't easy. Renee remained sour-faced and aloof for an hour, but finally she sidled up to her father and said, very softly, "I'm sorry, Daddy. Please forgive me." They kissed and all was well.

Some of us have such stubborn hearts. We find it hard to bend. But Renee's heart is being made tender by the Spirit.

And the Lord is working so faithfully in Lynn's heart, too. The pull of the world can be very strong on girls in their mid-teens. Its attractions can draw them almost beyond their power to resist. Lynn is 14—almost 15—and wants to be alone at times. She comes home and often resorts immediately to her room. It is a difficult age. But when the world's pull is strong, the Spirit's pull is stronger. How good it is to know that, as we keep praying for our girls, the Lord will keep His sheltering hand upon them.

Bob and I have found we can depend upon the Spirit to guide us in dealing with our children. When the going is a little rough, God gives us unusual wisdom and knowledge to cope with the problem. Over and over the Spirit has directed us to discern what is happening and has enabled us to literally step into a situation and save Lynn from making mistakes.

Two weeks ago problems seemed awfully big until God showed us what to do. Lynn came out of it beautifully. Two days later she remained at the altar praying for a long time, and since then she has been a greater blessing in our home—and to me personally—than ever.

Family secrets! We all have them. There are problems that cannot be discussed in public. But the most important secret of all can be made public, and that is our *spiritual* secret. We have learned that Spirit-filled living is the secret of domestic peace and happiness.

Let it be made perfectly clear that our home is not exactly heaven. In between the problems it may seem so. But though the waves may rise and our boat be tossed a bit, we have this blessed Third Person of the Godhead with us. The Spirit always knows what to do, how to guide, ever to bring us closer to God. He is ever tugging, ever wooing, ever drawing each member of the family closer together, closer to the Lord, preparing us for life everlasting and our Home on high.

FAMILY SECRETS

WE HAVE LEARNED THE SECRET OF DOMESTIC PEACE AND HAPPINESS

By BETTY SWINFORD

THE DOCTOR
WROTE ACROSS CRAIG'S
MEDICAL RECORD—



MEDICAL RECORD

NAME *Craig H. Stevenson*

ADDRESS *507 St. Michael's Street Toronto*

CITY *Toronto* STATE *Ontario*

HISTORY *Shirley H. Stevenson*
11 months old
diarrhea
vomiting
fever
convulsions
death

By SHIRLEY STEVENSON

WHEN MY FIRST CHILD WAS BORN, my first question was, "Is he all right?"

I shall never forget the exchange of glances from one doctor to the other, and back and forth from nurse to nurse—there were six of them. There followed a silence that seemed like an eternity.

Then my own doctor with his usual composure said, "You have a darling baby boy; small, but cute."

I repeated, "But is he all right?"

"We'll talk about that in a little while."

That was the beginning of a dreadful reality that my husband Grant and I lived with for almost six years.

Michael Craig weighed 3 pounds 4 ounces at birth and wasn't expected to live. For five days we waited while they gave him blood and tried to clear up a peculiar sort of diarrhea. The doctors told us that only a higher power could bring him through. After about three weeks they said he had a 50-50 chance to survive.

What our doctor didn't know was that from the moment of Craig's birth we had started a chain of prayer for his complete healing, realizing that only God could bring this about.

When our baby was three months old, he was allowed to go home. By then he weighed 5 pounds 7½ ounces. He was home only two weeks when we rushed him back to the hospital with a 104-degree temperature, his body dehydrated, and again with this peculiar diarrhea we had battled from the beginning.

After three more months Craig was referred to the Toronto (Canada) Sick Children's Hospital. He remained there about six weeks. When we were allowed to take him home, we were told we would have to watch his diet closely, for any deviation could result in another severe attack of diarrhea. We were also given a prescription and

told this was the only drug effective against the germ that caused these attacks. This germ, if not treated promptly, could in one day completely dehydrate Craig's body, causing resultant fever, convulsions, and death.

For the first year Craig lived on boiled cream of wheat, mashed bananas, and mixed drink made from soybean oil.

At 11 months he contracted whooping cough. During the following year he had two kinds of measles, chicken pox, and mumps—besides several severe attacks of diarrhea and vomiting. During these spells he would cry almost constantly, pulling his legs up tight to his stomach and screaming from the pain.

At 15 months he began having convulsions. This meant giving him more drugs.

Between his second and third years he was in the hospital more than he was home. The attacks were coming more frequently; their severity increased.

By the time Craig was four the disease had spread from his bowels to the lining of his stomach.

When he was 5½, he had his most severe attack. Our doctor arranged a consultation with Dr. Nelles Silverthorne at the Medical Arts Building in Toronto.

After examining Craig, Dr. Silverthorne looked directly at me. "Shirley, you've been trying to avoid the inevitable," he said. "You know as well as I do that this child isn't going to get better. Craig has developed an ulcerated stomach—very rare for a child of his age, but not too hard to understand when you consider all the drugs he has had. This disease is eating out the lining of his stomach. We can hope for a month at most."

The doctor continued: "Drugs aren't the answer now. Craig should be hospitalized; but as long as he is conscious, you'll want to be with him. If you think you can handle him at home for a few more days, I'll give you one more prescription for a very costly drug. When this is finished, I want him admitted to the hospital. I'm afraid the odds are against us. We doctors can't perform miracles."

Secretly I vowed that from this moment on anything the child wanted, within reason, he was going to have.

Craig slept until about five that afternoon. When he awakened, his first request was, "Mommie, take me to church." Remembering my vow, I started to get him ready. He was still vomiting severely, but I gave him a double dose of medicine, praying he would be able to keep enough of it down to enable him to sleep through the service.

