

# *What People Are Saying about George Bloomer and More of Him*

In his signature fashion with the anointing that is resting on his life, Bishop Bloomer has taken another challenging topic and produced a revelation like never before. Throughout this powerful book, readers will find answers to questions that have often challenged the body of Christ and caused unnecessary division and confusion. With his knowledge of Scripture and gift of teaching, Bishop Bloomer helps to navigate us back to our First Love and a deeper longing for His Spirit. This is a must read for those who desire to truly mature in Him!

—Bishop Eddie Long,  
New Birth Missionary Baptist Church

In *More of Him*, Bishop Bloomer captures the essence of who the Holy Spirit is, while tackling some of the most critical questions regarding the significance of His presence. If you've ever desired to obtain a more intimate walk with the Lord, this book is for you! When you read it, you will be enlightened and your life will be enriched!

—Pastor Kirbyjon Caldwell,  
Senior pastor of Windsor Village UMC  
Author of *The Gospel of Good Success*

Bishop Bloomer's *More of Him: Receiving the Power of the Holy Spirit* is a revelatory and refreshing new work that brings the sometimes-intangible concept of the Holy Spirit into a context that even the newest Christians can receive!

—Paula White  
Paula White Ministries

*More of*  
**HIM**

RECEIVING THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

GEORGE  
BLOOMER



WHITAKER  
HOUSE

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**MORE OF HIM: RECEIVING THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Revised and Expanded version of *Empowered from Above*

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# INTRODUCTION



## INTRODUCTION

*Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*  
—1 John 4:4

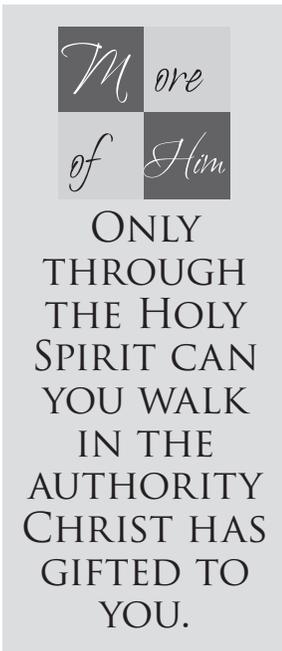
Who is this “*greater*” One that John was talking about? It is the Spirit of Christ—the Holy Spirit! If you’ve surrendered your life to Christ, you have received the abundant gifts that His Spirit brings. The fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control—is growing on the branches of your life. (See Galatians 5:22–23.) You live in an awareness of His presence and trust in the power that He gives.

Jesus Himself relied on the Holy Spirit as His source of power. Acts 10:38 says, “*God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.*” What about you? Are you involved in the Father’s business? Are you working for the kingdom of heaven with the same power that Jesus depended upon? Are you walking in His footsteps and carrying out the Great Commission that He left for His followers?

# More OF HIM

To be a witness for Christ, you must know who you are in Him. Those within the kingdom of darkness must also recognize who you are and where you stand. You need a reputation for having power and protection that comes from dying to self and living under the blood of your Savior. This assurance comes from the Holy Spirit. The repercussions of the power and protection that He

gives are vast. As Acts 1:8 teaches, *“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 unto the uttermost part of the earth.”*



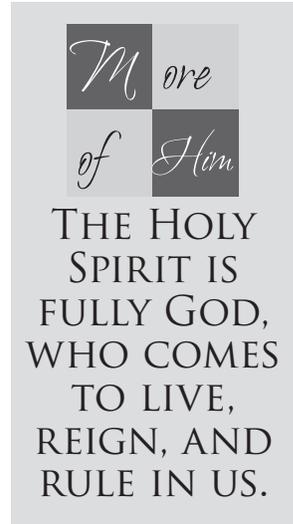
It is only through the Holy Spirit that you can walk in the authority that Christ has gifted to you. Even in times of distress, when you don't quite know what to pray for because you're too distraught or too consumed with stressful situations, the Holy Spirit will step in and intercede for you. *“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered”* (Romans 8:26).

Perhaps you've already begun to experience the fullness of the Holy Spirit. You've received baptism from above and have tasted the Spirit's filling in your life. You too must ask yourself, Am I doing the Father's business?

## INTRODUCTION

Simply receiving the Spirit does not ensure that you are walking in His ways. As Paul made clear in one of his epistles, having the Spirit's gifts in our lives means nothing if we don't show the Spirit's fruit as well. *"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal"* (1 Corinthians 13:1).

