



# THE CHALLENGER

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PROCLAIMING THE WORD TO THE WORLD

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## *The Holy Spirit – Part I*

BY THE EDITOR

**I**N these days we are in desperate need of a revelation of a more comprehensive knowledge of the Person and work of the Holy Spirit. Misconception and ignorance of this provision are responsible for weakness in our Christian life and labor for the One Who died for us. To recognize His Person and Power is to be enriched with His work on the inside and through us with more glory given to our Lord Jesus Christ.

A great deal of error is being taught in our day. Many seem to conclude that the Holy Spirit made His appearance on the Day of Pentecost, when there is more mention of the Spirit in the Old Testament than in the New. Some think the Christians received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, when the Bible clearly declares the disciples were given the Spirit within them earlier. “And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, receive you the Holy Ghost” (John 20:22). Christ’s action was the fulfillment of John 7:39: “But this spoke He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive; for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.”

Many people are still sitting in the “Upper Room,” waiting, praying, and longing for the coming of the Spirit, not realizing that the filling of the Spirit came almost nineteen hundred years ago with a mighty rushing wind and tongues of fire. That available power has never left the Church. There is no reason for Him to come again in like fashion. This outpouring was for witnessing to a world that Christ had just declared our responsibility to reach. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit came upon those who were sitting, not begging and coaxing God to keep His promise. (You should secure our free printed message, “What Happened at Pentecost?”)

There is no reason for the Holy Spirit to come again as at that time. It was a historical event, prophesied in the Bible. Now He abides within the heart and life of every Christian. “But you are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man has not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His. But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwells in you” (Romans 8:9,11). (For further insight into this matter, you should read my free printed message, “Who Has Received the Holy Spirit?”) What an insult to God when a believer asks the Holy Spirit to come inside of him when He already abides there.

Let’s keep the biblical record straight. The Holy Spirit is inside the heart and life of every Christian. He is available to empower us for acceptable service. This power is personally appropriated since being presented at Pentecost. The biblical terminology for this is “FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT” (Acts 2:4). Throughout the Book of Acts, this filling is mentioned a number of times. The purpose of this filling was power

for taking the gospel around the world. “But you shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and you shall be witnesses to me, both in Jerusalem and all Judaea, and in Samaria, and to the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

### **A Neglected Doctrine**

The organized church system of our day has replaced the need and power of the Holy Spirit with church growth, crowds, social action, and fellowship. In the New Testament thirty-nine different names or titles refer to the Holy Spirit. The Book of Acts is saturated with His Presence. Actually, it is the Acts of the Holy Spirit. How dare we neglect to depend upon the illumination of the Spirit in our teaching and preaching the Bible when there is no comprehension or revelation of Truth independent of His guidance? (John 14:26)

### **A Scriptural Doctrine**

The Apostle Paul reminds us that spiritual verities are not discovered by human ability, but are revealed and taught to us in the Scriptures by the Spirit of God. “But as it is written, eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love Him. But God has revealed them to us by His Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God” (I Corinthians 2:9,10). Never will we recognize the magnificence and illuminating power of the Spirit until we go where His power is revealed, in the Scriptures.

(continued on page 2)

## Fundamental Christianity . . . (continued from page 4)

one message of any kind, spoken or written. It occurs over a period of time, which makes it more deceptive and effective. The result: someone who will stand with a man or with men, but for little to nothing that God does or thinks important enough to stand with Him in.

Fundamental Christianity has historically stood where God stands from His Word. Even the largest detractors and critics of fundamentalism agree there. When God speaks, it means something to Him. He didn't waste space in His Word to fill up the pages; He gave us His very Word to reveal His mind and will concerning our salvation, holiness, separation, sin, behavior, dress, thought-life, working for employers, treatment of employees, witnessing, eternity (heaven and hell), judgment, those who were to preach and teach, relationship to governments, associations, prophecy, spiritual gifts, music, movements, Christian life, marriage, parenting, prayer, church life, and so much more. A fundamental Christian seeks to obey all of these. He seeks to "*rightly divide the word of truth.*" He doesn't do this

with the flesh, but as he yields himself to the indwelling Holy Spirit and allows Him to work through each believer. He is a good citizen of his country, prays for its leadership; and he is good for the blessing of that country, as well as in every endeavor he is involved in. He is a good neighbor and seeks his neighbor's best interest and spiritual blessing. He sees the future only as God reveals what is going to happen in His Word. He has no corner on the truth — he merely believes that it *is* the truth and seeks to put it into practice. Over the course of this nation's history, God's blessing has been dependent on an acknowledgment of the fear of God, as well as living righteously as a nation. The church has been effective only as its leadership and schools were obedient to His Word in all of the above.

