

# THE FAITH BUILDER

Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17).

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## What is Repentance?

Many see repentance in the negative light of just turning away from sin. The idea that many have about a cycle of sinning and repenting is misleading. It is not real repentance. Repentance has been sold to us as something we have to do to get approval from God.

Wrong! So, what is repentance? It is a complete change of the way we view God and ourselves in the light of God's involvement with us. It involves a complete change of thinking. God desires repentance. "He is not willing that any should perish, but that all may come to repentance".

Some religious people think that "Bible bashing" in the form of quoting Scripture at people will cause them somehow to see that they should repent. But what if God is not like that at all? If "The goodness of God leads us to repentance," what if "Hell-fire" preaching that exposes our sins and shortcomings, doesn't show God's goodness? What if the main reason that people turn away from God is the way we preach the Gospel to them? What if much of our preaching comes radically short of showing who God really is?

Repentance must come from your heart. "With the heart, man believes unto salvation, and with his lips he confesses his faith." "As a man believes in his heart; that is what he is." Do we realise how good God really is? Jesus said, "Why do you call Me good? There is only one Person who is good, and that is your Father in heaven." There is no

one in all of the universe and eternity who is as good as God. If Jesus who above all reflects the goodness of God, and He questions being called good, then the Father must be outrageously and fantastically good!

When you see the goodness of God like that, it has to affect your heart, and then you will see that repentance leads into a wonderfully joyful relationship with God. How do you see the goodness of God? What if you can come to a place where you see that God is so “over the top” with goodness that you are so consumed with joy, that just being in His presence is something you want more than anything else you could ever have?

How does the Scripture describe God?

**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law (Galatians 5:22-23).**

God is the most loving, peaceful, joyful, patient, kind, gentle, faithful, self-controlled Person we will ever meet. What if you can meet God in person and know Him like that? What if the result of meeting God in that way would so totally change your heart and the way you view Christian faith that you would be outrageously joyful about being a Christian?

Let’s look at a New Testament example of someone who was led to repentance by the goodness of God.

## **Zacchaeus the Tax Collector**

Luke 19: <sup>1</sup>**Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through.**

Jericho is a place where there are many poor people. Also, it is a place where many people who should not have been poor, but they have been made poor by the dishonest practices of one man.

**<sup>2</sup> A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy.**

The man was Zacchaeus. His wealth was made on the backs of the people he defrauded. He was the most hated man in Jericho.

**<sup>3</sup> He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. <sup>4</sup>So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.**

There is another possible reason why he could have been up in that tree. Because he was so hated, it would have been dangerous for him to be in a crowd. There would be more than one who would have taken great pleasure to slip a knife between his ribs. Now, when Jesus entered a town, it was customary for Him to be invited to be a guest at someone's home. This would have been a great honour for the host to have someone like Jesus staying with him.

**<sup>5</sup> When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today."**

But instead of going to stay at the home of a more "worthy" person, Jesus invites Himself to the home of Zacchaeus. Jesus honours the most dishonourable and most hated man in town! That must have put a few noses out of joint!

**<sup>6</sup> So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.**

Zacchaeus accepts the honour with great pleasure. He might have been puzzled about why Jesus would honour him, but he is not looking at a gift horse in the mouth.

**<sup>7</sup> All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”**

A few noses are certainly out of joint. Everyone there did not like Jesus going to Zacchaeus’ home. They were thinking that He should have gone to the home of a more worthy person instead of the most hated sinner in the town. But notice what happens next.

**<sup>8</sup> But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”**

Notice that Jesus did not mention anything about the sinful acts that Zacchaeus had done.

But the act of Jesus honouring him did something in his heart. He became overwhelmed with joy, and it totally changed him from being a cynical, grasping, greedy toad into the most outrageously generous man in the town. Think about what Zacchaeus would have done after that. He would have gone down to the bank and calculated his total worth, divided it in half, and gone to his local aid agency. Just imagine the surprised reaction when he walked in with a large cheque and said to the manager, “Here is my donation to the poor of the town.”

Also imagine him going to each home of those he defrauded, giving four times the amount that he cheated them out of.

The wife asks, “Who is that at the door?”

Husband: “Zacchaeus.”

“That rat! What did he want? More money?”

“No. He has given back four times as much as he collected from us! I can’t believe that this is the same person!”

“What on earth made him do that?”

The husband concludes: “I think it must have been when Jesus stayed at his house!”