Some years ago, not long after I had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the gift of speaking in tongues, I was selected by God to be carried in the spirit several times over the course of a month. During this time I received revelation on the heavens in the form of dreams. These dreams, which I later came to recognize as visions, came at the end of a fifty-day consecration fast leading up to the Day of Pentecost. With these dreams, it was as if the heavens opened up to me. God revealed much to me about the Holy Spirit, His nature, and His ways of working. This book records the contents of those dreams, as well as the understanding gleaned from them.



Through the revelation of this book, I pray that we will begin to understand the benefits of baptism in the Holy Spirit, in all its fullness. I pray too that we will not reduce it to an excuse for speaking in tongues, dancing around the church, or being slain in the spirit. Instead, may we recognize that the Holy Spirit is fully God, who

## More OF HIM

comes to live, reign, and rule in us. He, the Spirit of Truth, is a teacher, a leader, an energizer of strength within our souls. May we rightly understand the Holy Spirit in the fullness of His character. May we yield ourselves to His working, as He moves in our lives according to His timing. The time has come to reject myths and to let go of questionable traditions. Allow scriptural knowledge to intervene, and learn what it really means to be baptized from above!

*I pray for you today to be filled with all godliness and true revelation that can be released only through and by the Holy Spirit. I pray the convicting power of the Holy Spirit upon you that will destroy any stronghold that might be lying dormant in your life. Right now we claim this house—your temple—for the glory of God. We sweep it and cleanse it and forbid any demonic forces from returning to this place. Through the power and the anointing of the Holy Ghost, I pray for revelation knowledge to come upon you—the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and the word of prophecy—that healing will be your portion and deliverance your lifestyle. In Jesus' name, Amen.*



*The Dream*

SEVEN DAYS IN THE SPIRIT



## *The Dream*

# SEVEN DAYS IN THE SPIRIT

### *Day One*

In my first dream I saw people standing all around the world. I could tell I was seeing the whole world because it was daytime in some areas and nighttime in others. The people wore many types of clothing as well. I recognized people from Turkey, Russia, Mexico, Palestine, Africa, and many other countries.

My dream was filled with music. I saw the heavens, or what appeared to be the heavens. I saw bouquets of color. Colors and colors and colors and colors were shooting out of the heavens. I can only explain what I experienced in terms of color and music. Some colors I can't even describe. I don't have words to tell you about the most beautiful yellows, greens, oranges, reds, and purples. Jasper. Ruby red. Emerald green. Magenta. Just colors, colors, colors. And the sounds were heavenly: trumpets, harps, drums, and violins.

When I passed through heaven's entrance, I saw more colors. The streets were pure, pure as can be. There

## *More* OF HIM

was no crime. I heard voices, the many voices of my childhood as if kids were playing outside. As I walked through the streets, I drew nearer to what appeared to be ancient medieval buildings. They were all made of sapphire bricks. I have absolutely no idea what these monuments were. As I passed through the gate of the sapphire bricked walls, though, the voices changed. I heard voices of adults as they instructed their children, passing down their morals and values; voices of people talking business; and voices of thinkers discussing philosophies and ideas. Still, I could see no people.

I continued walking, guided by an inner-conscience, and approached what appeared to be a platform with steps, each step displaying colors of a heavenly rainbow. There were gifts too, wrapped up in the colors of Christmas, Easter, and Valentine's Day. Gifts were everywhere. Tons and tons and tons of them! The packages were of different sizes—some the size of cars, some the size of buildings, some as small as a calculator, and some the size of a shoe box—but all of them were wrapped up. And the voices changed; they said, "Where do we deliver this?" and, "Waiting on a pick-up." It was as if I were at a shipping company, looking at a graveyard of packages that had been misplaced and couldn't be delivered.

As I mounted the platform and left behind the unclaimed gifts, I passed through a door and suddenly began falling. It wasn't falling, though; I realized, instead, that I was being carried swiftly to another level by what appeared to be clouds. These clouds were not like the ones that hold rain and snow. Although they looked like clouds, they were made of a strawlike substance.

