

What People Are Saying About Apostle Guillermo Maldonado and *Divine Encounter with the Holy Spirit...*

Out of all the books I own on the topic of being filled with the Holy Spirit, I would rate Apostle Maldonado's new book, *Divine Encounter with the Holy Spirit*, at the very top of the list because it is the most practical and helpful for understanding the realities of ministry related to the Spirit. It is a great book, one that I will highly recommend to anyone wanting to grow in their understanding of the Holy Spirit, especially in regard to how to be led by the Spirit and how the Holy Spirit helps to create faith in our lives. I love a book that illustrates its truths with contemporary stories of people whom God is using. The truth creates in me knowledge and wisdom, and the stories create in me inspiration and hunger for more of God. Well done, Apostle Maldonado. Thank you for giving us wonderful insight into the things of God the Holy Spirit.

—Randy Clark, D.Min., Th.D.

Overseer, Apostolic Network of Global Awakening
Founder, Global Awakening

Divine Encounter with the Holy Spirit could also be called "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about the Holy Spirit and Didn't Know to Ask." Apostle Maldonado explains the Person of the Holy Spirit and encourages you to realize that the Holy Spirit is your Best Friend—in fact, your best everything. This teaching opens the door for intimacy not only with the Holy Spirit but also with God the Father, His Son, His Word, and the supernatural. Renew or begin your relationship with the Holy Spirit through the revelations in this profound but simple book.

—Marcus D. Lamb

Founder and President, Daystar Television Network

We all want to see the transformative power that Jesus promises us, so that we would live a thriving and abundant life! We are believing for nations to be restored, cities to be transformed, and people to be empowered. There is a process we will have to engage, though—an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit. I love that Apostle Guillermo Maldonado, who leads one of the largest Christian movements in the world, points at the divine encounters with the Holy Spirit as the access point to change the world. Our relationship with the Spirit of God is literally a game-changer, and if you can get the principles in this book activated in your life, you will see the fruit of this divine connection in your everyday world!

—Shawn Bolz

TV Personality and author, *Translating God*
www.bolzministries.com

Apostle Maldonado has been called by God to demystify the supernatural and make you naturally supernatural!

—Sid Roth

Host, *It's Supernatural!*

Apostle Guillermo Maldonado is one of the most outstanding people I've ever known. He is a Holy Spirit genius, and he is a living example of a man rooted in a deep relationship with the Spirit who daily lives with the result of his encounter. Such a divine encounter can also be yours.

—Dr. Marilyn Hickey

Marilyn Hickey Ministries

Divine Encounter with the Holy Spirit will release you into deep intimacy with God. Reading the book itself provokes supernatural experiences with God. Apostle Maldonado has lived the principles and insights he writes about in its pages and, as a result, has seen as many miracles as anyone in our modern-day era. I devoured *Divine Encounter's* pages; it made me hungrier for the Holy Spirit, and it will do the same for you.

—Dr. Cindy Jacobs

Generals International

It is a blessing for me to endorse *A Divine Encounter with the Holy Spirit* and Apostle Guillermo Maldonado. This is the most crucial time in human history. Now more than ever before, we need to have a clear understanding of who the Holy Spirit is and how He works in us and through us to draw all men to Jesus Christ. I would urge you to get ahold of this book and not just read it but study it (2 Timothy 2:15). As you study, ask the Holy Spirit to give you a divine encounter with Him. May the eyes of your heart be flooded with revelatory light as you seek HIM (Ephesians 1:18)!

—Bobby Conner
Eagles View Global Ministries

One of the strongest encounters I have ever had with the Holy Spirit's visitation was in a meeting with Apostle Guillermo Maldonado. I have noticed a pattern with those who move in very powerful, supernatural demonstrations of God's glory, especially in healings and miracles, as Apostle Maldonado does. The common denominator is a strong intimacy with, and an understanding of, the Holy Spirit. Now, through his latest book, *Divine Encounter with the Holy Spirit*, you will learn from his personal moments with the Holy Spirit. You will also learn how to experience your own personal encounters that will help you touch this generation with the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit. Read the pages of this book and be prepared for a life of divine encounters with God's Spirit!

—Hank Kunneman
Lord of Hosts Church and One Voice Ministries

DIVINE ENCOUNTER

WITH THE

**HOLY
SPIRIT**

GUILLERMO MALDONADO


WHITAKER
HOUSE

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the *New King James Version*, © 1979, 1980, 1982, 1984 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*®, NIV®, © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com. The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.® Scripture quotations marked (AMP) are taken from *The Amplified® Bible*, © 2015 by The Lockman Foundation, La Habra, CA. Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org). All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the *Holy Bible, New Living Translation*, © 1996, 2004, 2007 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. Scripture quotations marked (KJV) are taken from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

Boldface type in the Scripture quotations indicates the author’s emphasis. The forms *LORD* and *GOD* (in small caps) in Bible quotations represent the Hebrew name for God *Yahweh* (Jehovah), while *Lord* and *God* normally represent the name *Adonai*, in accordance with the Bible version used.

Definitions of Hebrew and Greek words are taken from the electronic version of *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, STRONG (© 1980, 1986, and assigned to World Bible Publishers, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.), *Nueva Concordancia Strong Exhaustiva*, © 2002 by Editorial Caribe, Inc., Nashville, TN, or *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, VINE, © 1985 by Thomas Nelson, Inc., Publishers, Nashville, TN. All rights reserved.

Some word definitions are taken from *Merriam-Webster.com*, 2017, <http://www.merriam-webster.com>.

Cover Design: Juan Salgado

KJM editors: Jose Miguel Anhuaman and Gloria Zura

DIVINE ENCOUNTER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Guillermo Maldonado

14100 SW 144th Ave.

Miami, FL 33186

kingjesus.org

ISBN: 978-1-62911-898-7

eBook ISBN: 978-1-62911-899-4

Printed in the United States of America

© 2017 by Guillermo Maldonado

Whitaker House

1030 Hunt Valley Circle

New Kensington, PA 15068

www.whitakerhouse.com

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data (pending)

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical—including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system—without permission in writing from the publisher.

Please direct your inquiries to permissionseditor@whitakerhouse.com.