It was a young people's service. A young minister, Tommy Reid, had come to speak. His father, Evangelist Al Reid, had accompanied him and was leading some gospel choruses. The Spirit of God descended upon the service, and Brother Reid asked anyone in need of healing to come forward.

Grant and I took Craig to the altar. The moment Brother Reid and our pastor, Brother Bowen, laid hands on the child, God gave me the assurance that he was healed. Craig himself realized something had happened, for he stood up to thank Jesus for making him better.

The evangelist told us later that during the day he had been burdened for a child and he knew God was going to heal him. He didn't know who the child was until he met us at the church.

When we left church and got in the car, Craig started

vomiting again. But this time he brought up a thick, heavy, leather-like substance. This we believed to be the old lining of his stomach.

As we tucked Craig into bed that night, he said, "Let's thank Jesus again for making me all better." He slept through the night, waking only once for a drink of water. This was quite a change after a month of sleepless nights!

We had one more task to perform. The doctor was right when he said this final drug was expensive—we paid \$16.80 for three ounces. With a prayer in my heart and with confidence in God I poured the remaining contents down the drain. If God had healed our son, we didn't need the medicine.

The following day Craig had the first normal breakfast of his life. For dinner he had three platefuls of potatoes, carrots, spareribs, and cabbage salad. Then he had pie and ice cream—his first dessert. And he didn't get sick. He

came back to the supper table as hungry as he had been at noon!

When Dr. Silverthorne saw Craig again, he could hardly believe it was the same boy. He took an X ray, and it gave proof of what God had done. There was no trace of an ulcerated stomach. Craig had gained 10 pounds.

This fine Jewish doctor simply turned Craig's medical record sideways and wrote across it, "MIRACLE." This was his way of recognizing that man is still limited; this was something that only the Almighty could have done.

This happened a little over three years ago. Today Craig is one of the healthiest boys you ever saw. How we thanked God for this miracle—a miraculous healing performed through the touch of the Master's hand.

(Endorsed by Pastor M. David Bowen, Dixon Gospel Tabernacle, Weston, Ontario, Canada.)

IF AN OPERATION WAS NECESSARY, THE CHANCES WERE 90 PERCENT AGAINST SAVING THE EYE

A POWER MOWER AND A POWERFUL GOD

THE AIR WAS FRESH AND CLEAN as I mowed the lawn of our Florida home that hot, humid day in July. The summer rain and sun had made the grass thick and high.

Suddenly from under the power mower an unseen object flew up and struck me directly in my right eye. I reeled round and round with pain, then dropped to my knees.

My wife Iris had seen me from the kitchen window. "Oh, Roy, you've done something to your eye," she cried as she ran out. All she could see was blood inside the eye.

My doctor sadly shook his head and said I would lose my eye. "And if it goes, the other one may go also."

My pastor and I had planned to go fishing that afternoon. Instead, he took me to Panama City 50 miles away to an eye specialist and hospital.

The specialist said he would try to get it cleared up without an operation, but expressed the opinion that if he had to operate, the chances were 90 percent against saving the eye.

Sometime prior to this, Satan had been tempting me about my tithe money. I began to rationalize. I had always tithed faithfully, but my family was growing. I told myself, "There's no need to pay so much while my family goes without the things they want." So I took a month's tithes and purchased a large power mower. Now my tithe-money mower had landed me in the hospital!

Lying in the quiet hospital room with cold compresses on my eye, I was afraid. I was 28 years old and had a wife and three children. I had resigned my position as a high school band director the day before the accident occurred, so I was without a job. There was no assurance I would ever see again.

I remembered how I had failed God by using the tithe that belonged to Him for my own purposes. I didn't feel big and self-sufficient any longer. I was jarred into

realizing that my college degrees, my band's achievements, and my civic club office were insignificant in the sight of God. I was reminded of the saying, "Only one life, 'twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last." I earnestly prayed for forgiveness.

One day the Holy Spirit assured me that He would make my eyes well without the risky operation. This was on Monday.

The following Wednesday the doctor examined me three times. The fluid pressure in the eye was too high. If it didn't go down, the optic nerve would be damaged, and my sight would be impaired or destroyed. He would have to operate the following morning if the pressure was still up.

Remembering the assurance given on Monday, Iris called several of our Christian friends around the country requesting them to pray.

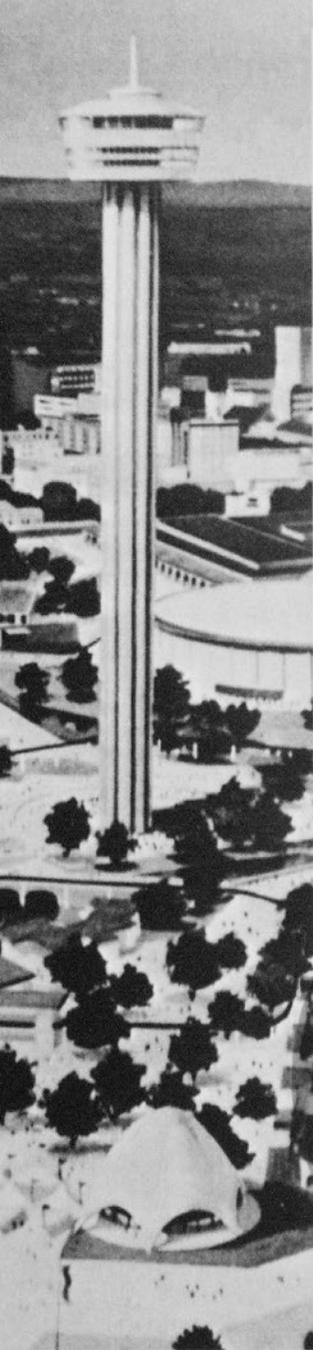
Moments after she completed the calls, her mother called back from Nashville, Tennessee. She was rejoicing and nearly shouting. God had given her the promise of Isaiah 57:18, 19: "I have seen his ways, and will heal him: I will lead him also, and restore comforts unto him and to his mourners. I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the Lord; and I will heal him."