## THE DREAM: SEVEN DAYS IN THE *Spirit*

As we descended to another level, I heard many noises—the sounds of eagles, wildebeests, seagulls, and bears, but no human sounds. Everywhere I looked, there was nothing but clouds set against the clearest white background. The noises grew louder as I descended. Finally, when I reached the ground, I saw creatures that must have been angels. It's extremely hard for me to describe the appearance of these incredible creatures. They weren't all in white apparel. The angels in my vision were dressed in several different colors, and I might add that color—yes, color—was the theme of this heavenly, angelic dream. I think I now understand why God went to such great lengths in Ezekiel 28 to explain Lucifer's covering, to give some clarity and information on what heaven was like and on the appearance of this creature.

The language of the angels seemed, to my human ears, to be a mixture of sounds made by different animals—like roaring, chirping, and hissing sounds combined with the noises from wildebeests, seagulls, and eagles. There were also sounds that I had never heard before.

There was a creature who looked like a man, with feet, hands, shoulders, and head. But when I looked closer at its head, it appeared to be composed of nothing but ears of different sizes. There was another creature with a man's body whose head was formed entirely of eyes—blue eyes, brown eyes, hazel eyes, green eyes—and the eyes were blinking. And I saw creatures flying from one side of heaven to the other; they all had several sets of wings, but appeared to have human bodies as well.

## *More* OF HIM

Though this may sound hideous, it was quite beautiful and fascinating. I don't know if this is how it is in heaven or whether God was simply showing me only what my human intellect could grasp. Then I saw the angel that had four faces—the faces of an ox, an eagle, a lion, and a man. When I beheld all this I remember saying, "I've read about this in the Bible." (See Revelation 4:7.)

And as two of those angels sped across the sky, I looked to see if they were holding a ring or a wheel like those described by Ezekiel. Although they moved across the open air in the heavenlies, they were not holding anything; they just moved about freely.

And then I woke up, fascinated by all that I had seen and heard.

## *Day Two*

The dream I had the next night seemed pretty strange. It was as if the Spirit of the Lord was narrating and navigating me through a recapitulation of what I had dreamed the night before. I went through the rainbows, through the different sounds, the music, the steps of colors, the abundance of gifts, and the home of those creatures who made strange noises.

And then He put me back on earth again. When I "landed," I was sitting in a church with which I'm extremely familiar. There were people praying for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, tarrying for the Holy Spirit to come down. As I looked near the altar, there I was, on my knees, praying and tarrying for the Holy Spirit,

## THE DREAM: SEVEN DAYS IN THE *Spirit*

pleading with God for something He so willingly and freely gives to everyone who simply asks of Him. I was begging and, in the dream, I heard the Lord say, “Beg not, but only ask, and I shall give it unto you. So shall it be yours.” I remember stopping and asking God for it and feeling the presence of the Lord so strongly that I woke up. When I awakened, I wondered, “Am I hallucinating? Did I really just have a dream, or is this true?”

Later, when I went back to sleep, I returned to the altar in my dream where I saw myself begging, caught in somewhat of a tug-of-war. A young man in a suit approached me and said, “Let me show you the importance of receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit.” Suddenly I was standing in a completely white room without any furniture. The man stood before me and directed my attention to a balcony suspended over the entire earth. From the balcony I could see the principalities of Satan and a massive wall that Satan had erected around the entire earth. In every nook and cranny of the earth, he had demons, which were very frightening.

There were dark clouds and lightning hovering over the kingdom, as if there was an electric storm. And from under the satanic kingdom came a collection of



More  
of Him

I HEARD THE  
LORD SAY,  
“BEG NOT,  
BUT ONLY  
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SHALL GIVE  
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SO SHALL IT  
BE YOURS.”

## *More* OF HIM

beautiful lights in the form of blazing arrows, which traveled upward. “These are the prayers of the saints,” an angel said.

I also saw disfigured creatures that were half-giraffe and half-elephant; half-woman and half-man; half-hyena and half-human. Everything was hideous and dysfunctional. It was as if an entire race had been annihilated and some Frankenstein had come to put it back together again, using bits and pieces from all over the earth. And the Spirit of the Lord told me, “These are demonic spirits who seek to embody men in the earth.”

And that was it. I woke up. For an entire day I forgot the whole dream. Once I remembered, though, it frightened and quieted me. I was confused and excited, yet silent and still.

## *Day Three*

Two days passed before my third dream came. In this dream, I looked up and saw saints everywhere, all around the world, praying at the same time. The prayers, which exited their mouths in the form of mist, traveled through ceilings, through the roofs of their cars, and up into the heavenlies. All the prayers appeared on television screens in the heavens where Satan had demonic forces watching the prayers as if they were observing Dow-Jones or NASDAQ results from Wall Street. The demons put checks next to each prayer, signaling whether or not they were going to let the prayers be released to heaven.