CONTENTS

Introduction: God's Transformative Presence on Earth.....	9
1. A Supernatural Encounter with the Holy Spirit.....	13
2. Who Is the Person of the Holy Spirit?	43
3. The Purpose and Assignment of the Spirit	63
4. Rejecting the Person and Things of the Spirit	91
5. The Demonstration of the Spirit and Power	119
6. How to Be Continuously Filled with the Holy Spirit.....	147
7. How to Be Led by the Holy Spirit.....	167
8. The River, the Waves, and the Flow of the Spirit	193
Keep Seeking Divine Encounters.....	217
About the Author.....	221



INTRODUCTION: GOD'S TRANSFORMATIVE PRESENCE ON EARTH

Throughout the millennia of human history, God has progressively revealed Himself to humanity, manifesting His love, His divine characteristics, and His personhood, but especially His tripartite essence. He always reveals Himself as the one true God who exists in three Persons: God the Father, whom no man has seen (see John 1:18); God the Son, Jesus Christ, who is the Word made flesh that lived among us on earth (see John 1:14); and God the Holy Spirit, who continually guides, comforts, and empowers believers (see, for example, John 14:16). The Father dwells in the heavenly realm; Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father, with the authority to govern the entire universe; and the Holy Spirit is active on earth, leading the church.

The Holy Spirit is the most overlooked member of the Trinity, yet His activity on earth is essential to us as believers. We ignore His work only to our great loss. We must have a renewed understanding of His divinity, His unity with the Father and the Son, and His indispensable work in our lives if we are to live in the fullness of God.

THE UNITY OF FATHER, SON, AND SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit coexists with the Father and the Son; He shares Their very essence and attributes, including omnipresence and omniscience. The Father is the Creator, or the Originator, of all that exists; the Son is the One who reveals the Father, and is also the Mediator for the human race; and the Holy Spirit is the Administrator of God's revelation and grace. The Three are equal, but They carry out different functions.

The Father bears witness of the Son (see John 5:37), the Son bears witness of the Father (see, for example, John 8:38; 14:7), and the Holy Spirit bears witness of the Son (see John 15:26). *"For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one"* (1 John 5:7). During His life on earth, Jesus spoke more of the Father than of Himself. Likewise, the Holy Spirit does not speak of Himself; He testifies of Jesus and of His finished work on the cross. The assignment of the Holy Spirit is to attest to Jesus on earth, just as the Son gives testimony of the Father who is in heaven.

Significantly, this means that when the Holy Spirit comes upon someone's life, Jesus is revealed to that person. It also means that if anyone teaches or preaches without exalting Jesus, what is spoken does not come from God, and the Holy Spirit does not support it. In order for the Holy Spirit to manifest the presence of God, Jesus must be revealed. When a preacher exalts Jesus, the Holy Spirit makes Himself present and confirms the divine origin of the message.

AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE FATHER'S GREAT WORKS

In various passages, the Bible shows us that the Holy Spirit was an active participant in all of God's great works. We see that "*in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.... And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters*" (Genesis 1:1–2 KJV). Additionally, the Spirit was fully involved in the creation of humanity when God said, "*Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness*" (Genesis 1:26; see also verse 27). He was specifically involved in the miraculous conception of Jesus, as the angel explained to Mary: "*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God*" (Luke 1:35). We also see the Holy Spirit participating in the work of salvation that Jesus completed on the cross. In Hebrews 9:13–14, we read,

For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Likewise, He was present at the resurrection of Christ; that is why Scripture says, "*But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you*" (Romans 8:11). We also see the Spirit taking a direct part in the birth of the church:

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, [Jesus' followers] 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 the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:1–4)

As God's transformative presence on earth, the Holy Spirit continues to be an active participant in His great works, especially the regeneration of believers in their spirits, souls, and bodies to become the pure bride of Christ, and their empowerment to spread the gospel of the kingdom. In the same way that Jesus ministered on earth, the Holy Spirit ministers on earth today, doing the will of the Father who sent Him. This keeps the three persons of the Trinity in complete and constant unity, because They work for the same purpose and from the same mind. Again, the Three are indivisible, and the only differences between them are the functions They fulfill and their realms of operation.

Through *Divine Encounter with the Holy Spirit*, you will come to understand many essential truths about God's Spirit and your relationship to Him. You will learn the answers to questions many believers are asking, such as: What are the characteristics of the Holy Spirit? What are the Spirit's functions, and what is their purpose? How does the Holy Spirit flow among us? How do we know that we are truly under the Spirit's leadership and guidance? How does the Holy Spirit draw us closer to the Father and Jesus? Additionally, you will discover how the survival of the church today depends on our understanding of the fundamental role of the Holy Spirit in the events of the end times—which have brought about His present outpouring—and how He moves over the face of the earth and in our lives.

I now invite you to a *divine encounter with the Holy Spirit* through which you can establish a personal, intimate, and transformative relationship with God in all His fullness—as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



A SUPERNATURAL ENCOUNTER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

According to the recorded history of the Bible, every person who was called by God had a supernatural encounter with Him. In each case, the encounter was personal and unique.

God called Abraham with an audible voice. (See, for example, Genesis 12:1–3; 17:1–22.) He appointed Jacob through a dream (see Genesis 28:10–17), and Joseph through two dreams (see Genesis 37:5–10). He commissioned Moses through a burning bush (see Exodus 4:4–6), and Isaiah through a vision of God’s throne (see Isaiah 6:1–5). He called Paul through the audible voice of Jesus, accompanied by the brilliance of His divine glory. (See Acts 9:3–19.)

Additionally, all the men and women who were called and used by God had this in common: they impacted their generations, territories, societies, governments, and nations with the kingdom of God. What triggered the impact for each was their supernatural encounter with the Lord through His Holy Spirit.

In our day, God continues to use supernatural methods to commission and empower His people to impact the world for His kingdom. As He did for those we read about in the Bible, He gives each of us our own experience and calls us in a personal and distinct way. He may use angelic visions, dreams, and even dramatic experiences with heaven or hell, to prepare us to endure adversity, persecution, rejection, and betrayal in relation to our calling. In the midst of all these trials, the supernatural encounter gives us the strength to persevere while filling us with holy awe.

In my case, He spoke out loud to me and gave me this specific assignment: “I have called you to bring My supernatural power to this generation.” Since then, I have turned all my efforts in that direction. The power and presence of God do not work randomly, but always with a clear purpose. He wants to demonstrate His supernatural power through us, and in order for that to happen, He gives us an encounter with the Holy Spirit according to the unique purposes He has for us.