The pressure went down. No operation was necessary. God had performed the healing operation Himself.

In my own strength and selfishness I had lost sight of Christ. For a while it seemed I would lose sight of everything else!

When I was wheeled out of the hospital after 14 days, I was a changed man. God had restored both my spiritual and my physical sight. Praise His name!—Roy W. Philemon, Orange Park, Fla.

(Endorsed by Pastor Wendell A. Shaw, Assembly of God, Orange Park, Fla.)



HEMISFAIR'S®
THEME
EPITOMIZES
MAN'S
LONGTIME
GOAL—

SEARCH FOR UNITY



By JUDITH BACON

SAN ANTONIO'S HEMISFAIR® '68 celebrates the city's 250th anniversary by portraying the confluence of civilizations in the Americas.

In a special proclamation President Lyndon B. Johnson declared, "This international exposition is designed to reaffirm common ties among the Americas as well as with the continents and countries from which our forefathers came; to increase mutual understanding; to strengthen the foundations of peace; and to share our cultures, our knowledge, and our skills for a more promising future."

Over seven million people are expected to attend this Texas World's Fair between April 6 and October 6. The exposition's symbol, the Tower of the Americas, stands 622 feet high, making it the tallest observation tower in the Western Hemisphere. Theme of the fair: "The Confluence of Civilizations in the Americas."

America has been a melting pot of world civilizations. But men today are still looking for something that will bind nations and peoples in a common unity of spirit.

However noble, theirs is a fruitless search apart from the only truly unifying force in the world—the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus foresaw the need of this force in establishing His Church in an alien world. He said, "And ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses . . . unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

One of Christ's last commands was, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel" (Mark 16:15). When the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, they received the empowering necessary to fulfill this staggering command.

In the United States we have a tendency to feel that the burden of this work and its fulfillment lie entirely in our hands. But times have changed; and so have circumstances. When a Japanese Christian reads the words "Go ye," they speak to his heart. Similarly, this Scripture becomes a reality to an African Christian, and he determines to be the one to bring the gospel to distant unreached tribes. The command is for *all* who have accepted Christ as Lord and Saviour, regardless of nationality.

And as early Christians needed the Holy Spirit to be effective witnesses, so today believers need the same power to stimulate their faith and give them the supernatural ability to reach a restless and rebellious world.

Lowell Dowdy, missionary to Ecuador says, "I've always been of the opinion that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is exactly what promotes the gospel in the foreign field."

Missionary Lawrence Olson writes, "The secret of the success of the churches here in Brazil is the work of the Holy Spirit, and simplicity on the part of the Christians here in depending on the Holy Spirit and not on human understanding or methods."

The Brazilians have seen a tremendous growth in the

Lucas Munoz, evangelist from Peru, participated in Bolivia's "Total Evangelism"—a year-long emphasis which sought to take the gospel to every corner of this South American land.



number of Pentecostals during the last few years, and they have caught a vision to reach out beyond their present boundaries. Brazilian missionaries have gone to Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina, and even to Madagascar.

Luis Francisco Fontes, a graduate of the Assemblies of God Bible Institute in Rio de Janeiro, is engaged in missionary work in Arequipa, Peru.

*Mensageiro da Paz** (Messenger of Peace) reports that Mr. Fontes chose the city of Mariono Melgar as one of his preaching points. He was aware of the area's reputation as a difficult field, but was convinced that it needed the gospel. Mr. Fontes baptized eight converts in that area during the past year.

Mensageiro da Paz says of another Brazilian missionary: "José Feitosa de Alencar and his wife Nelsonita in their work among these indigenous tribes have undergone trials and hardships such as only those truly called of God are capable of enduring."

Because of José and his brother Eliseu's dedication approximately 1,200 people of the Macuxis tribe have accepted Christ as Saviour, and 433 of these have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

While Brazil sends out missionaries to other countries, Japan is sending missionaries to Brazil to work with the thousands of Japanese immigrants there. One group of Japanese Christians recently laid the cornerstone for a church building. Motivated by the Holy Spirit, the Japan Assemblies of God has sent other missionaries to Peru and Okinawa.

Pak Chongsu, a Korean Assemblies of God minister, is preparing for missionary work among Koreans in Japan.

*Missionary Lawrence Olson supplied the Portuguese newspapers, and his sister-in-law, Bertha Olson, translated them into English.



Cho Yonggi, general superintendent of the Korea Assemblies of God and pastor of Seoul Evangelistic Center, has a Spirit-anointed ministry which has reached around the world. At the Evangelistic Center he ministers to an adult constituency of approximately 7,500. Mr. Cho plans to visit South Vietnam to determine if the South Koreans will be able to send a missionary to establish a Pentecostal witness in that land.

Maynard L. Ketcham, field secretary for the Far East, shares the following information gleaned from a recent tour. "A leading official of the Korean ministry of religion and education made the statement: 'The Assemblies of God has brought to Korea a message of hope. It has given Korea something to make life worthwhile. Thus it has actually done more for Korea than all the millions of dollars given by the American Government.'

"A Korean leader of the Presbyterian church has said that 80 percent of the Presbyterian pastors in Korea have received the infilling of the Spirit. Likewise a leading evangelist of the Methodist Church has stated that 30 percent of the Methodist pastors have been filled with the Holy Spirit."