## THE DREAM: SEVEN DAYS IN THE *Spirit*

And I saw a throne that was as white as snow and appeared to be pure. A man with white shoes, white socks, and white pants sat on this throne. I remember the pants were pressed so sharply that they looked like they could have cut someone. I did not see this man's face. I saw his head, though, and he had slicked-back, silken hair. His fingernails were well-manicured, and his right hand held three arrows.

The Spirit of the Lord said to me, "These arrows are the three musical spirits who have shaped modern culture." I beheld the arrows, and as I looked at them, physical heads appeared on each one: Boy George, Michael Jackson, and Prince, all entertainers who are unnaturally feminine in appearance and behavior. The arrows were given to a disfigured animal, a demonic spirit, who shot them at the earth in different directions. The arrows curved and turned, hit bull's-eyes, went through the bull's-eyes, and boomeranged back to the principalities, from where they were shot again. In the late 80s and early 90s, the music of Prince, Boy George, and Michael Jackson shaped the world. The arrows, upon hitting the bull's-eyes, released ungodly, off-key music, along with perversion, molestation, the stench of incest, and a number of other hideous spirits. The angel said, "As the culture changes, so shall the arrows change." And I propose to you today that there are demonic forces up in the heavens who now shoot the same arrows, only with the faces of different people of influence upon them.

After a while, I told my pastor about the series of dreams I was having and how I was not quite sure of

## *More* OF HIM

what they meant. Thinking that perhaps the devil was disturbing my sleep, he prayed that I would not come under any further demonic attacks. However, when he related portions of my second dream in his sermon that next Sunday, our congregation erupted into a worshipful spirit that it had never quite experienced before. It was obvious that the message of my dream had the anointing of God upon it. The congregation burst into praise, and our morning service, which began at ten o'clock, didn't end until five o'clock that evening.

Excited with what God had done through the sharing of my dream, the pastor called me into his office to hear more. I can't explain what happened next except to say that at that very moment, the Lord took away the memory of my dreams. All I could tell the pastor was, "I'm sorry. I can't remember." For some reason the Lord wasn't ready for me to share any more at that time. Later, the memory of my dreams was restored, and the Lord led me to write them down. I can only pray that the movement of the Spirit that came upon the congregation that Sunday will be upon you as you read these words.

### *Days Four and Five*

After my talk with the pastor, I went home and prayed that God would give me understanding and guidance on what I was going through. Shortly thereafter I had my fourth dream.

In this dream, the same man who approached me while I was at the altar praying in dream two came to

## THE DREAM: SEVEN DAYS IN THE *Spirit*

me again. This time he announced that he was a messenger of the Lord and that he was going to show me great things. I went to a window, opened it up, and found myself on the same balcony from my earlier dream. Under the balcony were the words, “Balcony of Ages.” And the man, who was an angel, said to me, “Before you are all the generations, and these are the spirits who will attack those generations.” And then he showed me a great cloud, which came in a rumble, like someone playing a thunderous drum roll. The angel said there was a mighty force who would combat the forces of evil, and I knew what that power was—the Holy Spirit who would come in a mighty rushing wind.

The angel then took me briefly back to dream three to show me the demons standing around the walls. Then he led me to Calvary. I heard the nails ringing and the hammers pounding—bang, bang, bang. The crowd screamed and hollered, but I didn’t see Jesus. I knew in my spirit, though, that I was at Calvary.

Soon there was a calm. Then the peace was shattered by screeching that came from a violin. I heard noises and voices again, as if I were back in the chamber from dream one. And the messenger of the Lord turned and said, “This is the age in which I will raise up my army.”

*M*ore  
*of* *Hon*

THERE WAS  
A MIGHTY  
FORCE WHO  
WOULD  
COMBAT THE  
FORCES OF  
EVIL—AND  
THAT POWER  
WAS THE  
HOLY SPIRIT.

## More OF HIM

I then had a tremendous revelation on the valley of dry bones, which Ezekiel had seen in a vision in Old Testament times. In this revelation, which came from my dream during night five, God showed me the valley of dry bones and then connected it to Pentecost, the captivity of Judah, and the declaration of Israel as a nation.