Everyone must humbly accept the way in which God calls them, in order to complete His commission for them on the earth.

CHANGE, EMPOWERMENT, AND IMPACT

Every supernatural encounter with God includes change, empowerment, and impact. It involves a manifestation, whether visible or invisible,

in which God introduces Himself to us in such a way that our heart is radically transformed, and we are empowered to impact our generation. The revelation that God gives is not for the purpose of making us more intelligent or admired, but to enable us to encounter Him daily, as Adam and Eve did in the garden of Eden (see Genesis 3:8), and receive fresh anointings. He wants us to have continual, intimate encounters with Him—not something sporadic or infrequent—in which we are face-to-face with the presence of God through His Spirit.

**Man was created to live in the
presence of God and to carry it
wherever he goes.**

In the pages of the New Testament, we meet Saul of Tarsus (later called Paul)—a very educated man who is believed to have had one of the most developed minds of his time, who could quote the Torah from beginning to end, and who knew the tradition of Israel well and was zealous for the Law. Yet we find that none of his accomplishments changed his heart or transformed his life, because he had not yet received the revelation of who Jesus was. This demonstrates how a person can have the truth about God in their mind but not in their heart. If you have not experienced significant personal transformation, it is because the Word of God has not been fully revealed to you—or you have not accepted it. You may be someone who studies much about God but does not really *know* Him; you read about His kingdom, but you do not live in it.

Paul's calling shows us the path to change, empowerment, and impact. He was a religious zealot and a legalist before meeting Jesus. He even believed that imprisoning Christians honored God! (See Acts 8:3.) However, when he had an encounter with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit, his repentance and transformation were such that he

became the greatest apostle in history, impacting much of the known world in his time and writing thirteen books of the New Testament.

This is how Paul found himself face-to-face with Jesus the Messiah:

Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." (Acts 9:1–6)

From the moment Paul had that encounter with Jesus, he changed completely. His transformation was multidimensional, affecting all areas of his life: his way of thinking, feeling, and living. It was a radical change!

For some, having an encounter with God results in immediate, drastic change; for others, the change is progressive. Likewise, some people may instantly understand the revelation they have received in an encounter with God; they appropriate it and carry out His call or instruction, as Paul later did when he was warned by God in a vision to leave Jerusalem. (See Acts 22:17–18.) Others may take time to realize the presence of God and His revelation, similar to what Jacob expressed in Genesis 28:16: *"Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it."*

TYPES OF ENCOUNTERS WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Before the coming of Jesus, encounters with God were reserved mainly for those who had a key role in upbuilding God's people Israel

and participating in His unfolding plan of salvation for humanity, paving the way for the Messiah. However, after Christ was resurrected and seated at the right hand of the Father, He sent the Holy Spirit to remain with *all* believers and to continue His ministry on earth. We can now have supernatural encounters with the Spirit of God, not as an isolated event, but as a lifestyle.

Based on the way they originate, we can identify two general types of supernatural encounters:

1. Those given by God in His sovereignty.
2. Those sought by God's children who are hungry and thirsty for Him.

ENCOUNTERS GIVEN BY GOD IN HIS SOVEREIGNTY

Many Christians in the Western world may feel that having an encounter with the living God is either optional or "available upon request." Their attitudes are seriously flawed, but at least they know that an encounter is possible. And God may still choose to reveal Himself sovereignly to His people even if they aren't seeking Him. But what about those who don't know God, living in nations where Christianity is not well-known, widely practiced, or legal? How can people in these countries seek encounters with God through the Holy Spirit if they have never even heard of Him and don't know how to reach out to Him? This is a special type of situation where the Lord will sovereignly grant people divine encounters.

The following are several testimonies that were related to me by people who attended a Supernatural Encounter conference that I held in India. None of them had experienced God until the Lord miraculously revealed Himself to them in a divine encounter.

Ryan is a young Hindu man who had never seen or read a Bible until he had a vision one night. He explained that during this vision, "I sat at the feet of Jesus, and He read Psalm 91, saying, 'This is My word to you.' The next day, my father and I read that chapter of the Bible together.

My father was very happy that his son had heard the voice of God and learned a part of the Scriptures, but I said to him, 'Papa, I have never read or opened the Bible before; Jesus appeared to me in a vision.' How can I relate what happened to me? I can only describe it as His glory. I did not know who the Holy Spirit was. I could not see the face of the Person who spoke to me; all I saw was light. His clothes were bright light and His feet, too, but I knew it was Jesus."

A Hindu woman from Dubai testified that when she was twenty-eight years old, she'd had a similar experience even though she was not Christian: "As I slept, a bright light entered my room, and when I awoke I saw Jesus standing in front of me. My room was filled with white light, and He was wearing a white robe and had His arms wide open. I could see that His hands had nail holes, and when I looked at His feet, I saw blood. All He said was, 'Come to Me, I am waiting for you.' At that time, I was Hindu; but just a while ago, while we were praying and I had my hands up, I felt as if someone was holding my hands, and I again saw that bright, white light. I saw Jesus before me while we were praying!"

Another striking testimony is that of Matthew, a Hindu businessman, who had faced serious financial problems and come close to committing suicide by driving his car off a cliff, not having acknowledged Jesus as his Lord and Savior. Sometimes, something supernatural happens only when a person reaches a point where they can no longer continue the way they have been. Then the Holy Spirit leads them to know the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. This was what Matthew testified:

"When I was thirty years old, I was driving one day, overwhelmed by large debts I could not pay, when my car was filled with something I could not explain. I believe it was the glory of God. I could see Jesus sitting beside me, looking at me. I do not have words to describe it. It was so real that I felt I could touch Him, and I heard Him clearly say, 'Do you not believe in Me? I am the One who freed the people of Israel, and for forty years I sustained them without their lacking anything. My son, you are only one person; how can I not take care of you too?'

"I felt like I would have a heart attack from all the raw emotions I felt, so I stopped my car by the side of the road, and I went out and sat on the ground. I did not know what was happening. Then I got back in my car and made a U-turn, leaving behind the cliff I had been about to throw myself from, and I said to Him, 'Jesus, I want to remember this place always.' I was still in the midst of a financial struggle, but now I knew that God was in control of my life. A week later, a man I did not know knocked on my door and handed me paperwork; it was the title to my house! He simply said it was a gift to me, and then he left. From that moment, my life turned around. Now I am an apostle of Jesus Christ. I pastor a church of more than seventy-five thousand people, and God continues to manifest in my life."