Jonathan Glover, missionary to Sierra Leone, West Africa, has seen a modern-day Pentecostal revival among African believers. He says, "I did not realize the full impact which the Holy Spirit made upon the Early Church until I saw it reenacted here at Koindu.

"The revival began here as a result of some African Pentecostal preachers from Liberia coming across the border to preach in Sierra Leone. A few men were saved and soon they received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. These men began to win others to the Lord.



P. Henry Hall, missionary to Peru, introduces the Shiro Nakazawa family who left their homeland to work with the Japanese in Peru.

Persecution broke out upon this new church immediately; however, this was only fuel for the revival fires that burned in their hearts. Before long these new Christians had filled their immediate area with their doctrine."

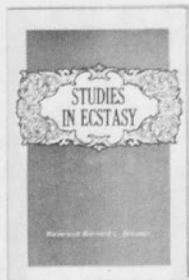
During the five years the Glovers have been in Sierra Leone, they have seen a small number of Spirit-filled believers grow into a group of churches that send out their own missionaries into other areas of Sierra Leone, reaching beyond tribal barriers to people of other tongues.

When Home Secretary Wesley R. Hurst visited Fiji

(Continued on page 13)

Significant Books on THE HOLY SPIRIT

STUDIES IN ECSTASY, by **Bernard L. Bresson**. This ordained minister of the Assemblies of God traces through history the outpouring of the Holy Spirit first experienced by the apostles on the Day of Pentecost. What evidenced the effusion of the Holy Spirit? What caused speaking in tongues, prophecy, healings, and miracles beyond man's power? The author answers these queries clearly and concisely in a style that is readable for Christians in all walks of life, making this volume enlightening and beneficial to all. Cloth bound, 127 pages.



3EV2620 \$3.75



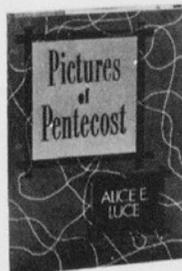
THE HOLY GHOST AND FIRE, by **D. N. Buntain**. A full and inspiring treatise on the baptism of the Spirit. The spiritual experience of the first-century church is the essential for twentieth century believers, declares the author. In flowing, impassioned style he carries the reader along, producing in him a deep desire for spiritual reality. Cloth bound, 97 pages.

2EV525 \$1.25

SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY TODAY, by **Donald Gee**. Here are the mature convictions of one of the great pioneers of the Pentecostal faith regarding the gifts of the Spirit. The author shows that these gifts, properly exercised, are divinely intended to be the empowering force of world evangelization. He also contends that spiritual gifts are not limited to the clergy but are an essential part of the ministry of the body of believers. Paperback, 101 pages.



2EV592 \$1.25



PICTURES OF PENTECOST, by **Alice E. Luce**. One of the master keys to a knowledge of the Old Testament is the New Testament experience of Pentecost. This experience of power is pictured by the glory which came into the newly finished temple of Solomon, by the mantle which fell from Elijah upon Elisha. The author's keen insight brings into spiritual focus these and many other stories from long ago. Cloth bound, 238 pages.

2EV575 \$2.50

PENTECOST, by **Donald Gee**. A Pentecostal classic which should be read and reread by every sincere believer. The author deals scripturally with all the basic problems in connection with receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit and maintaining a Spirit-filled life. The reader will appreciate the gifted style of the writer and his effective use of illustrations. Paper bound, 95 pages.



2EV569 \$1.00

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THE SPIRIT IS MY HELPER

By **ALMA WARE CROSBY**

I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO TELL, in a few words, what the baptism in the Spirit means in the life of a believer. There is so much I could say for I have depended so fully on the power of the Holy Spirit in my efforts to help people, and He has helped me wonderfully for many years.

Three points come to mind—the *comfort*, the *compassion*, and the *capability* that we find in the blessed Holy Spirit. Let me illustrate.

COMFORT

Some time after I received this Baptism, my dear mother lay in a coma for several days. She was 86 and had been a Christian for a long time. I had always thought that when my mother died, I would go completely to pieces.

When the end came, it was in the night as I was sleeping. When I was called, I arose and was so tense I could not get my arms into my robe. Such a dread came over me at the thought of going in to see my little mother's dead body! Then suddenly the Lord spoke inside me so clearly, though inaudibly, saying, "You get down on your knees and thank Jesus for dying for your mother's sins, so that she can be in the happy place where she now is."

I obeyed—and arose from my knees with such a sweet calm. That sense of peace lasted through the entire funeral. Thank God for the comforting power of His dear Spirit.

COMPASSION

The Spirit gave me such compassion for unsaved girls. The Lord called me to go to the underworld and seek out

(Mrs. Crosby has helped many people to receive the Spirit. Her address is: 1134 Glasshouse, Beaumont, Texas 77703.)