So I was on the Balcony of Ages. I saw the ages to come and all the demonic arrows and spirits that were directed toward it. But I heard a rumbling in the open air, and I saw this cloud of glory on its way. And the proclamation from the messenger of God was that this is the power that will combat the forces of the enemy. In my dream, this Scripture came to me:

*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)

It dawned on me that my dreams started on the commemorated Day of Pentecost, Pentecost Sunday. I realized that God was revealing to me the purpose of Pentecost—the purpose of 120 individuals in the upper room, the purpose of the outpouring of the Spirit. He was revealing to me how dirty vessels will be made clean

## THE DREAM: SEVEN DAYS IN THE *Spirit*

and how, through His blood, He would take water and turn it into wine.

Scripture became so alive to me in my dreams that the rumbling of a great cloud beneath me became the moaning and groaning, the travailing of God in the Spirit, as He gave birth to the Holy Ghost on earth. He was waiting, though, for the 120 vessels to come together in one accord, in the same mind for a moment, so they could house His presence. He could then make His entrance onto the earth and combat the demonic forces of the ages that were eagerly waiting to attack the earth.

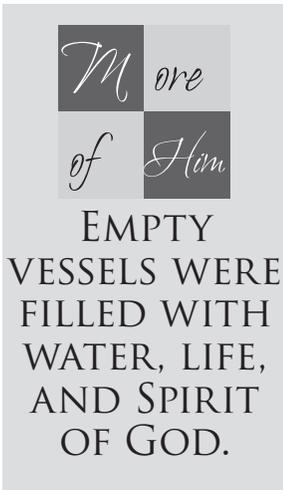
Through the propitiation and regeneration effected by the blood of the Lamb, the prophecy of a wedding at Cana had now come to pass on the Day of Pentecost. As recorded in the gospel of John, Jesus was invited to the wedding. When they ran out of wine, Jesus asked for six waterpots. These waterpots were nothing short of bathtubs where the people washed their feet after their long journeys on dusty roads. For the Scripture says, “*There were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins [twenty to thirty gallons] apiece*” (John 2:6). These pots were used for cleaning. And it was these—these dirty, dingy pots—that were brought to Jesus.

*M*ore  
*of* *Him*

DIRTY  
VESSELS WILL  
BE MADE  
CLEAN, AND  
THROUGH  
HIS BLOOD,  
HE WILL  
TURN WATER  
INTO WINE.

## More OF HIM

And He commanded them to be filled with water, representing life. Empty vessels were filled with water, life, the Spirit of God. The transforming power that took place at Pentecost was the same power Christ used when He turned water into wine. The Holy Spirit—pure, clean, and perfect—filled and transformed empty vessels, and He continues that work to this day.



As the ruler or governor of the feast at the wedding tasted the wine, he remarked that they had saved the best for last, but the Scripture says he did not know from where the wine had come. He did not realize that this wonderful wine had, just moments before, been ordinary water. The Holy Spirit is coming in the most fantastic and awesome way to renew our vessels, our spirits, just as Christ renewed the water jugs on that day.

There is yet another wind to blow, another groaning. For the Bible declares in Revelation 7:1–4 that there are angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that it shall not blow on any tree or on the land until God has sealed the foreheads of His servants. The number that he heard was 144,000, and that 144,000 represents Israel in connection to the tribulation period that is about to come. I understood all this on the fifth night of my dream.

# THE DREAM: SEVEN DAYS IN THE *Spirit*

## *Day Six*

About a week later, God took me back into the spirit realm. I was on the Balcony of Ages again, looking out over the earth as the saints prayed. On this night, though, my vision extended far beyond the Balcony of Ages. I was standing in the principalities and beholding the television screens, looking at the actual prayers of the saints as they reached the heavenlies. Moment by moment angels dropped down into the principalities, looking to the left and to the right and then falling down again to go into the earth. From time to time the angels would come out of heaven and into the principalities and look in both directions. But before they would make their next leap into the earthly realm, they would be snatched by demonic forces and held in a prison cell.

And the messenger of the Lord said to me, “This is the Word of the Lord coming live to you now. Have I not told you all this in the book of Daniel?” And my spirit quickened in the dream as I remembered Daniel 10:13, which tells about Daniel’s prayer getting detained by the prince of Persia for twenty-one days. And God had to release an angel to fight, while a host of angels in the heavenly realm prayed, warring with the demonic forces to release the prayers of God’s people.

Though this sixth dream was short, it was very revelatory. On this night I began to understand that God often answers prayers as soon as we send them, but oftentimes His answers and His blessings are blocked by another force in the heavenly realm. The saints need only to have patience and faith, and to know this principle:

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If God's answer hasn't come, it will. Don't stop praising; don't stop praying; don't give up. Hold on because the angels of the Lord are wrestling for you.