ENCOUNTERS SOUGHT BY GOD'S CHILDREN WHO ARE HUNGRY AND THIRSTY FOR HIM

The second type of supernatural encounter is one directly sought by God's people. While many divine encounters reported in the Bible were unexpected, like Paul's on the road to Damascus, others were diligently pursued, as in the case of the woman suffering from the flow of blood. (See, for example, Luke 8:43–48.) In fact, Jesus Himself sought an encounter with God the Father when He went to the Jordan to be baptized by John. (See, for example, Matthew 3:13–17.)

I want to reaffirm that there is no limit to the number of times one can have a supernatural encounter with the Holy Spirit, nor to who can have them. However, as we will further see, our experience with Him will depend on the degree of spiritual hunger and thirst we have. Encounters are a promise to all believers, and are available twenty-four hours a day. If they are not sovereignly given by God, we can seek them, because they are promised in the Scriptures.

Some years ago, while in a hotel in Colombia, I was preparing for a great crusade when I had an encounter with God as Father. As I prayed, I suddenly heard footsteps, as if someone had entered my room. Then I heard the voice of God say to me, "You know Me as Savior, but you do not

know Me as your Father.” At that moment, I began to cry uncontrollably. I had been in the ministry for several years, but I still held on to many fears and feelings of rejection; I constantly dealt with insecurities, both ministerial and personal. But that supernatural encounter with God as my Father changed my life completely. He told me, “From your loins will come children who will impact the world with My supernatural power.” And so it has been and continues to be fulfilled in my life.

By His grace, I have raised up thousands of spiritual sons and daughters throughout the world. Today, they are successful people who impact the world in more than forty countries, bringing transformation to the nations, governments, and societies where they live. They lead powerful churches and ministries of all sizes, with miracles, signs, and wonders. All of this is due to my receiving the fatherhood of God in that encounter. Tens of thousands of lives have been transformed because I received the Spirit of adoption by which I call God “*Abba, Father*” (Romans 8:15). He erased all my insecurities and led me to believe in men and women who needed to accept the same fatherhood to fulfill the Lord’s purpose in their own lives. All of this has led me to live with a constant desire to know God more and to receive more from Him to minister to others—and supernatural encounters with His Holy Spirit are the key to receiving what I need.

THE PROGRESSION OF A SUPERNATURAL ENCOUNTER

While there are many aspects to a supernatural encounter with God, we can summarize the process as having three fundamental stages:

1. AN IMPACT BRINGING PERMANENT CHANGE AND EMPOWERMENT

When someone has a genuine personal encounter with Jesus Christ as their Savior, their heart is impacted by God’s love and grace, and the certainty of knowing they need to be forgiven and rescued by Him. But

after salvation, they need impactful encounters with the Holy Spirit that bring empowerment for transformation and service. If their encounter with Jesus as Savior is not followed by regular encounters with the Holy Spirit, they run the risk of losing the fruit of the salvation encounter—and that fruit is permanent change.

Yet how many Christians are under the impression that having a single encounter with Christ as their Savior is enough? Some believers simply think there is nothing more to look for, but there are others who harden their hearts and are satisfied with only the initial encounter of salvation. The truth is that God wants to reveal Himself to us in a continuous way as the Almighty One—as our Father, Provider, Miracle Worker, Healer, Protector, Defender, Deliverer, and Supplier of everything we need!

2. A PROFOUND DESIRE FOR MORE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

An encounter with the Holy Spirit also provides the very thing that most believers are missing in their lives—a deep desire for the continual presence of God. That is why those who have a divine encounter suddenly feel an insatiable longing for more of God, and they begin to seek and pursue Him. They do not want to live outside of His presence—nor return to the world, to loneliness, or to sin and evil. This permanent desire for more of God opens the doors for the Holy Spirit to further work within them and through them.

**A desire for more of God
guarantees divine supernatural
activity. Wherever there is a lack
of hunger for God, the Lord has
nothing to work with.**

3. A LEVEL OF IMPACT DETERMINED BY THE LEVEL OF HEART TRANSFORMATION

When someone enters a new level of relationship with the Lord through a divine encounter, the power of the Spirit begins to operate in them. I mentioned earlier that this produces either instantaneous or gradual changes—and this depends on the degree to which people allow the encounter to influence them. In other words, the encounter with the Holy Spirit leads them to experience a transformation that is as drastic or dramatic as the encounter itself and the hunger for God it has impelled in them.

It is true that any encounter with God may produce a greater or lesser impact in someone's life because we are all different, and He treats us all in a special way. However, the point I want to emphasize here is that we can hinder the power or immediacy of the impact by resisting God's work or by holding on to self-centered ambition or selfish motivations. The Bible shows us that out of the twelve disciples of Jesus, all continued to follow His steps—except one. Judas was disappointed because his encounter with Jesus did not turn out the way he had expected; he may have anticipated Jesus ruling over a political kingdom rather than a spiritual one. Besides that, he was controlled by greed. In the end, he sold Jesus to be killed because he did not accept the reality that an encounter with the Son of God must always be radically life-changing. That is why Jesus said to His disciples, *"Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?"* (John 6:70).

The level of change will always be proportional to the impact of the supernatural encounter.

People might experience a low level of impact in their lives following a divine encounter because they have only been “touched” but not truly changed. We must always keep alert to this possibility and guard against it. Let us return to the case of Judas as an example. He had an initial encounter with Jesus and then walked with Him for three and a half years as His disciple. He saw Jesus perform miracles and signs, including the resurrection of the dead and the supernatural multiplication of food to feed the multitudes. He heard all of Jesus’ teachings and was a recipient of the love of the Father, which Jesus imparted to all equally. Judas could even say that he had been used by Christ to give sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf, and to cast out demons. Jesus had treated him just as He had all His other disciples. But although Judas had been exposed to the presence and power of God, he never permitted these encounters to produce real transformation in his heart. *Judas was touched, but not changed.*

Centuries earlier, when the people of Israel were delivered from Egypt, Pharaoh was touched by the Lord’s demonstrations of power. As a result, when he saw the plague of locusts consuming the land’s harvests, *“Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste, and said, ‘I have sinned against the LORD your God and against you. Now therefore, please forgive my sin only this once, and entreat the LORD your God, that He may take away from me this death only’”* (Exodus 10:16–17). Pharaoh was touched but not transformed, because as soon as he was free from the plague, his heart became hardened again, refusing to do God’s will. He saw every one of the plagues strike the land, and he even saw his firstborn die, yet he still went out to persecute the people he had just liberated. That is why he ended up losing his entire army at the bottom of the Red Sea.

