



# POWER TO WITNESS FOR CHRIST

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of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus,”  
—Acts 4:33a*

**By Terry Beaver and Charles R. Beach**

## POWER TO WITNESS FOR CHRIST

And with great POWER gave the apostles WITNESS of the resurrection of the LORD JESUS,” (Acts 4:33a)

### **VERY CHRISTIAN IS TO BE A WITNESS**

TO WITNESS FOR (TO CONFESS) CHRIST IS THE DUTY OF EVERY NEWLY CONVERTED CHRISTIAN AND A RESULTANT PHASE OF HIS CONVERSION – “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved” (Romans 10:9).

TO WITNESS FOR (TO BEAR TESTIMONY OF) CHRIST IS A MEANS OF OVERCOMING THE DEVIL – “And they overcame him [the devil] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony” (Revelation 12:11a).

TO WITNESS FOR CHRIST WAS THE LAST COMMANDMENT OF THE LORD – “And ye shall all be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8b).

### **THE CHRISTIAN NEEDS POWER TO BE AN EFFECTIVE WITNESS FOR CHRIST**

CHRISTIANS RECEIVE POWER TO BECOME SONS OF GOD AS A RESULT OF BEING BORN OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (HOLY GHOST) – “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: Which were born . . . of God” (John 1:23, 13). (Note also John 3:3-5).

BUT CHRISTIANS RECEIVE POWER TO WITNESS FOR CHRIST AS A RESULT OF THE BAPTISM (OUTPOURING, INFUSION, FILLING) OF THE HOLY GHOST (HOLY SPIRIT) – “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

THE EARLY FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST AND THE APOSTLES RECEIVED THIS POWER TO WITNESS – “And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 4:33a).

PAUL, WHO WAS CONVERTED AFTER THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST, RECEIVED THIS POWER AND A COMMAND TO WITNESS – “And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, *even* Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost” (Acts 9:17). “For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard” (Acts 22:15).

THE HOLY GHOST (HOLY SPIRIT, COMFORTER) THEN IS THE REAL WITNESS FOR CHRIST, WORKING THROUGH THE CHRISTIAN – “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me” (John 15:26).

THE HOLY GHOST AIDS THE CHRISTIAN TO BE AN EFFECTIVE WITNESS FOR CHRIST BY BRINGING TO HIS MIND THE WORDS OF CHRIST, THE SCRIPTURES TO BE

USED – “But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” (John 14:26).

### **THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST, WHICH BRINGS POWER TO WITNESS, WAS FORETOLD**

THE OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY GHOST WAS FORETOLD BY AN OLD TESTAMENT PROPHET – “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit” (Joel 2:28, 29). (Note fulfillment in Acts 2:16-21).

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST WAS FORETOLD BY JOHN THE BAPTIST – “I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost” (Mark 1:8).

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST WAS FORETOLD BY JESUS – “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you” (John 14:16, 17). “For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence” (Acts 1:5).

### **THE PROPHECY OF THE OUTPOURING BEGAN TO BE FULFILLED WITH VISIBLE, AUDIBLE EVIDENCE**

THE HOLY GHOST WAS FIRST Poured OUT ON DISCIPLES AND APOSTLES ON THE JEWISH FEAST DAY OF PENTECOST – “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:1-4). “This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear” (Acts 2:32, 33).

THE SECOND RECORDED FILLING OF NEWBORN BELIEVERS OCCURRED AT SAMARIA ABOUT ONE YEAR LATER – “Then laid they *their* hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost” (Acts 8:17).

APPROXIMATELY TEN YEARS AFTER THE PENTECOSTAL OUTPOURING, THE HOLY GHOST FELL ON THE GENTILE BELIEVERS AT THE HOUSE OF CORNELIUS – “While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God” (Acts 10:44-46). “And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost” (Acts 11:15, 16).

SOME TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER THE FIRST OUTPOURING, THE HOLY GHOST CAME ON SOME LONG-TIME DISCIPLES AT EPHESUS – “And when Paul had laid *his* hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied” (Acts 11:15, 16).

## **SPEAKING IN TONGUES IS AN EVIDENT SIGN**

SPEAKING IN (NEW, UNKNOWN OR OTHER) TONGUES IS A SIGN TO THE UNBELIEVERS – “Wherefore tongues are a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: (1 Corinthians 14:22a).