GOD'S FAITHFUL PROMISE

2 SAMUEL 7:8-22

Next Week's Sunday School Lesson

BY J. BASHFORD BISHOP

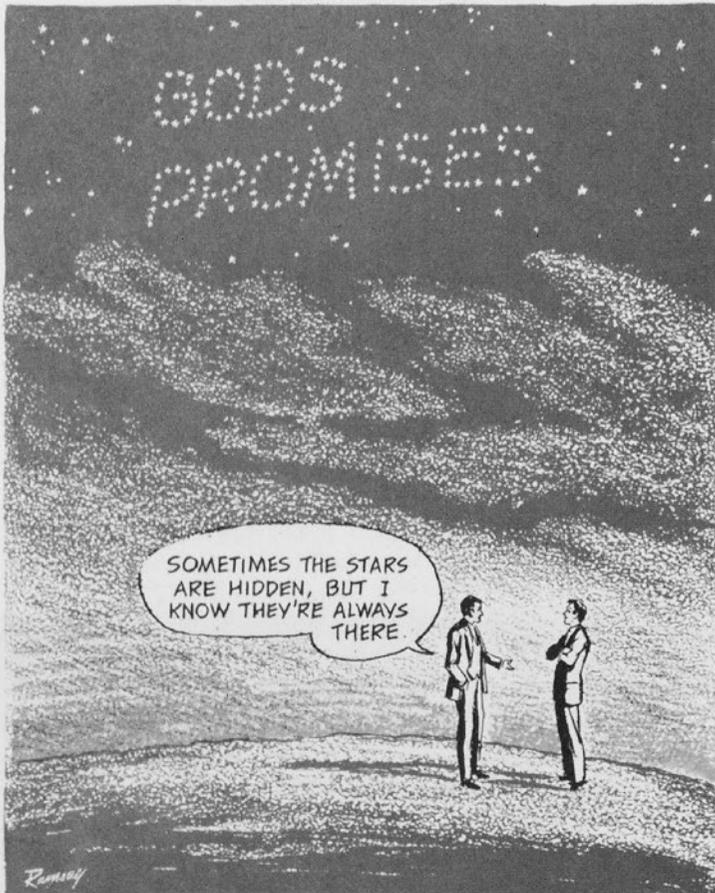
DAVID FELT IT WAS NOT RIGHT for him to dwell in a palace while the Ark of God rested in a tent. Consequently he told the prophet Nathan he intended to build a new habitation for the presence of the God he loved. On the spur of the moment Nathan encouraged David to proceed with the project. But later God told him to convey a different message to David. Our lesson centers in that message.

THE DIVINE APPOINTMENT OF DAVID (vv. 8, 9)

Although building the Temple was not to be David's work, yet God definitely called David to other work. By successful conquests he was to lead and lift Israel into a place of great power and honor. The following practical lessons appear:

1. God has a specific plan and purpose for the life of each of His servants.
2. It is better to be disappointed in fulfilling our own plans than to miss the realization of God's purposes in our lives.

"FOREVER SETTLED IN HEAVEN"



3. It is a good thing to be often reminded of our humble beginnings and that God has made possible any successes. "I took thee from the shepcote . . . and I . . . have cut off all thine enemies . . . and have made thee a great name" was the message of the Lord to David, reminding him of the Source of the blessings.

4. Great things hinge upon faithfulness in matters which may seem trifling. Faithfulness in leading a flock of sheep prepared David for leading the nation of Israel.

THE DIVINE COVENANT WITH DAVID (vv. 10-16)

David had purposed to build a permanent house for God; but God promised in return to build a house for David. One of the great covenants of the Bible begins with these verses, known as the Davidic Covenant. David's work had been to securely establish Israel as a united kingdom in her own land. God now promised to securely establish David's posterity upon the throne of that kingdom. Though David was not permitted to do the work he had wanted to do for God, he was granted other and far greater blessings.

Is it not often thus? Paul was forbidden by the Lord to preach the gospel in Asia, but God gave him a mighty ministry in the more strategically located continent of Europe. Livingstone wanted to go to China; instead, God led him to Africa and enabled him to open up the heart of an unknown continent to missionaries. Let us remember that "our disappointments may be His appointments."

God's covenant with David contained the following promises:

1. David's son would succeed him upon the throne.
2. This son would build the Temple that David had desired to build.
3. The relationship between God and this son would be that of Father and son.
4. Disobedience by this son would result in punishment, but not in such utter rejection as befell King Saul. Later on, Solomon did indeed fail God; yet he remained king until his death and was succeeded by his son.

5. God's promise that David's posterity would rule and reign over Israel was unconditional. To emphasize this fact, the word *for ever* was repeated three times.

How are we to reconcile God's promises to David with the subsequent history of Israel? For centuries Israel has been without a king. Where is the king of Israel today?

These questions are frequently asked, but, thank God, we have a clear answer from the Word of God. The "seed of David," foreshadowed and prefigured in the Davidic Covenant, is Jesus Christ. (See Acts 13:23; compare Luke 1:31-33; Matthew 1:1-16.) He is now seated in heaven at the Father's right hand. There He awaits the time when He shall return to earth and to Jerusalem where He will sit upon the "throne of David"—which He alone has the right to occupy. Then the government of this world shall rest upon His worthy shoulders, and "the kingdoms of this world [shall] become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever!" (See Hosea 3:4, 5; Isaiah 9:6, 7; Revelation 11:15.)

We can count on God to be faithful to that promise—and to all His promises.

girls with hungry hearts and win them to Christ, but at first I was very reluctant. I found it very hard to say yes to this call, for I was used to the company of cultured and refined people.

Then, while I was praying, the Lord gave me a vision. In the Holy Spirit I was present at the Crucifixion. Right there before me was a wonderful young Man hanging, nailed to a cross, and writhing in pain. The scene was as real to me—as though I had been present at Calvary over 1,900 years ago. I could even smell the warm blood!

The young Man on the cross turned His head and looked at me. I could not deny Him anything. I answered the call to go and find girls in the most wicked dives of our city and to tell them of Jesus' love. Oh, the Spirit gave me such compassion for them. Some of those girls are in heaven now.

CAPABILITY

When we try to help people, the Spirit is able to give us a marvelous capability we never would have in ourselves. I remember a call I received to go to the hospital and pray for a sick woman. She was a Jewess. She wanted me to pray for God to heal her, but not in Jesus' name.

She was almost dying, and I pleaded with her to accept the Lord Jesus as her Saviour. My heart was filled with the love of God which He had put there through the Holy Spirit.