The people of Israel who were delivered from Pharaoh had a similar heart issue. They were touched by God with the signs and wonders He did. However, during their forty years in the desert, they constantly complained, rebelled, and turned away from the Lord. This proves that real change never took place within them. That is why the law of Moses was written on stone tablets—as a way to symbolize the hardness of the Israelites’ hearts.

By contrast, when the prophet Isaiah saw the glory of God, he was so impacted that he was immediately overcome with conviction:

So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged." (Isaiah 6:5–7)

Isaiah felt the full impact of that divine encounter and opened his heart to it. He immediately recognized his condition as a sinner; and, nearly seven hundred years before Jesus' coming, his sins were forgiven. His transformation was such that he became the voice of God for his time and for generations to come.

Is it possible that someone in our day might allow themselves to be only touched by God but not changed? Although it seems incredible, we see many people like Judas and Pharaoh in today's church. Despite being touched by the Holy Spirit, they harden their hearts and don't allow Him to transform them within. When someone has a true encounter with the Holy Spirit, it sparks within them a burning desire and a strong passion to seek and receive more of God. It continually impacts their life. Today, God wants you to have genuine encounters with His Spirit that will transform your life!

The aspects of our lives where we resist change are those in which God is not wanted; the Spirit cannot flow there or give life to us in those areas.

GOD'S PURPOSES FOR SUPERNATURAL ENCOUNTERS

Now that we know how much God wants to give us supernatural encounters with His Holy Spirit, let's take a deeper look at His specific purposes for these encounters. Everything that God does has a purpose. Nothing in Him is random, including supernatural encounters and the impartation of His power. Encounters with the Spirit of God are given for the following reasons.

1. TO CAUSE US TO LOSE AWARENESS OF OURSELVES SO GOD CAN BECOME OUR COMPLETE REALITY

We have seen that the level of impact that an encounter has on an individual depends on the degree to which that person is willing to yield before the Holy Spirit. That means it is determined by how much they surrender to God's will, how much they give up their self-serving desires and thoughts, how much they are controlled by the Spirit rather than by the fleshly nature, and how much they rely fully on the Lord. To do these things, they must release their self-consciousness, or awareness of themselves (both of their strengths and their weaknesses).

The proof of a supernatural encounter with the Holy Spirit is that we have taken the focus off ourselves and gained a greater desire for the presence of God.

Adam wasn't aware of his nakedness until he took his eyes off God. When he and his wife, Eve, sinned, *"the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked"* (Genesis 3:7 NIV). In a related way, many people are so self-conscious and self-centered that they have

completely lost their awareness of God. Human nature always wants to be in control of everything, but we must trust the Spirit of God and submit wholly to Him. We can do this when we take the focus off ourselves. Giving control to the Spirit is the only way to become fully aware of God and His Holy Spirit.

2. TO CHANGE AND TRANSFORM OUR HEART

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18 NIV)

As we saw from the examples of Isaiah and the apostle Paul, when someone has a genuine supernatural encounter, it causes such an impact that it transforms the person's heart and life. People who have been changed in this way are empowered to impact the society in which they live. Additionally, it is impossible for someone who has had an encounter with the Spirit of God to be content with going back to their old way of living—to a lifestyle of sin; to being separated from the Father; to abusing drugs or alcohol; to being involved in sexual immorality; to living in depression, poverty, or illness; to being bound by curses, hatred, or envy; or to participating in any other destructive practices they had left behind.

It is true there are people who, following an encounter with God, return to mere religion, tradition, or dead churches where the Holy Spirit is rejected. Even after experiencing the supernatural, they return to the natural. This means they were touched, but not changed, by the encounter, as expressed earlier.

When you have a divine encounter with the Holy Spirit, you experience a spiritual reality that you had not known before. Once you know that reality, you are responsible for living in it, because it is the atmosphere of true life. If you go back to the world, you run serious risks; your physical life is even in danger. If you return to tradition, religion, or the old environment from which you were set free, it can cost you your

family and even your salvation. I know many people who have gone back who are now divorced, sick, poor, depressed, discouraged, and empty of the life of God. When we turn away from the Holy Spirit's work in our lives, we will stop progressing, stagnate, and live outside of our true identity and purpose. For me, that is not life!

If you continue to struggle with sin or oppression without being able to overcome it, you urgently need to have an encounter with the Holy Spirit. Cry out to God for a *transformational* encounter. In a divine encounter, we receive a freedom that we cannot find outside of Him. His presence brings us revelation of the throne of God and of the abundant life that only He can give us. In fact, it is impossible to live in God's presence without changing spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically.

A person who is transformed by the Holy Spirit is imparted with eternal life, in the presence of God.

The important thing is that we remain in a state of continuous change, through frequent supernatural encounters. Being continuously transformed by the Spirit is tied to our integrity to live according to the spiritual realities that we believe in, experience, and proclaim. This point is especially crucial for ministers. Ministers are called to guide believers, and they should preach God's Word continually; however, they should also *experience* these messages *before* they preach them. They cannot talk about the Holy Spirit without first knowing Him themselves, or they will fail to lead anyone else to know Him.

Why is this? Because it is God's will for us to impart His life, His holiness, and His kingdom to others in order to change lives. In the kingdom of God, spiritual truth is not merely taught to people; it is *imparted*

to them as they receive the revelation and experience the spiritual reality. God knows that if we preach without having experienced the supernatural power that moves us to change, the forces of darkness will accuse us of preaching about an area in which we have not been transformed. And God, as the righteous Judge, will not be able to keep us from the consequences, because we will be operating outside of His grace.

All preachers must therefore have a genuine transformation before they go into the pulpit to teach others about how to live according to the Word of God. If I have not been impacted or transformed before I preach a truth, I have no authority to teach it, because it is not a reality for me. That word will not contain the life of the Holy Spirit that can be revealed in people because, again, the Spirit works only within a realm of integrity. Operating outside the life of the Spirit leads us to live according to religion rather than according to God's transforming truth. Thus, when God gives us a revelation, we must allow His Spirit to work a change in our heart in relation to it. Then He will manifest Himself to our listeners, transforming and empowering them, as we proclaim that revelation.