And now, in the days prior to the Lord's return, fundamental Christianity has been maligned, dragged through the mud, associated with radical terrorism or fundamental cultism. It has been the subject of derision in seminaries, pulpits, youth groups, magazines, authors of fiction books,

conferences, television shows and Hollywood movies, the secular and religious media, and Internet websites. Still, God's Truth is marching on, and there are believers who are not shunning the label of being fundamental, for they know its rich and lasting history, and what the born-again before them stood for — whatever the cost. Paul said in II Corinthians 13:8, "***For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.***"

There is nothing inherently wrong with being closely aligned to all the truth of God's Word and with people of like mind. There is everything wrong with being loosely aligned to that body of truth, picking and choosing what men say about it as to whether or not you will adhere to it. I would love to be aligned with many of you of like mind and encourage you to be aligned with me, together under the authority of God's Holy Word.

Don't let yourself fall prey to the "bologna technique," but, rather, submit to the Word of God in all things. You will never regret it in eternity.

log on to [www.thehourofgraceandpower.org](http://www.thehourofgraceandpower.org)

## The Holy Spirit

(continued from page 1)

In the Bible we learn all aspects of the Holy Spirit. Hear of His eternal abode in us: "And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you forever" (John 14:16).

The Bible teaches us that the spirit dwells in the Body of Christ — with all believers. He is the unifying force God has provided for us as we are baptized by one Spirit into the family of God. The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit will not speak of Himself. (John 16:13) What He has to say will not originate from Him. He will testify of Christ, Who informed us of His ministry. (John 16:13, 15:26)

He continues the ministry of Christ here on earth as "another Comforter." What a glorious Person to have living within, guiding and directing us. Friend of mine, let us surrender to such glorious leadership.

### Your Personal Fellowship

As a child of God, do you have sweet communion with the Holy Spirit? Do you talk to Him? thank Him for His

abiding Presence within you? express your thanksgiving for Him never leaving or forsaking you? Do you ask for and praise Him for His guidance in your life? for His intercession in your prayers? for giving you an understanding of your Bible as you read and study it? His Presence and Power within you are the gifts of God. Are you living in the reality of the Presence of the blessed Holy Spirit within your heart and life today?

## The Gift That Keeps on Giving!

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## Personal Word

NOW YOU CAN HEAR our audio messages on our new web-site. This is true of anyone in the entire world on the Internet. The marvels of modern communication almost blows the mind. You now have a choice of messages to be heard on your own computer, along with our good music. This communication is available for all 24 hours a day. You can read all of our printed messages and can download them into your home or office, wherever your computer is located. This publication is included. Whether you prefer to read or listen,

we are prepared to declare the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ in understandable language.

Pray for the Lord to direct many more precious hearts to find us to receive eternal benefit from messages direct from the Bible, chapter, verse and line.

### It Has Finally Arrived

We have said farewell to the wonderful 70s and are now in the enjoyable 80s. Marian beat me at this new arrival by six months. We never planned for old age or retirement until we were 60. Please believe us, this age is reached only by the grace of God. When we review the past 58 years of ministry together, our hearts are filled with gratitude and praise to the Lord. Each day we are encouraged to press on toward His prize. Only the Lord knows the finish line for us. Then His fellowship will be on a more intimate basis. We will cross it triumphantly.

Joshua was encouraged to be strong at the age of 80. Caleb, at age 85, asked for the very territory where giants lived, the people who terrified the spies 40 years earlier. Pray for us, that our lives will be bright and demonstrative, a couple possessed by God. May we gain much more wisdom and be productive. (Psalms 90:14,17; 9:1,27) We are encouraged and refreshed by our many friends who have joined with us in this ministry.

### Just One City

Can you believe that the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles will settle its clergy abuses for at least 660 MILLION DOLLARS, by far the largest payout in the Church's sexual abuse scandal, so states the Associated Press. This amount is for over 500 cases facing the court. This will be an average of 1.2 to 1.3 million dollars per person. You did not know the Roman Catholic Church has such funds on hand, did you?

### Interesting Facts

Between 1994 and 2003, the following figures represent the discharges from our military:

- Ninety-five hundred (9,500) for homosexuality
- More than 26,000 for pregnancy
- More than 36,000 for weight standards
- More than 38,000 for "serious offenses"
- Almost 21,000 for "parenthood"
- More than 59,000 for drug offense/use

— by Elaine Donnelly, Center for Military Readiness

### Responses to *The Challenger*

"I received your July issue and want to say "thank you" for *The Challenger* and messages. You asked some good questions about what we do with it after receiving it.