### Day Seven

My seventh dream came twenty days after the first night of dreams. I remember thinking, "Oh, Lord, I'm dreaming again." I knew something was happening, but I wasn't sure what. I didn't know if it was a dream or if it was a vision. I saw an enormous cloud being released. Then the messenger of the Lord said to me, "We must go to Calvary." And so we went back to Calvary. Once again I heard the unbearably loud screaming, the yelling, and the ringing of the hammer. Amid the noise and confusion, voices shouted out, "Give us Barabbas! Give us Barabbas!" I heard roosters crowing and voices crying, "I don't know Him! I don't know Him!" There were many voices.



DON'T STOP  
PRAISING,  
DON'T STOP  
PRAYING,  
AND DON'T  
GIVE UP.  
IF GOD'S  
ANSWER  
HASN'T  
COME, IT  
WILL.

Then came the calm. The night changed to day as sunrise came. And there was violin music along with somber singing. I saw two women at the sepulchre; both were weeping and crying. And a messenger of the Lord said, "He is risen!"

This was love.

## THE DREAM: SEVEN DAYS IN THE *Spirit*

Then the scene changed and we were back on the Balcony of Ages. I looked down again and saw the cloud from before. It was now closer, and the sound from it was louder than before. There was wind with the cloud and something was going on around it really quickly. Lightning and flashing came out of it as it approached the balcony, and a whirlwind came out of it. Soon there was shaking and pieces of the building fell off.

Then, in the spirit realm, I saw everyone who was in the upper room. People were everywhere, filling the streets, and they were all speaking different languages. And everyone was reunited with his or her loved ones because there was an interpreter that wasn't there in times past. Peter stood up, saying, "*For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day*" (Acts 2:15).

Then I looked up, and the messenger of the Lord said, "Behold, now: Satan's kingdom." And as I looked at Satan's kingdom and the principalities, there was mass confusion. Before, when the people prayed in their native languages, the demons had been able to write down what they said. On the Day of Pentecost, though, the saints stopped speaking their native tongues; they started speaking other tongues of men, and the door was opened for them to speak in the tongues of angels. And when they started praying in unknown tongues, the fallen angels could not unravel their prayers.

And God revealed to me that He had sent the Holy Spirit not only to comfort us, lead us, and guide us into all truth, but also to stop Satan from interfering with

## *More* OF HIM

and hindering our prayer life. If ever there was a time for the body of Christ to rise up and understand the unseen power of the Holy Spirit, the hidden mystery of speaking in unknown tongues as the Spirit of God gives utterance, this is that time. The time is now.



*Chapter One*

THE PURPOSE OF PENTECOST



## Chapter One

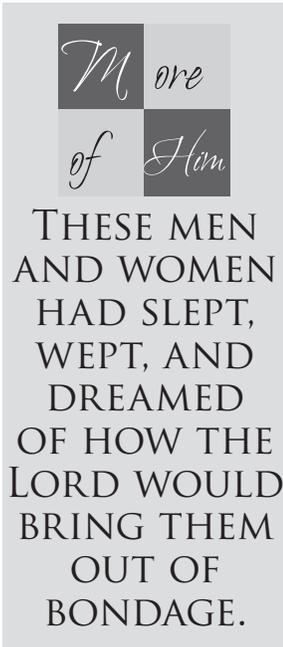
# THE PURPOSE OF PENTECOST

Imagine being one of the great great grandsons or ancestors of one the captives of Judah at the time when the book of Acts was written. They had heard the amazing stories of their forefathers as they so eloquently illustrated their experiences of living in a strange land after being carried away captive into Babylon. The grandfathers would have told of a great Messiah who was soon to come. He would bring with Him a Promise of Comfort. Hundreds of years have gone by. They had been hearing fabulous stories and prophecies, waiting in anticipation for what was yet to come. Then they heard of a remarkable party that was going on. It was reserved exclusively for 120 people who were strategically situated in an upper room. It was noised abroad that this party was going on, and the question that was buzzing in the air was, How are all of these Galileans having a party in our homeland—a place where we've longed for worship and waited for the coming of the Promise? *“Are not all these which speak Galilaeans?”*

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What's more, the room was filled to capacity, and the multitudes were being turned away. *"There were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men carried out of every nation under heaven."* (See Acts 2:5–9.)