So what is the result?

**<sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”**

What this shows is that a whole new love, peace, joy and goodness entered that household. Jesus described it as “salvation.” Did that happen when salvation came to your house?

### **Galatians 5:19-21**

**<sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, <sup>20</sup> Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, <sup>21</sup> Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**

The adulterer will remain faithful to his wife. The fornicator will stop sowing his wild oats around the place. The idolater will concentrate his worship to God alone. The witch will abandon the witchcraft. The person who is consumed with hatred will be consumed with love. The angry person will be gentle and patient with others. An argumentative person will stop and appreciate both sides of a debate. Strife in a person will turn to peace-making. A seditious person will honour and comply with authority. A heretical person will learn and hold to sound doctrine. An envying person will be content with what he has. A person who has murder in his heart will do all he can to preserve life.

An alcoholic will live a sober life. An out-of-control party person will exercise self-control when celebrating. These are all changes of heart that result when a person has a real experience at meeting the living God.

Being exposed to the full radiation of the love, peace, joy, and goodness of God causes repentance to take place. Railing against the sins does not achieve repentance. Discovering God and His overwhelming desire to make up what is lacking in people's lives does it. These things happen to us when we come into personal contact with Jesus.

Because we see that Jesus is the most –

Loving, Joyful, Peaceful, Patient, Kind, Good, Faithful, Gentle, Self-controlled Person you will ever meet. When you come to meet Jesus on a personal level, your heart is changed forever. Then repentance happens. It has to happen.

If repentance is not the most joyful thing that you have experienced, then all you might have is just religion. What if we need much more than having just a Sunday-based religion to have a full-bodied experience and relationship with God that will enable you to bear fruit for Him. What if we need that experience and relationship with God to cause our church to grow? If we had an “over-the-top”, outrageously joyful relationship with God, would people bypass our church in favour of others? Would we then be reflecting the wonderful and amazing attributes of God to our community? How then would our community describe us?

“There it is!” instead of “where is it?”

“We can see all the love and goodness of God flowing out from there,” instead of “Just another church”.

“What a wonderful Saviour those people serve!” instead of “just a group of religious people.”

What if when we show the wonderful and fabulous goodness of God, that people would come to repentance without any urging? To achieve that, there are some things our church can repent from. We can love and honour the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst. We don't need to ask the Holy Spirit to come. He is already here, otherwise, where did He go?

The Holy Spirit is the most passionate and enthusiastic Person we can ever encounter. Did you know that Jesus was really looking forward to going up to sit at the right hand of the Father? Why? Because He could send the Holy Spirit to us. Just imagine. at the Last Supper, Jesus calls over His three closest disciples.

“Hey Pete, Johnno. Jimmy...over here. I want to tell you something exciting! I'm going away soon...Hey! Don't be sad! It's going to be really great! Wonderful! You'll just love it! When I get to the Father...guess what? I'm going to send you the Holy Spirit! If you think I am great...You're in for a real treat! The Holy Spirit will do things for you, teach you stuff and give you gifts you never dreamed of! Hey, He really loves His job you know! He's really looking forward to being with you and in you. You're never going to be the same again! Isn't that just outrageously exciting???”

The Holy Spirit so loves what He does, that He can be really hurt when He is ignored. Or the things He wants to do, rejected. He wants to give prophetic love letters from God. He just loves doing that. It gives Him the ultimate pleasure to use people to prophetically tell others how much God loves them. He wants to give people the faith to proclaim “Jesus heals you” to sick people. He is really excited about giving words of knowledge to show that God really cares and understands in a deep and real way. He loves doing the impossible. That is something He is really passionate about. And He is grieved when people won't let

Him do those things, because some pelican came up with a false doctrine that He doesn't do things like that these days.

When we realise what a precious and wonderful Person the Holy Spirit is, wouldn't we want to immediately and freely repent of anything that would hurt or grieve Him? Wouldn't we want to cooperate with Him and allow him to give us the wisdom to teach and promote the gifts and resources that He has provided the church?

Do we want our church to grow and be strong? The Holy Spirit is a thousand times more passionate and enthusiastic about that! So let's repent of our doubts and fears about the way He works. So what if others do things in an extreme or weird way? They might have to repent of those things too. We are not talking about the supernatural. The prophetic, healing, setting free from demonic influences, revelations and new insights into Scripture are the natural ways the Holy Spirit works to bring people closer to Christ.