I looked up to heaven in agony because I found myself unable to help her—when suddenly big words began to pour out of my mouth. The words were strange to me. Immediately the woman began to talk to God. She repented and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ.

She then explained to me that I had spoken in her mother tongue—it was a language she had spoken as a child but she had never heard a word of it since she was separated from her family and brought to America at the age of nine. In this strange language, unknown to me, I had told her to repent of her sin and to accept God's Son who had died on the cross for her.

I left the hospital thanking God for the power to witness that the Baptism had given me. "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me," Jesus said (Acts 1:8).

A Christian without the baptism in the Holy Spirit reminds me of one who is among a group of thirsty people and has a can of cold fruit juice that she is anxious to serve them, but has no can opener! Oh, if only God's children could all learn that God desires to give them this great gift, more than they desire to give good gifts to their own children—and if they would just reach out and receive this gift, they can discover what it can mean!

READ THE WORD

CHAPTERS FOR THIS WEEK

Sun. .. Song of Solomon 7, 8	Thursday Isaiah 7, 8
Monday Isaiah 1, 2	Friday Isaiah 9, 10
Tuesday Isaiah 3, 4	Saturday Isaiah 11, 12
Wednesday Isaiah 5, 6	Sunday Isaiah 13, 14

"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation" (Isaiah 12:2).

YOUR QUESTIONS



ANSWERED BY ERNEST S. WILLIAMS

Can a person know when he is baptized in the Holy Spirit, or should he just take it by faith?

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a definite experience. It was definite in the time of the Early Church; it ought to be definite today. When seekers are told to take the Spirit by faith, unfortunately all they often take is a consent to truth.

So definite is the experience of being baptized with the Spirit that it is given various descriptions. One description is "filled with the Spirit" (Acts 2:4). When Jesus communed with the disciples concerning the coming of the Spirit, He said, "Wait for the promise of the Father. . . . Ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence" (Acts 1:5,6).

With the promise of the Spirit, there was a promise of power—"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you."

When the Spirit came, it is said, "The Holy Ghost fell on them" (Acts 10:44-46). No one present when the Spirit fell upon the house of Cornelius had any doubt that the Holy Spirit had come. It is of interest to study what took place at Pentecost, then to see what took place at the home of Cornelius. Peter says the experiences were so similar as to be the same: "Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?" (Acts 11:17).

Each experience of receiving the baptism in the Spirit was in some ways dissimilar. The disciples who received at Pentecost had enjoyed a long period with our Lord Jesus. Those at Samaria had some days between their conversion and their receiving the Holy Spirit. At Ephesus the disciples were walking with God according to the enlightenment which they had received from Apollos, until Paul came their way. At the home of Cornelius, while Peter was speaking concerning Christ and redemption, the Spirit fell. We are thankful that each of these experiences was different from the others. The Holy Spirit is free; He knows the hungry heart. He is not so much concerned about our ideas as to how He must work.

At Pentecost Peter preached, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you . . . for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). This indicates that repentance and remission of sins prepared the way for the infilling of the Spirit. In Acts 3:19 Peter said, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." Then the verse continues, "That so there may come seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord" (ASV).

Adding the teaching of these scriptures to the time and manner of the receiving of the Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts, we have certain ground for believing the baptism in the Spirit is an enduement of power for the cleansed believer, to enable him to serve the Lord effectively.

If you have a spiritual problem or any question about the Bible, you are invited to write to "Your Questions," The Pentecostal Evangel, 1445 Boonville, Springfield, Missouri 65802. Brother Williams will answer if you send a stamped self-addressed envelope.

PICTURES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

By ALVY E. FORD

THERE IS NO ELEMENT KNOWN to man that can accurately portray the characteristics of the Holy Spirit. Yet by observing several elements we can somewhat better understand the operations and office of the Spirit.

Perhaps the most prominent element is FIRE. Fire gives light; so does the Spirit. He sheds light on the Bible and opens it to our understanding. When the Holy Spirit comes into a man, He illumines that life and makes a light shine forth from it. Fire gives warmth and heat; this can justly be said of the Spirit. Fire conditions food to the point where it is digestible. In like manner, the Spirit takes the Word and breaks it down so that a man can digest it—thus enabling him to grow and be nurtured. Intense heat is used to purge the dross from metals and bond them together as in welding. It is the Holy Spirit who ferrets out the germs of sin, purges our dross, makes us fit for Christian service, and welds us together in the bond of abiding brotherly love.



The Holy Spirit has been compared with WATER also. The major portion of the human body is made up of water; the major portion of the activities of the Church are performed by the Spirit. Though we human beings have our little part to play, it is the Spirit who brings and retains life. Water penetrates the dry crusty soil; the Spirit penetrates the dry, crusty heart. Water can operate gently and silently, or with tremendous power and noise; the Spirit can be unheard



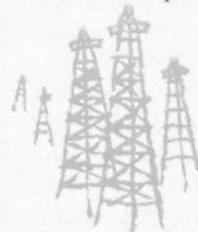
and tug gently, or He can strike like a crashing wave.

Jesus likened the Holy Spirit to WIND. The wind blows where it desires; the whole world is its playground. So it is with the Spirit; He permeates the entire world and is not stopped by climate, nationality, or color. The wind, though invisible, is always moving somewhere, and so is the Spirit. Very often we can see something the wind has done, but we do not actually see the wind. The fruit of the Spirit may abound in the Christian life, but the Spirit Himself is content to remain hidden. He directs all attention to Jesus. The wind blows warmth to the cold and cooling to the overheated. The wind may uproot firmly entrenched trees and buildings, and likewise the Spirit may break off bonds and uproot habits of long standing.