After an encounter with the Holy Spirit, the supernatural becomes a lifestyle.

3. TO CAUSE JESUS TO BECOME REAL IN US

Additionally, an encounter with the Holy Spirit makes Jesus real in our lives. In fact, this is mandatory and essential for every believer—and especially every minister of God. Christ must be more real to us than the people we minister to. If God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit had not been more real to me than the people I have preached to, I would have thrown in the towel a while ago! Many have betrayed me, spoken ill

of me, and rejected me, but because God is more real to me than they are, I have been enabled to continue to obey my calling.

In the times in which we live, with the circumstances and challenges we face every day, we have to be sure that the risen Christ is more real to us than everyone and everything else. He is more real than illness, oppression, depression, financial lack, marital problems, and the ungratefulness and betrayals of others. Christ is eternally real!

Which is more real to you? Your problem, your sin, your fear, your sickness—or the Son of God? Is Jesus more real to you than people's criticism and persecution?

**Without the Holy Spirit,
we will surrender to difficult
circumstances.**

When Moses had an encounter with the fire of God (see Exodus 3), the Lord became more real to him than Egypt's Pharaoh or his advisors, more real to him than Egypt's sorcerers, and more real to him than the length and depth of the waters of the Red Sea (see Exodus 14). Moses needed that supernatural encounter so he would know that God was greater than all the circumstances and persecutions he would face. The supernatural nature of the demonic is based on lies and deception—it is false and counterfeit. But the supernatural realm of God is based on the truth—it is both *true* and *real*.

At present, the transforming power of the Holy Spirit is no longer recognized in many churches because the truth about Him is not being preached, but the Holy Spirit wants to become real in our lives and to make Jesus real to us. Jesus is "*the way, the truth, and the life*" (John 14:6). As a believer, you have the nature of God within you, but let me ask you

again: How real is that nature to you? How real is Jesus and His finished work on the cross to you?

The Holy Spirit is “*the Spirit of truth*” (John 14:17). When we have an encounter with the Holy Spirit, He brings the reality of Eden back into our lives. In this reality, we know who created us and where we belong, and we understand the power that is at our disposal. The Spirit reveals to us that the Word of God is true; that Jesus Christ and His atoning blood are real; that the Father, His anointing, and His presence are real. We also understand that the devil, sin, and the flesh are real—but can and must be conquered in Christ.

Any area of our lives not under the influence of the Holy Spirit will be under the control of our flesh, the system of this world, and the devil. In this situation, the flesh, the world, and the devil become more real to us than the Holy Spirit. When our inner reality is ungodliness, fear, or a religious mind-set, that is what will be reflected externally. We will lack peace and power. In Paul’s letter to Timothy, we read about people “*having a form of godliness but denying its power*” (2 Timothy 3:5). After we have a true encounter with the Holy Spirit, we will not merely have a “form” of godliness. Jesus will become real in us, the reality of heaven will come back to life for us, and God’s kingdom will be manifested outwardly through us.

**The spiritual reality within us
will manifest as our natural,
external reality.**

4. TO EMPOWER AND COMMISSION US TO DEMONSTRATE THE SUPERNATURAL

At His baptism, Jesus received both the Father’s commission and His empowerment to fulfill His ministry on earth. Likewise, when we

have a divine encounter with the Holy Spirit, we are commissioned to go and demonstrate the supernatural power of God in the realm of our purpose and calling. God speaks to us personally and gives us a specific assignment; this assignment is confirmed through someone who is in spiritual authority over us, and who is under spiritual authority themselves—such as an apostle, prophet, pastor, or other leader. This is what gives us the legal right to use the power we have received in that encounter.

**In a supernatural encounter,
we are empowered and activated;
and when we are commissioned,
we are also delegated authority.**

Our spiritual authority comes from Jesus. When the Son of God rose from the dead, He defeated death and Satan, and He received all authority from the Father: “*And Jesus came and spoke to [His disciples], saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth’*” (Matthew 28:18). It is Jesus’ authority that has been delegated to us. We are authorized to demonstrate the power of God and the finished work of Christ on the cross. After experiencing divine encounters with the Holy Spirit, we can overcome Satan; heal the sick; deliver the oppressed; perform miracles, signs, and wonders; and participate in many other ways to carry out God’s purposes in the world. We have authority to do great works—the works that Christ did, and even more (see John 14:12)—so that the “impossible” begins to be possible (see, for example, Mark 9:23). In this hour, I declare upon you a supernatural encounter with the Holy Spirit, and in the name of Jesus, I activate and empower you to do miracles, signs, and wonders.

Ever since the victory of Jesus on the cross, being empowered, activated, and commissioned is a gift for every believer.

5. TO ENABLE US TO BECOME CARRIERS OF THE SUPERNATURAL

A further purpose of divine encounters is to allow us to become carriers of the supernatural. A supernatural carrier is a person who bears the spiritual legacy of a generation in order to transfer it to others. It is someone who brings with them the power and presence of God, transforming atmospheres and quickening environments with God's glory wherever they go, and manifesting miracles, signs, and wonders. When Moses had his encounter with the fire of God, he became the bearer of that fire; as a result, he was filled with the divinely-given passion to free God's people, and he worked miracles in Egypt and in the wilderness, where the glory of God, as a pillar of fire, led the Israelites continuously. (See Exodus 7–15.)

Likewise, when you have a divine encounter, you are authorized to demonstrate the power of God wherever you set foot. Are you ready to do it? If you are, your main commission is the one that Jesus gave His followers: *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature"* (Mark 16:15).

The apostle Peter was a fisherman with no formal education, but after his encounter with the Holy Spirit at the Feast of Pentecost, his transformation was so great that he became a carrier of the supernatural power of God. In fact, he carried the power of God to such an extent that people *"brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them"*

(Acts 5:15). In and of itself, a shadow has no power; this is why we know it was the Holy Spirit, flowing from inside of Peter, who healed the sick. Similarly, Paul went from being a cruel persecutor of Christians to being a compassionate servant of Christ, and Scripture says that even cloths and aprons he had used were a means by which the sick were healed and evil spirits were cast out of people. (See Acts 19:11–12.) I am sure that if God could raise up an uneducated fisherman like Peter and a religious fanatic like Paul to confirm His Word through signs and wonders, He can also lift you up to become a carrier of His supernatural power.