God is looking to see what is lacking in your life to make it up. When He looks at our church, He is looking to see what is lacking so He can make it up. Repentance involves saying "yes" to God, and allowing Him to work in us to make up what we lack. God has honoured you by placing you with Jesus at His own right hand. Jesus is not ashamed to call you His brothers and sisters. That is the greatest honour that we



have ever received. It comes from the most loving Person that you will ever meet.

Repentance, then, is to stop thinking like the world around us, but, to allow the Holy Spirit to help us to think like Jesus; to behave like Jesus; to walk worthy of the calling to which Jesus has called us. When we think and behave like him, individually, and as a church, we will grow.

We can know that we are developing the mind of Christ when we become loving, peaceful and peace-making, joyful, patient, good, gentle, kind, faithful, and self-controlled. We will develop the ability to hear the voice of God and to use what He tells us to build up and encourage others in the faith. We can make much progress as we depend on the Holy Spirit to develop the abilities to help us and others to grow into what we already are in Christ.

That's what repentance does, and it involves other things as well. Did you know that Jesus took your fears, worries, resentments, hurts, disappointments, bitterness on Himself when He died on the cross? If we take those things back from Him, He will demand them back. He will say, "Give me back my stuff! I paid for those things!" So we have to repent of those things too, and give them back to Jesus who is the true owner of them.

Repentance speaks like this: "We know we have a long way to go, but by Your grace, You can cause us to think and act like Jesus. You can cause us, as a church, to think and act like Jesus. Then we know that we will all bear fruit for you. We will grow in grace. We will be outrageous for God. We will be consumed with joy and laughter. We will be amazed at how our church will grow as people come from far and wide to see what we have got that is so wonderful."

By Paul Christensen

## GUY BEVINGTON



G.C. Bevington

Guy Bevington (1876- ?) was a Methodist Holiness itinerate evangelist who worked mainly in Ohio and Kentucky in the United States of America. He performed his evangelistic ministry in rural areas around Cincinnati. The healing component arose out of his study of the scriptures, which he gives a good catalogue of them on page 19 and 20 of his *Remarkable Miracles*.

What is characteristic about his approach to healing, or any other miracle that he sought God for was that he would go to some secret place and remain there in prayer until he got either a vision of it happening, or there was a positive outcome.

His first account of healing was for a woman who had been bed ridden for nine years. He was ordered from the house by her unbelieving husband, so he went into a “haymow” and remained there for seventy-two hours. She was raised up within 12 hours of being prayed for, and the husband hunted him out and got saved.

He bases his method on James 5:16-17 which says that “the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” His view about the availability of divine healing through the Atonement is consistent with Isaiah 53 and Matthew 8:16-17. He

also reflects the loosing of the woman in Luke 13:16 as one of the most compelling examples of the Lord's willingness to heal.

But in the early stages he had a real struggle over healing for himself. He had rheumatic and heart trouble and had a whole range of medications to deal with them. He spent many hours agonising in prayer and finally he received "I am the Lord who healeth thee." He came to the point in this thinking that the Lord could not use him in the healing ministry if he used his "faithful standbys" to maintain his own health instead of having faith in God. He stopped taking his medications and then started to feel really sick. He said that he pleaded the promises until he became well, and never had any of those problems again.

He tells the story of a Brother Allen who was in the last stages of tuberculosis. By the time he arrived at the home, the man was near death. Bevington says that he spent nine hours finding out whether it was God's will to heal him, and another 20 hours in prayer until he felt in himself that he was on the right track. He continued in prayer for 46 hours until he saw him in his mind's eye as a healed man. He then finished his praying, believing that that Brother Allen was totally healed. He received a letter from Brother Allen's wife who described to him how her husband got out of bed, got dressed in exactly the way that Bevington saw him in his mind's eye.



This method of extended private prayer until he got a "vision" of the answer was a unique feature of the way Bevington approached God to get answers to prayer. He spent time

ascertaining whether his request was the will of God. Then after being assured that it was the will of God, he then went into what he described as prevailing prayer until he “saw” the answer.