No doubt that in the midst were the descendants of the same men who had sat by the River Babylon, weeping when they remembered Zion, hanging their harps in the



willow trees because their captives required songs of Zion. They were the ones who asked, "How can we sing the songs of Zion in a strange land?" (Psalm 137:2–4) No doubt some of these were the descendants of those who'd cried out, "The Lord turned again our captivity!" Now, though shocked and amazed, they rejoiced! Finally, they were coming out of captivity.

These men and women had slept, wept, and dreamed of how the Lord would bring them out of bondage. Like many of us today, they couldn't imagine how the Lord would bring them out the bondage and the devastation that they had found themselves in, or for many of us, that we were actually born into. What a glorious day! What a glorious message to hear. What they thought was an out of control "block-party" actually turned out to be the Promise from on High—Beulah Land—that for years they had longed to see. Not knowing the language of that land, even a Mede, a Persian,

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or a dweller of Mesopotamia still heard the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. And they accepted it because of the phenomenal way in which the Lord showed up on that faithful day—the sound of freedom, as a mighty rushing wind, filled the house. Cloven tongues, like fire, were everywhere, and in the midst of it all, the Spirit of the Lord announced His presence by filling those who were present in the room with His Spirit. *“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).

Many Christians sincerely hunger after a fuller, deeper experience of Christ; a hunger that stems from their desire to gain more knowledge of the Holy Spirit. It is on this path to receiving the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, however, that many believers become perplexed and confused about the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Though rarely dealt with, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is an important topic, one closely related to the manifestation of the person of Jesus Christ; it deserves our full attention. The best place to start our learning journey is in Acts, where the Bible records the Holy Spirit’s first indwelling of believers.

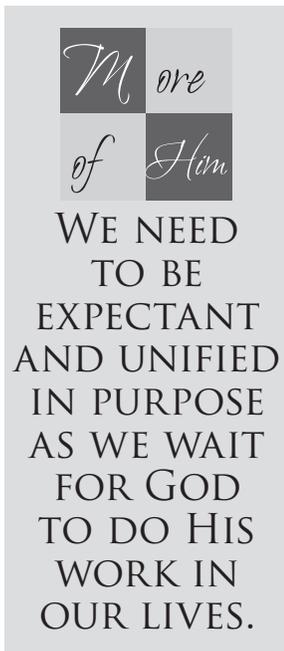
### POWER IN THE UPPER ROOM

Thousands of years ago in an upper room, 120 men plus women came together at the command of the Lord Jesus. There they anxiously waited to be endued with power from on high. It was somewhat of a prayer meeting experience, where a number of individuals waited for God to appear to them again.

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It's important to note that the manifestation of the Holy Spirit didn't come until Jesus had already returned to the heavens. In Acts 1:9 the disciples watched Him ascend on a cloud, the vehicle for His exodus to the heavens: *"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight."* Shortly after this, two visitors dressed in white apparel reminded the disciples that Christ would

come again: *"Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven"* (Acts 1:11). The disciples knew to expect a return of the Lord's presence.



In the upper room a number of things took place. First the congregation of the Lord assembled. They gathered together in unity of purpose. *"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place"* (Acts 2:1). On the Day of Pentecost, the disciples, who believed Jesus' words and remained in Jerusalem to wait

for His promise, were all together in one place. Even more significant, they were of one mind. This is a good reminder that some of us need to settle down, get in one place, set aside our differences, and let Pentecost fully come into our lives. Some people seek God so halfheartedly, without purposefulness, that they are completely

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unsure of His will for their lives. But God doesn't do a halfway job on anything. When God does something, He does it thoroughly and with expertise. We need to be expectant and unified in purpose as we wait for God to do His work in our lives.

Next in the upper room, the congregation prayed, as recorded in Acts 1:14: *"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication."* Don't miss the significance of what they did. In unity of spirit, they prayed and sought God. And finally they waited; they tarried for the Lord. They sat still until something spectacular and supernatural took place. It came upon them from above. In Acts 2, it happened; the baptism in the Spirit.

The baptism that took place in this room, however, was in no way comparable to the water baptism of John or even to our modern-day water baptisms in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This baptism was a baptism from above, a baptism of fire (see Matthew 3:11; Luke 3:16), not of water. It wasn't the emergence into water; it wasn't the sprinkling of water; it was the indwelling of the Holy Spirit—who came to live within the temple of the hearts of individuals.