The types of miraculous works recorded in the Bible continue to happen in our day among those who are carriers of the supernatural, because the power of God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. (See Hebrews 13:8.) This reality is clearly evidenced by the testimony of Pastor Maximiliano Leiva from the Centro Cristiano Internacional (International Christian Center) in the city of Formosa, Argentina. Pastor Leiva told me of a powerful creative miracle that occurred after he attended one of our leadership conferences at King Jesus International Ministry in Miami. This is his testimony:

“One day, you preached about how the supernatural power of God can work miracles of healing and deliverance in the now, and at the end of the service you passed out cloths anointed with oil to be given to the sick so they could receive the healing power of God. I brought several of these cloths back to Argentina and distributed them to the leaders of my church, one of whom knew a man who had been suffering from leprosy for fifteen years. The man’s flesh had deteriorated to such a degree that he looked like a living corpse. His whole body had a gray appearance; his skin was dry, with scales, sores, and scabs, and his flesh was slipping off of him. Everyone knew the man was about to die. But this church leader gave him the cloth and told him of the great power, love, and mercy of God for His children.

“The leprous man, repentant and broken, took the cloth and, with great faith, prayed to God for his healing. The next day, he was greatly surprised to find his body healthy—completely clear of leprosy. In less

than twenty-four hours, God had healed him and given him new skin! Now made whole, and full of joy and gratitude, he went to the church to testify and give thanks to God. All were amazed at such a miracle.”

Can a piece of cloth anointed with oil heal someone? No! But the supernatural power of God contained within it can do that—and much more. Truly, nothing is impossible for the Lord!

What does God need in order to release such miracles? Only an available vessel—because every believer can be a carrier of His supernatural power.

6. TO AUTHORIZE US TO BE CUSTODIANS OF THE SUPERNATURAL

Divine encounters also enable us to be custodians of the supernatural. A custodian of the supernatural is someone who holds the keys to the kingdom (see Matthew 16:19); someone who carries the revelation of God, the mysteries of Jesus Christ and of the church. Paul was one such custodian, and he had to face great adversities. (See 2 Corinthians 12:7–10.) If you are a custodian of the supernatural, the spiritual warfare you will engage in will be neither common nor easy. The enemy will always want to bring down and even kill those who carry the revelation and the power from God that can deliver entire peoples, countries, and continents. To be a custodian of the truth, the mysteries, and the supernatural power of God, an encounter with the Holy Spirit is required to activate, empower, and commission us to fulfill this assignment and to enable us to rise above all weaknesses, anxieties, needs, and persecutions.

SEEK GOD’S SUPERNATURAL ENCOUNTERS

Beloved reader, I encourage you to seek God today, to be hungry and thirsty to “go after” supernatural encounters with His Holy Spirit. I believe that to know Christ as Savior is the most beautiful experience that we can have as children of God. And along with our salvation encounter, God wants to give us many more supernatural encounters

with His Holy Spirit, in order to empower us, transform us, and lead us to impact nations. As you seek Him, be prepared to have encounters that reflect the various ways the Spirit wants to manifest Himself to you. The Spirit chooses you, but you must make room for Him to invade your life according to His will and purposes.

To receive the Holy Spirit's empowerment and transformation, we must especially keep in mind two things: the need for His anointing, and the need for our surrender to Him.

THE REQUIREMENT OF ANOINTING

We cannot do anything without God's anointing. Remember that Jesus Himself did not enter into His ministry until He was baptized with the Holy Spirit and power. For the first thirty years of His life, Jesus dedicated Himself to the trade of carpentry. It is believed that Joseph, His human father, died when Jesus was a teenager and that He took over the family business at that time. Then, at the age of thirty, He went to the Jordan to be baptized. There He had an encounter with the Holy Spirit where God the Father acknowledged Him publicly, confirmed His calling, anointed Him, and sent Him into ministry full-time.

At the Jordan, John the Baptist testified about Jesus, saying,

I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

(John 1:32–34)

The power of the Holy Spirit that we receive is the same power that operated in the life of the Messiah; when Jesus ascended to heaven, the Father sent His Spirit to empower the church, enabling believers to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom with accompanying signs and wonders. Today, many people leap into ministry without having experienced a transformational divine encounter. They do not know the Holy Spirit

and His revelation! They may have some intellectual knowledge of Him, but they lack the power of God in their lives. There are churches today where the leaders are discouraged, but instead of following the principles in this chapter, they try to conduct their ministries in their own strength. That's suicide! True ministry cannot be developed or carried out through our natural abilities. We need the power of God, which comes only through an encounter with the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit does not turn into a different person when He comes to live within us. He has the same potential and presence that He had when He dwelled in Jesus Christ while the Son of God lived on earth. In fact, He is always ready to demonstrate His works and to move in and through us to heal the sick, to cast out demons, and to do other great works. Today, as a child of God, you are a candidate to be used by Him in supernatural power! However, your traditional knowledge and methods must yield to His power and anointing.

Moses had been trained and educated in Pharaoh's court, in all the sciences and wisdom of the Egyptians. (See Acts 7:22.) The Egyptian culture, one of the oldest known today, was very prominent and advanced for its time. Yet it wasn't cultural sophistication or knowledge of the Egyptian war arts that led Moses to become the liberator of Israel; rather, it was the experience he had with the burning bush—the manifestation of the Spirit of God on the summit of Mount Sinai. Moses had left Egypt decades earlier as a murderer, but after his supernatural encounter with the fire of God, he returned to the court of Pharaoh with powerful signs to bend the hard heart of the Egyptian ruler.

Moses risked his life going before the presence of Pharaoh, but he did so because he had returned from the desert empowered and emboldened; what had changed him was the knowledge that he was a representative of the Lord of Hosts. Today, God wants to make you a liberator for your family, your neighborhood, your city, and your nation as His representative. Only an encounter with the Holy Spirit can anoint you to succeed in this. If you will allow God to impact your life, He will take

you beyond the traditional methods of ministry you are familiar with; He will enable you to manifest His supernatural power in the natural world and to take dominion over creation with miracles that demonstrate His love and power.