### Important Changes to Your Correspondence

Changes have been made so we can be more prompt in our reply to you. From this time forward, correspondence to our ministry should come designated and mailed as follows:

1. All gifts, requests for cassettes or CDs, and/or personal correspondence should be mailed to:  
Dwight Porter, Box 400,  
Roseland, FL 32957.
2. All requests and information for free literature should be mailed to:  
Gospel Literature, PO Box 7561,  
Daytona Beach, FL 32116.
3. All requests for our Bible Study Course should be mailed to:  
Gospel Literature, PO Box 372744,  
Satellite Beach, FL 32937

I read it a little bit at a time after I have finished my evening's devotions, before I go to sleep. When I am finished, I pass it on to other brothers, who also pass it on. Others tell me how they enjoyed it and how it blesses them." — *an inmate*

"I received *The Challenger* and after reading the Personal Word, I had to reply. I want you both to know that I read it through as soon as I get it. I enjoy it very much. God is using you and blessing you by His Spirit to a needy world. Use this gift to meet your needs."

— *Vero Beach, FL*

"I do receive *The Challenger* with expectation, because it always moves my spirit from page one to page four. After I receive it at mail call, I go directly to my cell to savor all the wisdom and direction from it. I do share it with anyone I can. Some just cannot handle the straightforward Bible teaching and preaching. I pray all who read *The Challenger* will be strengthened and will come to know the glorious Truth of God which you print in every issue. I praise God for His servant and the unwatered-down teaching that you bring to the readers." — *an inmate*

FROM THE DESK OF . . . DR. MICHAEL ECCLESTON

www.heritagebaptistchurchtitusville.org

HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH  
TITUSVILLE, FLORIDA

## FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIANITY AND THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD

*“And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God”* (1 Corinthians 2:1,2,4,5).

Imagine yourself, a professing Christian, sitting in an audience of thousands to hear the most popular preacher of the day. You have your Bible and your note pad, and you are ready for everything that comes from his mouth. It’s that important to you.

He begins and, oh, the words seem to drop like rich honey from his mouth with such ease and such persuasiveness. You can hardly contain yourself. People throughout are nodding with affirmation and saying Amen. Some are shouting. He touches on the importance of the truth of God’s Word and adherence to it. He cites scripture references and you are writing feverishly. It seems that everyone is taking it in. You know that you are. He begins to touch on issues of the day in which you live. Everyone is in agreement as he proceeds to tell you to take biblical positions.

But along the way he shifts gears and starts to inject sarcasm toward people who take the Bible literally — as going too far. Pharisees, he calls them. Legalists — some of the most dangerous people on the planet. And then come some fairly scandalous descriptions. He now proceeds to dissect a series of issues, in depth — one at a time — saying after each one, how you are not to make such a big deal over each item. How unimportant each one is, he said. Nothing is off limits, not even the gospel of Christ and salvation. He talks about your liberty and your freedom and how these people infringe on your rights. He speaks about the message being more important than how that message is delivered or the method involved. You are a bit uncomfortable, a little confused, but, hey, he is the man of the day. He leads the most powerful movement in your country. He has a large following. People of all denominations and religions are reading his books and teaching his materials in their churches. Who are you to question or doubt anything that he said? And so, as the message winds down, you come to the conclusion that your church, your pastor, and your teachers are wrong, and that you will seek to align yourself with a group far more tolerant, like those with what “Dr. Dynamic” has to say. You changed during the course of one meeting, held in a large setting, and based on the charisma of the speaker and the temperature of the multitudes there.

The method employed in that meeting has been one of the most successful over the course of time. It has various names that it goes by, but the one that gets to its true character is the “Bologna Technique.” In this thinking of man, one takes a slab of bologna and cuts off a small piece, relating a specific issue in question to that piece. Then follows the sly phrase, “You don’t want to make a big deal over such a small thing like this. Look at all that is left.” The logic is overwhelming. Why then quibble over anything? Who are you to judge? The problem is that he does this through the rest of the meeting with such ease until, you guessed it, the slab of bologna is all gone. There’s nothing left. It all was thought to not be worth taking a stand over. In truth, this doesn’t happen in just

(continued on page 2)

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### OUR OPERATION

We have discontinued our radio ministry, but we continue full speed in our other outlets. You can hear our messages by cassette or CDs; let us know of your interest. Five couples volunteer their time and energy in this ministry. We pay no salaries, which means your gifts go 100 percent to reach thousands weekly by literature, cassettes, Bible studies, and on our website. We welcome your participation.

~ **NEW WEB SITE** ~  
**thehourofgraceandpower.org**

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*“Be you steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord . . . You know your labor is not in vain in the Lord”* 1 Corinthians 15:58

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