At one stage, he spent three weeks in a hollow log, fed by squirrels until he received the answer. This type of prevailing prayer happened time and time again with remarkable results. Bevington so passionately believed in the healing power of God that for his whole life he refused to get medical attention when things went wrong with him. One remarkable example was when he accidentally scalded his foot when he spilled a whole pot of boiling water on it. Under normal circumstances, the foot would have been very badly burned and when he got his sock off, the foot was very red and inflamed. His companions warned him that if he did not get immediate medical assistance it would be very likely that he might lose his foot. Bevington held on to God in faith and the foot was completely healed. This kind of faith takes real courage to believe God in this way, but his faith was rewarded and his foot totally recovered in a much shorter time than would have been considered normal.

These events were just some of the many healing testimonies that are recorded in Bevington's book. His ministry occurred before the “official” appearance of the Pentecostal movement as we know it. He calls Dr J. R Dowie (spelled “Dowey” in his book), a prominent Pentecostal healing minister, “an objectionable professor”, quoting Mark 13:22 about “false Christs and false prophets, deceiving the people”, which might lead us to think that he felt the same toward the other early Pentecostals, although he advertised one of his meetings as “A Pentecostal Meeting.”

Bevington's healing ministry seems to have always taken place in private homes, and did not appear to be part of his evangelistic meetings which were held mainly in small halls and schoolhouses. He never had mass healing meetings nor is there any record that he actually preached healing.

The remarkable thing about him is that he got miraculous results in evangelism and healing from private, extended, prevailing prayer, where he took “the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” literally, using the example also in James of Elijah praying fervently that it would rain on Israel and remained in prayer, no matter how long it took, until the rain came (James 5:16-18).

He lists that healing is not: *healing by remedies, imaginary healing, exercise of will power, power of magnetism, mind cure or metaphysics, spiritualism, faith or prayer cure* which he says being simply the avenues of healing, is not *immunity from death* but strength for life, and is not *presumption and insubordination to God’s will*.

He then goes on to list what he believes *is* divine healing: *the direct power of God upon the body, in accordance with the Holy Scriptures, founded on Christ’s sacrifice and work of redemption, through the resurrection life of Jesus Christ and the personal indwelling of Jesus Christ in the body, in and through the Holy Spirit, through the faith of the sufferer or his faith united with the faith of others, submission to the Divine will, for the service and glory of God, a fact of Church history, sign of our Lord’s approaching advent, and a testimony to the Word of God and the truth of Christianity in this day of unbelief.*



Another account in his book *Remarkable Incidents and Modern Miracles Through Prayer and Faith*: He was standing upon a chair, reaching towards the ceiling, but stepping too near to the front edge, he turned the chair over and, falling, came down with great force, so that he smashed the chair to pieces and damaged his side so much that he says he could not swallow even water without experiencing excruciating pain. The doctor x-rayed him and said, "My good man, you are all torn to pieces. Your first rib is separated three fourths of an inch; the second, half; and the third one, about a quarter. There is a sliver torn from your first rib that lays right across your ribs." The kind doctor said that he could get him into a fine hospital in Tennessee, run by his cousin. The cure would take about seven months, but all he would have to pay would be the cost of the artificial ribs.

Well, Bevington was not that kind of man. He had a great faith and he believed most emphatically in divine healing; so he waited upon the Lord. "My suffering seemed to increase," he says...but I held on...I saw myself actually sinking down, getting smaller. I could see that I was on the trimming lathe, and was being trimmed down. So I began to praise the Lord...I kept quietly saying, "Glory! Glory!" At each utterance I could see the shavings a-flying and felt that I was getting the victory.

So the "Glorys" would come...louder and louder...I also saw that what little exertion I had made did not hurt me in the least and as I had not taken a long, down-deep breath for so long, I just wanted to so bad. So I tried it, and oh, what a relief! Soon I raised my right arm and felt no pain whatever. I then shouted, "O, glory, 'tis done!"

I jumped up and began pounding my fractured ribs...A great landslide came into my soul, and I just laughed and shouted and jumped for about three hours." He then went to see the doctor and said, "Well, Sir, Doctor, I am a healed man!" There I was, pounding my ribs, and he was staring wildly at me. Then he said,

“There must be something in this healing power. I never saw anything like it. And you say that Jesus really healed you without any remedies?”

“Yes, Sir, and now doctor...I would like you to turn the Xray on.”  
“Oh, I will gladly do it. I am interested in that sliver that lay across your ribs.” I said, “You will find that splinter in its place.”