THE REQUIREMENT OF SURRENDER

As we seek divine encounters with the Holy Spirit, we must always remember that surrender is a prerequisite of the anointing, and that Jesus is our model in this. Because Jesus came to earth as a man, to live and die as a representative of the human race on our behalf, it was not legal in a spiritual sense for Him to use His divine glory and majesty among us. He was both fully God and fully man, but at His baptism, He surrendered His life to God the Father and died to Himself. The Jordan was the place where Jesus yielded His right to use the powers of almighty God, and rose up to teach and minister only as a man, in the power of the Holy Spirit. He stripped Himself of His heavenly splendor, of all His divine authority (though not His divine nature); He emptied Himself and started life on earth from scratch as a human being, giving Himself fully to the Holy Spirit.

Likewise, the apostles died to themselves and yielded to the Holy Spirit before being baptized with His power. They established surrender and anointing as their model of action for ministry. (See, for example, Acts 1:12–14; 2:1–4; 4:24–31; 16:25–26.) In the same way, for us to have encounters with the Spirit of God, we must die to self, surrendering to the one true God. Again, Jesus Christ became man to show us the way to the Father. And that way was to die to Himself and be filled with the Spirit, just like any other man or woman needs to do and be. He completed His assignment on earth in the same way and with the same power that any of us can do today. He had to depend fully on the Holy Spirit so that the Father could be revealed through Him, and so that He could remain obedient to God. Only in the power of the Spirit could He overcome the severe temptations and fierce attacks of the enemy, and release the power of God in His generation.

Before Jesus' encounter at His baptism, I don't believe He had ever been tempted or confronted by the devil. But once He had that first encounter with the Spirit of God, He received the power He needed to face and defeat the enemy. Therefore, I believe that until we, too, have a genuine encounter with the Spirit of God, we are not ready to overcome temptation or the flesh, or to engage in spiritual warfare. After we have an encounter with the Spirit, the first thing the enemy does is tempt us, in order to try to steal the fruit of that encounter. We cannot fight such battles in our own strength; it takes the Holy Spirit's help to defeat the enemy and his infernal hosts or to resist the fleshly nature.

If Jesus, being holy and without sin, needed to have an encounter with the Holy Spirit, how much more do we? Thus, wherever God sends us, we have to go, but only after we have surrendered ourselves to the Father, encountered the Holy Spirit, and been empowered by Him.

Jesus' encounter with the Holy Spirit at His baptism empowered Him to carry out His assignment on the earth.

ALLOW THE SPIRIT FREEDOM TO MOVE IN YOUR LIFE

As we have seen, many people in the church have been content merely to be born again and to have the Holy Spirit live inside them; they have failed to seek His power through a supernatural encounter in which they are empowered to do the works of Jesus Christ on earth. If you are a leader in the church, do not pretend to run a supernatural ministry using your natural abilities! That is not the principle that Jesus Christ entrusted to us.

We can have the same relationship that Jesus had with the Spirit of God. However, we cannot reduce this relationship to simple emotion; nor can we confine the Spirit of God within our own ideas or particular denominations. He is too big for that. Let us give Him the freedom to move in us and through us. The Holy Spirit is the steward of the affairs of the kingdom of God on earth; without His presence and power, we cannot represent God in the world.

We must be convinced that God wants us to have an encounter with the person of the Holy Spirit—right now. I urge all believers, as members of the body of Christ, to prepare to experience supernatural encounters—as did Jesus, Paul, and the rest of Christ’s apostles. Go to the “Jordan,” that place of submission, surrender, and death to self; give up everything, and receive the Holy Spirit and His power.

There is no other option! We need an encounter with the Father to affirm our identity as His children, an encounter with the Son to appropriate the finished work of the cross, and an encounter with the Holy Spirit to be empowered to do the work that has been assigned to us. Today, let us welcome the Spirit who clothes us in power. (See Luke 24:49 NIV.) He is now coming forth, stirring His supernatural power within you so that you can do the works that Jesus did. After having an encounter with the Holy Spirit and walking under His power and authority, your expectation must be that the sick will be healed, that demons will flee when you rebuke them, and that signs and wonders will be manifested to demonstrate the Father’s majesty, love, and mercy!

ACTIVATION

If you have never before received Jesus as your Savior, pray with me now:

Heavenly Father, I acknowledge that I am a sinner, and that my sin separates me from You. Today I believe with my heart and confess with my mouth that Jesus is the Son of God, that He died for me on the cross, and that You raised Him from the

dead. I repent of all my sins and ask that You forgive me. Jesus, I renounce every covenant with the world, with the flesh, and with the devil, and make a new covenant with You, to love and serve You every day of my life. Enter into my heart and change my life; and if I die today, when I open my eyes I know I'll be in Your arms. Amen!

If you have never before been baptized with the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking in other tongues, raise your hands to God. Let His Spirit begin to fill you; open your mouth and utter the first sounds that come to you. I declare that you are baptized in the Holy Spirit, right now; be immersed in the waters of the Spirit, starting from the bottom of your feet, until you are completely submerged. Begin to swim in those waters. Jesus promised us, *"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"* (Luke 11:13).

Now, ask Jesus for an encounter with the Holy Spirit and be filled with His fire.

Dear Jesus, thank You for letting me know You as my personal Lord and Savior, and for baptizing me with Your Holy Spirit. As I read the rest of this book, I ask You to reveal to me the person of the Holy Spirit and give me a supernatural encounter with Him. I want to be empowered and activated in the supernatural to be Your witness here on earth.

Holy Spirit, I surrender my will, my heart, my mind, and my emotions to You so that You may fill all of my being. I renounce the works of the flesh; I renounce the sinful nature. Change me and transform my heart. Break the patterns and cycles of bad habits in my life that prevent me from having an encounter with You. Purify the motivations and intentions of my heart, and establish Your holiness in me. I die to myself, crucifying my flesh, so that You will become more real to me than anything else. I cry out to You, Spirit of God, so that You may make Jesus

Christ real in me; so that You may make the Father real in me; so that you may make the Word of God real in me. I ask You to move in and through me, just as You moved over the face of the waters in the beginning when the world was created.

Holy Spirit, make me a carrier of the power and glory of the Father; make me a custodian of the supernatural, to perform miracles, signs, and wonders in Jesus' name wherever I go, and to make Christ real in people's lives. Reveal Yourself in my life and empower me to fulfill my assignment on earth. I welcome You and I recognize Your presence. Fill me, Holy Spirit!

As I write this, I feel the presence of the Spirit of God. I declare that the words in this book are fulfilled over the life of each reader. Holy Spirit, I ask that every person who reads this book will have a supernatural encounter with You. Amen!