*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 2:2–4)

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As these seekers were earnestly asking and waiting, God provided two symbols of the Spirit's presence: the wind, which the Jews associated with the Holy Spirit—*“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 fiery tongues, which divided and rested upon each one, showing that the Spirit's baptism included all—*“And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.”*

The Scripture then tells us that they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in other tongues. *“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”* What does this mean? Does it mean the Christians at Pentecost began speaking like babies, practicing elementary babblings until they actually spoke something coherent? Or did they speak in other languages?

## OTHER TONGUES

When the Bible declares here that these Christians spoke with other tongues, it means just that: They actually spoke other languages. Every man, regardless of his nationality, spoke in another language, witnessing to others and proclaiming the wonderful works of Christ. The “babble theory” is simply not scriptural, for the people who heard these Christians understood what they were saying. Why? Because each man heard his own tongue being spoken:

*And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the*

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*Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. (Acts 2:4–6)*

### THE SIGN OF TONGUES

Now let's look at the purpose that tongues served at Pentecost. The purpose for the sign—the gift of tongues—was to get the attention of the unbelievers gathered there so that they would listen. Paul acknowledged this purpose for tongues in 1 Corinthians 14:22: *“Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.”*

This certainly worked. All the different languages definitely caught the attention of those gathered there. They heard and saw things that they had never seen before, and they were astonished! How could these Galileans speak in so many different languages? Some even thought the apostles were drunk! Peter cleared up this misconception:

*For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; 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,*

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*and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: and on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: and I will show wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: and it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.* (Acts 2:15–21)

Something awesome had happened. It wasn't a made-up show. In other tongues, these men of God spoke of His wonderful works. God showed up on the scene without anyone's help and filled them with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke in actual languages, in the known tongues of men.



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language and accompany it with the gift of interpretation.

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### PROPHECY: THE “OTHER” SIGN

Peter reminded us in his powerful message that tongues are not the only sign of the Holy Spirit’s presence; prophecy is as well: “*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 2:17). So often we focus on tongues but ignore prophecy as a gift of the Holy Spirit. Scripture reminds us, though, that both are signs of the presence of the Holy Spirit. When Paul laid his hands on the converts, they spoke in tongues *and* prophesied. “*And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied*” (Acts 19:6). When Peter stood up to preach on the Day of Pentecost, he prophesied through a stirring sermon that won 3,000 converts to Christ (see Acts 2:41); Peter understood that Joel’s prophecy was not completely fulfilled but only just beginning at that feast.

As that prophecy continues to be fulfilled today, we are going to experience an outpouring of the Spirit as never before. People who have never spoken English will speak English without learning it; others will speak in Russian, Greek, Hebrew, Chinese, Japanese—all kinds of tongues—without learning them. Unity in the body of Christ is also going to come. Thousands of people are going to be saved, and denominational differences will be set aside!

So whether the Holy Spirit works through actual human languages or through the heavenly language of angels, He won’t speak to a group of people in a language

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they can't understand unless it is to be interpreted. This is why He gave explicit instructions through His anointed minister concerning the use of tongues:

*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. But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.*

(1 Corinthians 14:27–28)

Earlier in this same chapter Paul acknowledged the importance of ensuring God's order in the congregation through intelligent, understandable speech while also acknowledging the place of prophecy as well as private tongues for the purpose of revelation and edification:

*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. But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.* (1 Corinthians 14:2–5)

So Paul encouraged every Christian to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues, but only according to God's instructions. Notice what is happening in some churches today with regard to speaking in tongues, and

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consider whether it is done in the Spirit or the flesh. Many today are trying to be popular in religious circles instead of living and walking in the Spirit. Sister and Brother So-and-So might speak out in tongues they should have kept to themselves because they received no inspiration to move in the gift of speaking in tongues in the congregation with the interpretation mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:

*And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? (vv. 28–30)*

At worst, some speak in tongues merely to draw attention to themselves. There is no special revelation, no anointing, and sometimes these tongues even interfere with what the Holy Spirit actually wants to do.

On the Day of Pentecost, God chose to speak to the nations gathered there in each one's own language, as a sign to unbelievers of His presence on earth. His presence was confirmed through the symbolic signs of fire and wind, as well as through prophecy. From that day on the Spirit has continued to manifest Himself in various gifts of His own distribution. Through discernible speech and gifts, God's people can be intelligently instructed about His redemptive plans and purposes.

This is what really happened on the Day of Pentecost.