So when he turned the Xray on, he just stood speechless, while I laughed...he laid his head down on my shoulder, and wept and trembled. I said, “How about that splinter, Doctor?” He said, “There is no splinter to be seen, and no trace of its ever being there.” And again the glory fell on me and I had to walk the floor. I didn’t dare to be too noisy out there in that office.

Being Methodist, his theology was quite different to Presbyterian theology. He was a Holiness preacher who believed that people had to make a decision for Christ and to “pray through” for as long as it takes until the person knew they were saved. He believed in a second step which he called sanctification. He called it the Pentecostal experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, before it became part of what we know of Pentecost and Charismatic belief.

What was unique about his ministry is that he felt the need to spend extended time in prayer to get results – not so much to persuade God to do what He had promised, but to get himself into a place before God to know His will for the situation. Perhaps there is a key here. Maybe we are not seeing the results we would like to see because we don’t spend enough time in prayer for God to speak to us.

A good example of how he used prayer to solve a problem is where the young daughter of a family he was staying with was accused of theft of a playmate’s ball. After several hours of waiting on God, the playmate arrived with the ball. The playmate

happened to take a different way home along a path overgrown with blackberry bushes. As he struggled through, getting scratched, he found the ball. They found out that while they were playing, a small dog had come along, taken the ball, and dropped it among the blackberries. The boy reported that he heard a voice telling him to go that way home. This was at the very time when Bevington was praying.

Another time, he was asked to go a preach in a locality where people had told him was the most rough, godless place in the whole county and all the other preachers who went there had left defeated. Bevington went to prayer in a hollow log in the woods. After a number of weeks in prayer without eating, he started to feel very hungry, yet he knew that he had not finished. What happened then was a number of grey squirrels dropped nuts down a hole in the log and these kept him sustained until he knew that God wanted him to preach there. He saw a vision of the schoolhouse (which was previously locked against him) and the door opening, leaving a particular mark on the floor. The custodian took him to the school house, and opened the door, and the way the door opened with the particular mark on the floor was exactly the same as he saw in his vision.

As a result of his preaching there, a major revival took place and hundreds of the most godless and rough men got saved and became “on fire” Christians. Someone accused him to stealing the squirrels’ winter supply, so he went back and observed the log from a hiding place over several days, but no squirrel ever came back to that log.

So this is just a snapshot of the life and ministry of a man who, from poor and humble beginnings, became one of the most powerful evangelistic and healing ministries of his time. When you read his book, you will be challenged to see what God can do with a person who is “sold out” to Christ in the way that Bevington was.



We could never be a Bevington, because his was a unique ministry for his time, but reading his account of the results of his prayer and faith, we can be inspired to be much more effective Christian believers than we are now.



**We are living in a time when the Gospel Message of Jesus Christ is desperately needed; when the Holy Spirit visitation is essential if we are going to convince an unbelieving world of their need for JESUS CHRIST ~ HE IS THE ONLY WAY TO GOD and true Salvation. And Christian, God has given you and me a mandate to take the Gospel to every person in our generation. Are we doing our part? Do you know your Christian calling?** Time is short and eternity is not sure for so many. Know this: We (you and I) can make a positive difference. We can be workers together to get the Message of Jesus out to the nations. We have the opportunities ~ please stand together with us to fulfil God's Great Commission to us (Mark 16:15-20). Thank you and God bless you mightily ~ **Rodney W. Francis.**

**Big Ed seemed to always fall asleep** during the Sunday sermon. His wife was fed up and decided to deal with the embarrassing situation.

The next Sunday when he fell asleep, she quietly removed some pungent Limburger cheese from a ziplock bag in her purse and passed it under his nose.

Groggily startled, Big Ed blurted out, "No, Helen, no—don't kiss me now."