The Spirit has been likened to OIL. Just as many a mechanical device will not function without oil, neither will the Church function without the Spirit. Oil makes things run more smoothly and easily, and so does the Spirit. Oil reduces friction and temperatures; the Spirit reduces friction and lowers tempers. Oil is a healing agent; so is the Spirit. Oil is used in preparing natural food, the Spirit is used in preparing spiritual food. Oil preserves; it prevents corrosion and decay. The Spirit prepares us for all eternity.

May we ever have more of the Spirit in our lives that we may know by personal experience the wonderful blessings that are pictured by these elements.



SEARCH FOR UNITY

(Continued from page 9)

earlier this year, he witnessed a missionary mission church. During one of the services at Calvary Temple, in the capital city of Suva, he saw a missionary offering taken for the monthly support of their missionary to Tonga.

Mr. Hurst remarks, "In the meetings in Fiji I saw the eagerness of the people's response. The inspired singing of both the congregation and the choir expressed the joy of salvation and the victory and power that comes with a vital Pentecostal experience."

A newsletter from Emma Decker, Olga V. Olsson, and Rosa M. Reineker, missionaries to Germany, shows another example of this universal gospel. It states: "Isn't it wonderful how God brings them here to our school from so many different countries and even different parts of the world—Argentina, Venezuela, Brazil, Canada, USA, Yugoslavia, Switzerland, Austria, France, Holland, and different parts of Germany. And here everybody is

brought together as one great family in the Lord."

The report continues, "During World War II all German missionaries were called home, and all missionary work ceased. But now 18 from our school alone are working in India, Africa, and South America, besides those who have returned to the countries from which they came here as students."

And so Christ's command, "Go," is fulfilled through many different people, of many different lands and languages. The Holy Spirit is the motivating force which compels this great company of witnesses.

The task is great, and we must not, we cannot lay the burden aside for another to bear. It is their burden, yes. But it still remains ours. And working together—missionary and national; Asian and African; minister and layworker—this gospel can be preached in all its fullness to all nations. This is truly a confluence of civilizations—a flowing together made possible through the power of the Holy Spirit. World expositions cannot produce it, even though they may thrill us with man's achievements. But Christ Jesus can—and does—in lives that are fully yielded to Him.

DEAF PEOPLE AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

By CROFT M. PENTZ

THE PROPHET JOEL recorded God's promise: "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh" (Joel 2:28). Then Peter said, "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off" (Acts 2:39).

In these glorious days when God is pouring out His Spirit upon Christians of all denominations, the deaf are not being passed by. They too are enjoying the wonderful experience of Acts 2:4.

It has been my joy to see and hear over 20 deaf persons speak in tongues (with their voices) as God filled them with the Holy Spirit. They were not just stuttering or making a noise—they were speaking a fluent language. In some cases a hearing person understood the language.

For a deaf person to speak in tongues is nothing short of a miracle. He cannot imitate anyone, since he has never heard anyone speak in tongues. Imagine God speaking through a person who never spoke before!

This is how some deaf explain it "something begins to burn within. This continues to rise until I feel my lips and tongue moving." John the Baptist spoke of being baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire (Matthew 3:11).

After a deaf person receives the Holy Spirit, he cannot use his voice again except when the Holy Spirit comes upon him, manifesting Himself in tongues.

Here is the personal testimony of William Bingham, pastor of a deaf church in Springfield, Missouri: "When I was 15, the Lord baptized me in the Holy Spirit. I was conscious of what was happening, although I could not hear myself speak. I became deaf at five years of age. But I spoke clearly in the presence of many witnesses

for more than one hour. I thank God for the Holy Spirit. He has glorified God in my life and made my Saviour real to me."

Acts 10:46 gives the verification of the baptism in the Holy Spirit, "For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God." If a deaf person "spoke" in the language of signs when he received the Holy Spirit, no one could hear him. It is necessary for him to speak with his voice.

Mrs. Olen James, Independence, Missouri, relates her experience of speaking in tongues: "I shall never forget the night when the Saviour filled me with the Holy Spirit. I had been hungry for God's presence in my life. That night as I knelt and sought, my lips were unsealed

WHY SHOULD AN EXPERT SWIMMER RESORT TO THE NOVICE HABIT OF STICKING HIS TOE IN THE WATER?

SHADOW ON THE WALL

By JOHN THOMPSON

A JOURNALIST FRIEND OF MINE was in the habit of visiting an indoor swimming pool each Thursday night. There was a certain man he met at the pool who always amused and intrigued him. This man would come out of his cubicle with his bathing suit on, go straight to the edge of the water and dip his big toe into the pool, and then smartly climb right up to the highest diving board, make a wonderful dive, and swim up and down the pool with splendid form.

It was difficult for my friend to understand why such an expert swimmer and diver should resort to a novice habit like sticking his toe into the water before entering. One night he asked him why he did it.

He smiled and answered, "I suppose it is just force of



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and those who witnessed my baptism *heard me speak* in a heavenly language for three hours.”

Several years ago at the summer camp for the deaf in Green Lane, Pennsylvania, Mrs. Kenneth Crush received this wonderful experience. After retiring at night, she became hungry for God, so she arose and began to seek the Lord. After a short time of tarrying, she fell under the power of God and began *speaking* in tongues.

At the Michigan summer camp for the deaf, Marvin Pfautz of Lititz, Pennsylvania, became hungry for the Holy Spirit. He had never witnessed anyone receiving the Baptism. As he followed instructions to worship and praise the Lord, in a few minutes he was speaking in tongues.

