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FOREWORD

By Rodney W Francis

I have known Paul Christensen for many years. We fellowshiped together in a small church in Palmerston North, New Zealand, when we were both very much younger Christians, and where we received our initial impartations of the ministry and power of the Holy Spirit. In recent years our paths have crossed again, and Paul has been involved with the Equipping Days we have been conducting in Auckland through The Gospel Faith Messenger Ministry. I believe God has given Paul a keen insight into the truth and importance of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the speaking in other tongues (which is what this booklet is all about). I know from my own experience what a blessing it is to be filled with the Holy Spirit and be able to speak in other tongues. It stirs my spirit within! It builds my inner man to rise above the many negatives (that confront us in day to day living) in a world that does not understand true Christian spiritual things.

May you, the reader, be challenged again of the importance and necessity to be an overcoming Christian through the gift that God has given to us ~ the gift of the Holy Spirit and His language of communicating “Spirit to spirit” with our Wonderful Lord!

~ Rodney W. Francis

Founder/Director: The Gospel Faith Messenger Ministry.

INTRODUCTION

This book is the result of a search for **greater effectiveness** in using the tools and resources that God has for us. We need to know what those resources and tools are, and how they should be used, if we are to have **God’s results** in our personal lives and in our church fellowships. We have many churches in our towns and cities that are merely **monuments to man’s failure** to bring the Gospel to the community. They have become chaplaincy services for people who are content to roll up on a Sunday morning, sing a few songs, listen to a sermon, have morning tea, and then go home to live their lives just like **anyone else in the world** for the rest of the week until next Sunday.

Isn’t it interesting that if your church has a special dinner, **most of the members** will turn up and enjoy it, but organize a prayer meeting and you are lucky to get **one or two people** to attend the meeting. When a church has a “visioning” seminar where the members are encouraged to come and discuss the future of the church, about **half** the members turn up. It is also interesting that those in the church who tend to **moan and criticize** about the music, preaching, style of services, the dispersing of church finances, and so on, are strangely **missing** from the seminar.

Church members in general are **sermon hardened**. In most churches, if the preacher takes much more than thirty minutes preaching his sermon, they start yawning and looking at their watches. So many of them have **heard it all before**. This is especially true if the content of the sermons are just moral homilies. The preacher who makes the mistake of **challenging** his hearers on some important point of the Gospel experiences “flak” from those who tell him that, “*We don’t have that sort of thing here.*”

The purpose of this book is to show a better way for church members who are bored and weary of services and preaching that does not inspire or challenge them. It seems that when they read the Book of Acts in the Bible and compare it with the services at their church, there is **no comparison**. They admire the passion of the early church leaders and the challenging events that were part of the development of the Christian Church, but have no idea that it could happen in their own churches. If they had any **desire** that somehow their church might reflect what happened in the early church, they have **no idea** how to change things to bring it about. It seems to them that the task is so great, thus they experience tiredness just thinking about it and therefore just settle back into their dull routine.

The tragedy of our churches is that too many members and leaders are settled in their **formalism** and **traditions**, and they **don't** want to change. Change takes people out of their **comfort zone**. The main excuse of mainline church people for not moving into the ministry and the gifts of the Spirit is that it is out of their comfort zone; they don't know anything about it (and they are not willing to learn), so it is easier and less controversial to just not go there. Anyway, *"We are set in our ways, and we like it that way."*

The church is a **sleeping giant, and** the problem with this state of hibernation is that it is a very difficult job to arouse or awaken it up again. What we need are men of God who have a **passion** for the things of God, a clear knowledge of what Jesus did for us on the Cross, a passion for seeing the ministry of the Holy Spirit come into our churches, and a strong desire to promote **the full use of the gifts** and resources that God has for us in the Holy Spirit. We need these men to be bold and fearless preachers in our churches to stir up the members and make them uncomfortable. These men will have to bear much criticism and persecution for their stand for Christ, but the Lord will be their strength and shield, and we will see more of the demonstration of the Spirit and of power in the ministry of our churches.

My intention for this book is to outline what is the **Baptism of the Holy Spirit**:

- What the believer needs to be and do to be a **fit person** to receive it;
- How the person receives it;
- What happens as a result of receiving it.

Also, I intend to deal with some of the **errors and pitfalls** that might limit the work of the Holy Spirit in the believer, and the ministry of the Spirit through the believer. I want to examine how we receive and use the gifts of the Spirit, with an emphasis on the **gifts of tongues and prophecy**.

I have decided to emphasize tongues and prophecy, because, although not all exercise these gifts, **anyone** has the **ability** to exercise them if they **want to** and **choose** to activate their faith to allow the Holy Spirit to use them in this way. When Paul asked, “*Do all speak in tongues, do all prophesy?*” (1 Corinthians 12:30), he did not mean that the Holy Spirit withholds these gifts from people. The Holy Spirit leaves the **choice** up to the person. A person can **decide** whether or not to use the tools that God has provided. What I am emphasizing is that the decision is **not God’s**, but the **individual believer’s**.

This is where some believers “lose out”; they think that because they don’t have a particular gift, it is because the Holy Spirit has not given it to them. We know that the Scripture says that the Holy Spirit gives the gifts severally as He wills (1 Corinthians 12:11), but He works in **partnership** with us. The scripture also says that He will not withhold any good thing from us (Psalm 84:11). I wonder if some believers use their perception of the will of the Spirit as an **excuse** not to move out of their comfort zone and begin stirring up the gift that is **already within** them?

My work here is not the definitive last word on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and the operation of tongues and prophecy; it is merely my view, and I present it with the purpose of **increasing your faith** in the working of the Holy Spirit within and through you. Paul said, “**Who is Paul? Who is Peter? Who is Apollos, but servants through**

whom you believed?” (1 Corinthians 3:5). So, if this book gives you some guidelines and increases your faith, it has been well worth the effort.

Paul Christensen

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If after reading this sample you know that this is the book for you, go to the link and order it from Amazon Kindle with just one click.

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