## Identity Theft

### **WHY WE NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT**

– *Let The Scriptures Speak.*

*Compiled by **Rodney Francis** (Paraparaumu, New Zealand).*

- We are to be led of the Holy Spirit ~ Galatians 5:18; Luke 2:25-27
- We are to be led by the Holy Spirit ~ Romans 8:14; Matthew 4:1
- We are to walk after the Holy Spirit ~ Romans 8:4
- We are to walk in the Holy Spirit ~ Galatians 5:16, 25
- We have received the Holy Spirit of adoption ~ Romans 8:15
- The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit ~ Romans 8:16
- The Holy Spirit helps our weaknesses ~ Romans 8:26
- God has sent the Spirit of His Son (Jesus) into our hearts ~ Galatians 4:6; Psalm 104:30
- We are to develop the fruit of the Holy Spirit ~ Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 5:9
- We are to live in the Holy Spirit ~ Galatians 5:25
- We are to sow to the Holy Spirit ~ Galatians 6:8
- We have access to God through the Holy Spirit ~ Ephesians 2:18
- We are an habitation of God through the Holy Spirit ~ Ephesians 2:22
- We are strengthened with power by the Holy Spirit ~ Ephesians 3:16; Luke 1:35; Luke 4:14
- We are to walk in the unity of the Holy Spirit ~ Ephesians 4:3
- There is only one Holy Spirit ~ Ephesians 4:4
- The Holy Spirit can be grieved ~ Ephesians 4:30
- We are exhorted to be filled with the Holy Spirit ~ Ephesians 5:18; Acts 4:8, 31; Acts 6:3, 5; Acts 7:55; Acts 9:17; Acts 11:24; Acts 13:9; Luke 1:15, 41, 67; Luke 4:1
- The Word is the sword of the Holy Spirit ~ Ephesians 6:17

- John saw the Holy Spirit ~ John 1:32-33; Matthew 3:16
- We must be born of the Holy Spirit ~ John 3:5-6
- God gives the Holy Spirit ~ John 3:34; Acts 15:8; Romans 5:5; 1 John 3:24; 1 John 4:13
- God is a Spirit ~ John 4:24
- The Holy Spirit makes alive ~ John 6:63
- The Holy Spirit lives with us forever ~ John 14:16-17; Psalm 139:7
- The Holy Spirit comforts us ~ John 14:16; Acts 9:31
- The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth ~ John 14:17; 1 John 5:6
- The Holy Spirit teaches us all things ~ John 14:26; Luke 12:12
- The Holy Spirit brings to our remembrance ~ John 14:26
- The Holy Spirit is sent to us in the Father's name ~ John 14:26
- The Holy Spirit testifies of Jesus ~ John 15:26
- The Holy Spirit reproves ("convicts") of sin, righteousness and judgment to come ~ John 16:7-11
- The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth ~ John 16:13
- The Holy Spirit shows us things to come ~ John 16:13
- The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus ~ John 16:14
- The Holy Spirit reveals the things of Jesus unto us ~ John 16:14-15; Acts 11:28; 1 Corinthians 2:10; Luke 2:25-27
- The Holy Spirit gives us "dunamis" power ~ Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; Acts 10:38; Romans 15:13, 19; 1 Corinthians 2:4; Micah 3:8; Luke 4:14
- The Holy Spirit gives us a tongues language ~ Acts 2:4; Acts 10:45-47; Acts 19:6
- The Holy Spirit gives visions and dreams ~ Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:17-18
- The Holy Spirit shows signs, wonders and miracles ~ Acts 2:17-20; 1 Corinthians 12:10
- The Holy Spirit is a Gift ~ Acts 2:38; Acts 10:45-46; Acts 11:17
- The Holy Spirit can be lied to ~ Acts 5:3
- The Holy Spirit can be tempted ("tried, tested") ~ Acts 5:9
- The Holy Spirit is given to the obedient ~ Acts 5:32
- The Holy Spirit can be irresistible ~ Acts 6:10
- The Holy Spirit can also be resisted ~ Acts 7:51
- The Holy Spirit speaks ~ Acts 8:29; Acts 10:19; Acts 13:2; Acts 21:4; Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; Revelation 3:1, 6, 13, 22; Revelation 22:17
- The Holy Spirit caught Philip away ~ Acts 8:39
- The Holy Spirit anoints us ~ Acts 10:38; 2 Corinthians 1:21
- The Holy Spirit empowers us ~ Acts 10:38; Acts 1:8; Luke 1:35
- The Holy Spirit falls on people ~ Acts 10:44; Acts 11:15
- The Holy Spirit baptizes ("dips, immerses") us ~ Acts 1:5; Acts 11:16; Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33