SPEAKING IN TONGUES WAS FORETOLD BY JESUS AS A SIGN WHICH WAS TO FOLLOW BELIEVERS – “And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues” (Mark 16:17).

SPEAKING IN TONGUES WAS FORETOLD BY AN OLD TESTAMENT PROPHET, WHO PROPHESED ALSO THAT IT WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED – “For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This *is* the rest *wherewith* ye may cause the weary to rest; and this *is* the refreshing: yet they would not hear: (Isaiah 28:11, 12).

PAUL REFERRED TO ISAIAH’S PROPHECY THAT THIS SIGN WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED – “In the law it is written, with *men of* other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord” (1 Corinthians 14:21).

## **EVERY BELIEVER SHOULD SEEK TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST**

THE BELIEVER MAY RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST AS SOON AS HE IS SAVED – “Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved. And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning” (Acts 11:14, 15).

THE BELIEVER MAY RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST A SHORT TIME AFTER SALVATION – “Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they *their* hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost: (Acts 8:15-17).

THERE MAY BE A LONG INTERVAL BETWEEN SALVATION AND THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST – “He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto the, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John’s baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid *his* hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came o[n] them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied” (Acts 19:2-6).

THE BELIEVER MAY BE BAPTIZED IN WATER BEFORE RECEIVING THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST – “(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost” (Acts 8:16, 17).

THE BELIEVER MAY BE BAPTIZED IN WATER AFTER RECEIVING THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST – “Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord” (Acts 10:47, 48).

THE DEDICATED BELIEVER MAY BE REFILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST FROM TIME TO TIME – “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them” (Acts 4:8a). “And when they

prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness) (Acts 4:31). “And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost” (Acts 13:52).

THE BELIEVER DOES NOT HAVE TO BE AN APOSTLE OR A FULL-TIME MINISTER TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST – “Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples *unto them*, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word” (Acts 6:2-4).

### **THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST IS AVAILABLE TO ALL BELIEVERS DURING THIS THE CHURCH AGE**

THE SPIRIT OF GOD WAS RESTRICTED TO SELECT SPIRITUAL LEADERS DURING THE OLD TESTAMENT TIMES – “And Moses said unto him, Enviest thou for my sake? Would God that all the Lord’s people were prophets, *and* that the Lord would put his spirit upon them” (Numbers 11:29).

BUT THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST WAS PROMISED TO ALL DURING THIS DISPENSATION – “And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy” (Acts 2:17a).

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST WAS PROMISED TO EVERY BELIEVER ALL DOWN THROUGH THE CHURCH AGE – “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call” (Acts 2:38, 39).

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST IS FOR THOSE WHO ARE OBEDIENT – “And we are his witnesses of these things; and *so is* also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him” (Acts 5:32).

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST IS FOR THOSE WHO PRAY PERSISTENTLY, WHO IMPORTUNE – “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall **your** heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him” (Luke 11:13). (Read Luke 11:5-13).

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST IS FOR THOSE WHO TARRY, WHO WAIT ON GOD – “And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power on high” Luke 24:49). “And, being assembled together with **them**, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which **saith he**, ye have heard of me” (Acts 1:4).

### **THE REAL PURPOSE, THEN, OF THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST IS TO EMPOWER THE BELIEVER TO TELL THE LOST THE STORY OF JESUS**

THE HOLY GHOST GIVES THE BELIEVER POWER TO BECOME AN EFFECTIVE WITNESS FOR CHRIST – “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me . . . unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

THE BELIEVER WHOSE POWER AND BOLDNESS TO WITNESS HAVE WANED OR WHOSE POWER AND BOLDNESS NEED TO BE INCREASED MAY BE REFILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST – “And when they (this “they” includes Peter and John and other very consecrated disciples) had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness” (Acts 4:31).

**NOTE TO READER:** The “uttermost part of the earth” has not yet been reached with the glorious gospel of Christ; “every creature” has not yet been told that Jesus alone saves from sin and hell! God needs powerful witnesses to carry out this task in these last days! Offer yourself as a witness and God will supply the power through His Holy Spirit! “HAVE YE RECEIVED THE HOLY GHOST SINCE YE BELIEVED?” (Acts 19:2).