God not only fills the deaf with the Holy Spirit; He works through them in spiritual gifts. On occasions a deaf person will give a message in tongues (with his voice). The minister will tell the people God has spoken to them in another language. One of the deaf will then be moved by the Spirit to receive the interpretation and will step forward and give it, using the language of signs for the benefit of all the deaf.

Ministers to the deaf who have witnessed these glorious experiences could give many more such testimonies. The New Testament promise is being fulfilled today among the deaf. His Spirit is being poured out upon *all* flesh!



PHOTO BY A. DEVANEY

People Are Thinking...

THE SURFACE SHALLOWNESS of today's living may lull us away from the reality that many people are seriously thinking about spiritual truths.

Doors are open to the Pentecostal witness—doors we dared not dream would open a few years ago. How much longer will they be open? That isn't for us to know. Our responsibility is to take advantage of the openings God has given us—*now!*

The *Evangel* you hold has been prepared especially to help you enter open doors. Leaf through the pages again. Notice the articles directed to the unconverted, to those in need of physical healing, to those hungry for spiritual power and victory. This Spiritual Life Edition is designed for wide distribution in your neighborhood and among your friends.

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habit; however, there is a reason, and I shall tell you.”

He used to be an instructor in a large college for men. His job was to teach them to swim and dive. He was in the swimming pool nearly every day and knew every inch of the place. One night he could not sleep and decided to slip into the swimming pool and have a swim, thinking the exercise would induce sleep.

“I did not put on the lights in the pool,” he continued, “for I knew every inch of the place and the roof was made of glass. The moon shone through, throwing the shadow of my body on the wall at the other end. My body and arms made a perfect cross. I cannot explain to you why I did not dive at that moment; I had no premonition of danger of any kind.

“As I stood looking at the shadow of the cross, I began to think of the cross of Christ and its meaning. I was not a Christian. I found myself repeating the words of a hymn I had learned as a boy, ‘He died that we might be forgiven, He died to make us good, that we might go at last to heaven, saved by His precious blood.’

“I cannot tell you how long I stood poised on the diving board, or why I did not dive. I came down from the board and walked along the pool to the steps that I knew led to the bottom of the pool and began to descend. I reached the bottom and my feet touched the cold smooth bottom of the pool. The night before, the caretaker had drained the pool dry, and I knew nothing about it. I realized then that had I dived, I would have dived to my death.

“The cross on the wall,” he added, “saved me that night. I was so thankful to God for His mercy in sparing my life that I knelt on the cold bricks and asked the Christ of the cross to save my soul. I experienced a twofold deliverance that night. That, sir, is why I always put my toe into the water before diving.”



SIN SEPARATED MANNY AND ME, BUT—

GOD BROUGHT US BACK TOGETHER



Manny and Helen Gonzalez and son.

A Story of Deliverance from Drug Addiction Told by HELEN GONZALEZ

I WILL NEVER FORGET the night of December 1, 1965. The phone rang. Fearfully, I answered it. "Manny is in jail for another narcotics violation," the voice said.

In jail again?

"Oh, when will this nightmare end?" I cried.

Manny was my son's father.

I remembered how he had started using heroin when he was only 17 and how he had suddenly changed. No longer did he want to go with the gang. Now he was a loner, his only companion—heroin.

This drug drove Manny into a life of crime. In and out of jails, hospitals, camps, prisons.

"I'll turn over a new leaf this time," he'd tell his parents and me whenever he was released. But his promises soon became hollow, meaningless words. He never kept them.

Finally, in desperation, I declared, "I've given up on you, Manny. I want nothing to do with you. Stay away—forever. Don't push me into the hell of heroin."

Manny stayed away. Yet one day I found myself cooking heroin, picking it up with a dropper and injecting it into my own veins. I was shackled by the same chain as Manny.

I hated myself for the mess I was in—especially when I looked into the sweet, innocent face of my six-month-old baby boy. I loved him so much. I just had to change—for his sake.

The road up is never easy, I soon found.

I asked a priest for help. He referred me to a nearby rehabilitation center. But I didn't have the kind of money they wanted. Nor could I spend the two years they suggested. After all, I had a little one dependent on me.

General Hospital suggested I go to a certain hospital for addicts. But I knew it was more like a jail than a hospital and that many of my friends who had been through this program were still mainlining.

One day, God in His mercy, allowed me to find a "Hook Card" that had the address and phone number of the Los Angeles Teen Challenge Center. On the other side, the card said: "Society says, 'Once an addict, always an addict.' But Jesus says, 'I am the way and the truth . . . and the truth shall set you free.'"

Curious to know what all this meant, on January 18, 1966, I went to the TC Center on South Hobart. I was a bitter woman. Mentally, spiritually, and physically sick. No purpose in life. But as I listened to the gospel of Christ, a glimmer of hope was beamed to my heart. Perhaps there was hope for me . . . maybe there was even hope for Manny.

At last, I decided to commit my wasted life to Christ. I asked Him into my heart. And He made me a new creation in Christ Jesus. Old things passed away. All things became new.

After staying five months at the TC Center, I decided to go home for a few days. It was there that temptation met me face to face. An addict friend offered me a fix. Deep down in my heart I was afraid. Would I yield?

But then the promise of 1 John 4:4 came to me, "Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world."

Suddenly I was no longer afraid. I knew the Lord was in me. The desire for heroin was gone—forever gone. Praise His name!

Imagine my joy when I heard that Manny had also accepted Christ as Saviour while he was in jail. Now we were both free from the sin that had driven us apart. The love of God brought us back together again.

Today we are married and serving the Lord at the Inland Empire Teen Challenge Center in Cucamonga, California, where Manny has recently been appointed supervisor. We have a happy Christian home.

It's over two years now since Manny and I have had a fix. We don't need any. We have Christ in our hearts and that's all we need!