- The Holy Spirit calls people to ministry ~ Acts 13:2-4
- The Holy Spirit sends people forth ~ Acts 13:2-4; Isaiah 48:16
- The Holy Spirit fills us with joy ~ Acts 13:52; Romans 14:17
- The Holy Spirit has an opinion ~ Acts 15:28
- The Holy Spirit blocks pathways ~ Acts 16:6-7
- The Holy Spirit releases the Gifts ~ Acts 19:6; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11
- We can be “bound” in the Holy Spirit ~ Acts 20:22
- The Holy Spirit witnesses/testifies ~ Acts 20:23; 1 John 5:6-8; Nehemiah 9:30
- The Holy Spirit promotes people ~ Acts 20:28
- He is the Spirit of Holiness ~ Romans 1:4
- He is the Same Holy Spirit Who raised Jesus from the dead ~ and He now lives inside of us! – Romans 8:11
- The Holy Spirit sanctifies us ~ Romans 15:16
- The Holy Spirit is full of love ~ Romans 15:30
- The Holy Spirit searches the deep things of God ~ 1 Corinthians 2:10
- He is the Spirit of God ~ 1 Corinthians 2:11-12
- The Holy Spirit is a Teacher ~ 1 Corinthians 2:13
- The Holy Spirit is a Comparer of spiritual things ~ 1 Corinthians 2:13
- The Holy Spirit lives in us ~ 1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 6:19; Numbers 27:18; Isaiah 63:11; Ezekiel 36:27; Ezekiel 37:14
- The Holy Spirit joins us to God ~ 1 Corinthians 6:17
- The Holy Spirit gives wisdom ~ 1 Corinthians 12:8; Exodus 28:3; Exodus 31:3; Exodus 35:31; Isaiah 11:2
- The Holy Spirit gives knowledge ~ 1 Corinthians 12:8; Exodus 35:31; Isaiah 11:2
- The Holy Spirit gives faith ~ 1 Corinthians 12:9
- The Holy Spirit gives gifts of healing ~ 1 Corinthians 12:9; Isaiah 61:1-3; Luke 4:18
- The Holy Spirit gives working of miracles ~ 1 Corinthians 12:10
- The Holy Spirit gives prophecy ~ 1 Corinthians 12:10; 2 Peter 1:21; Revelation 19:10; Numbers 11:25-29; 1 Samuel 10:6, 10-13; 1 Samuel 19:20-24; Luke 1:67
- The Holy Spirit gives discerning of spirits ~ 1 Corinthians 12:10
- The Holy Spirit gives many kinds of tongues ~ 1 Corinthians 12:10
- The Holy Spirit gives interpretation of tongues ~ 1 Corinthians 12:10
- In the Holy Spirit we speak mysteries (“that which is known only to the initiated”) ~ 1 Corinthians 14:2
- We pray with the Holy Spirit ~ 1 Corinthians 14:15; Jude 20
- We sing with the Holy Spirit ~ 1 Corinthians 14:15
- We bless with the Holy Spirit ~ 1 Corinthians 14:16

- We are sealed (“made secure”) by the Holy Spirit ~ 2 Corinthians 1:22; Ephesians 1:13
- The Holy Spirit gives freedom ~ 2 Corinthians 3:17
- The Holy Spirit changes us ~ 2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 Samuel 10:6
- God gives us the earnest (“pledge”) of the Holy Spirit ~ 2 Corinthians 1:22; 2 Corinthians 5:5
- We have the communion (“partnership, participation, communication, distribution, fellowship” – Strong’s) of the Holy Spirit ~ 2 Corinthians 13:14
- The Holy Spirit makes alive ~ 1 Peter 3:18; 1 Peter 4:6; Revelation 11:11; Job 33:4
- The Holy Spirit is the spirit of glory ~ 1 Peter 4:14
- The Holy Spirit can be known ~ 1 John 4:2
- We can be in the Holy Spirit ~ Revelation 1:10; Revelation 4:2; Revelation 21:10
- We can hear the Holy Spirit ~ Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; Revelation 3:6, 13, 22
- The Holy Spirit moves (“hovers over, shakes”) things ~ Genesis 1:2; Judges 13:25
- The Holy Spirit does not strive forever ~ Genesis 6:3; Psalm 51:11
- The Holy Spirit gives understanding ~ Exodus 35:31; Isaiah 11:2
- The Holy Spirit gives impartation ~ Numbers 11:17, 25
- The Holy Spirit rests upon us ~ Numbers 11:25-26; Isaiah 11:2
- The Holy Spirit comes on us ~ Judges 3:10; Judges 6:34; Judges 11:29; Judges 14:16, 19; Judges 15:14; 1 Samuel 10:6; 1 Samuel 11:6; 1 Samuel 16:13; 1 Samuel 19:23; 1 Chronicles 12:8; 2 Chronicles 15:16; 2 Chronicles 20:14; 2 Chronicles 24:20; Isaiah 42:1; Isaiah 59:21; Isaiah 61:1; Matthew 12:18; Mark 1:10; Luke 1:35; Luke 2:25
- The Holy Spirit can depart from us ~ 1 Samuel 16:14; 1 Kings 22:24 (2 Chronicles 18:23)
- The Holy Spirit can carry us ~ 1 Kings 18:12; 2 Kings 2:16; Ezekiel 37:1
- The Holy Spirit gives strategies ~ 1 Chronicles 28:12
- The Holy Spirit gives instruction ~ Nehemiah 9:20
- The Holy Spirit is good ~ Nehemiah 9:20; Psalm 143:10
- The Holy Spirit is in us ~ Job 27:3
- The Holy Spirit is poured out to us ~ Proverbs 1:23; Isaiah 32:15; Ezekiel 39:29; Joel 2:28
- The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Judgment and Burning ~ Isaiah 4:4
- The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Counsel and Might ~ Isaiah 11:2
- The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Fear of the Lord ~ Isaiah 11:2