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## ON SPEAKING IN TONGUES

The term “speaking in (new, unknown, other or divers kinds of) tongues” is used in the Bible in reference to (1) the baptism or receiving of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4; Acts 10:46; Acts 19:6), to (2) the last two of the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:8-10), and to (3) individual religious devotions (1 Corinthians 14:14, 15 and 28b). In each case the term is used in connection with a spiritual manifestation: “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the SPIRIT GAVE THEM UTTERANCE” (Acts 2:4); and “But the MANIFESTATION OF THE SPIRIT is given to every man to profit withal” (1 Corinthians 12:7); and (the emphasis here is apparently on the man’s spirit) “For he that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth *him*; howbeit IN THE SPIRIT he speaketh mysteries . . . For if I pray in an unknown tongue, MY SPIRIT PRAYETH” (1 Corinthians 14:2 and 14a).

It is acknowledged that there is a difference in purpose between speaking in tongues as an indication of one of the supernatural gifts of the Spirit and speaking in tongues as an initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost – and between these two and the use of unknown tongues as a means of communicating with God in prayer, praise and singing. However, since the manifestation is, in appearance, either exactly the same or quite similar in all of these cases and since the references in the Bible to the speaking with tongues are associated with the working of God’s Spirit in the lives of His people, no great effort is made in this tract to show a clear-cut distinction among the various purposes for speaking in tongues.

In the fourteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians the apostle Paul, who spoke with tongues: “I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: (verse 18), counsels the Corinthian church regarding the wise use of this spiritual gift. He gives separate instructions for its use (in the church, i.e., when speaking to the Christian assembly (verse 19), and for its use in personal devotions (verses 14, 15, and 28) outside the regular instructional part of the service or at home.

Paul states that one who prophesies in or to the Christian assembly edifies the whole church, whereas “he that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue” edifies only himself (verse 4). The apostle indicates that one who prophesies is greater than one who speaks with tongues unless the latter can also interpret in order that the church may be edified (verse 5). He goes so far as to say that one should not speak to the church assembly in tongues when there is no interpreter present (verse 28). To speak thus in tongues to the brethren in an assembly is, according to Paul, profitless (verse 6), is the same as giving an indistinct sound on a musical instrument (verse 7), is like an uncertain bugle command during battle (verse 8), is of no more value than speaking into the air (verse 9), is meaningless to the hearer (verses 11 and 16), is not

instructive (verse 19), and will cause the unlearned or unbelievers to think that those whom they hear are mad (verse 23).

Speaking in tongues to the assembly of brethren where there is an interpreter, however, is equal to the gift of prophecy (verse 5), is edifying to the church (verses 5, 12, 13, and 26), and should follow this pattern: “If any man speak in an *unknown* tongue, *let it be* by two, or at the most *by* three, and *that* by course; and let one interpret” (verse 27). Paul believes that this pattern can be followed because “the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets” (verse 32); and he advises to “Let all things be done decently and in order” (verse 40).

Paul places no great limitations, however, on the manifestation of this gift when the believer is alone and seeking spiritual edification: “He that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue edifieth himself” (verse 4); when the believer is in prayer and in praiseful singing: “For if I pray in an *unknown* tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is it then I will pray with the spirit . . . I will sing with the spirit” (verses 14, 15); when the believer is in church (assembly) and there is an interpreter present (verse 27); and even when the believer is in church where there is no interpreter provided he speaks inaudibly: “But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God” (verse 28).

The apostle Paul comprehended the spiritual significance of speaking in tongues: “For he that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth *him*; howbeit, in the spirit he speaketh mysteries” (verse 2), he desired that all Christians possess this gift: “I would that ye all spake with tongues” (verse 5); he possessed the gift himself: “I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all” (verse 18); he prayed and sang in an unknown tongue (verses 14, 15); he knew that speaking in tongues was a prophesied sign from the Lord (verses 21, 22); he realized that the world would not accept it: “And yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord” (verse 21); and he understood that Christians were to be permitted to speak with tongues: “Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues” (verse 39). Paul also knew that tongues would cease and told us when: Tongues will cease when prophecies fail, when knowledge vanishes away, and “when that which is perfect is come” 1 Corinthians 13:8-10).

Yes, I want to receive the promise of the Holy Spirit. Please pray for me as I ask the Lord for this gift.

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_

PASTOR’S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Praise the Lord, I have received the promise of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_

PASTOR’S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Return to your pastor for submission to your state office.

Church of God

# **Mission North America**

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**PERSONAL EVANGELISM**