- The Holy Spirit gathers ~ Isaiah 34:16
- The Holy Spirit blows upon things ~ Isaiah 40:7
- The Holy Spirit pours on our children ~ Isaiah 44:3; Joel 2:28
- The Holy Spirit lifts up the standard against the enemy ~ Isaiah 59:19
- He is the Holy Spirit ~ Isaiah 63:10-11
- The Holy Spirit causes us to rest ~ Isaiah 63:14
- The Holy Spirit lifts us up ~ Ezekiel 3:12, 14, 24; Ezekiel 8:3; Ezekiel 11:1, 24; Ezekiel 43:5
- The Holy Spirit stirs up ~ Haggai 1:14
- The Holy Spirit conceives ~ Matthew 1:18-20
- The Holy Spirit can drive us ~ Mark 1:12
- The Holy Spirit sends fire ~ Isaiah 4:4; Matthew 3:11; Luke 3:16
- The Holy Spirit is like a dove ~ Luke 3:22; Matthew 3:16
- The Holy Spirit is given to those who ask ~ Luke 11:13
- Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is forbidden ~ Matthew 12:31-32; Mark 3:29; Luke 12:12

God's way is the way of the Holy Spirit. May we ever be found seeking to allow Him to rule the affairs of our hearts and lives – and may we always endeavour to allow Him to have His mighty way in us as we seek to do His will!

**Father O'Malley answers the phone. "Hello, is this Father O'Malley?"**

"It is"

"This is the IRS. Can you help us?"

"I can"

"Do you know a Ted Houlihan?"

"I do"

"Is he a member of your congregation?"

"He is"

"Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?"

"He will".



## Facebook Quotes

Graham Cooke:

"The enemy will have you convinced that you'll never change, that you're never going to be any good, that this is your life and it's never going to be any different. He is a liar! He has never told you the truth. He is incapable of truth. The truth is that no pit is so deep that God's love is not deeper still. The truth is He will always jump into the pit where you are and the first thing He will do is kiss you because everyone needs to be kissed. It's in the Bible somewhere!"

From IDENTITY & INHERITANCE



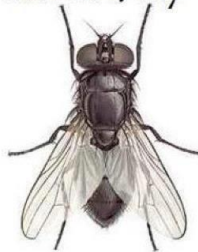
The Old Testament prophets said "Thus says the Lord..." When Jesus came, he never used this term. He said "Truly, truly, I say to you...", or "Moses said...but I say to you..." And this is the glorious truth: The prophets spoke FOR the Lord, but Jesus spoke AS the Lord. JESUS CHRIST IS LORD! Nobody could and can speak like Him. Jesus also said "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall never pass away." He is the rock of all ages, faithful and true. God bless you. REINHARD BONNKE

Graham Cooke:

"We must come before God with thanksgiving, but He is not asking us to become a supernatural masochist: "Oh, I thank thee Lord, that I hath crashed my car." No! What we're thanking God for is the reality of His presence. He promised to never leave you or forsake you."

From CRAFTED PRAYER

### how to tell the Sex of a Fly



A woman walked into the kitchen  
to find her husband stalking around  
with a fly swatter.

"What are you doing?" she asked.

"Hunting flies," He responded.

"Oh! Killing any?" she asked.

"Yep, 3 males, 2 females," he replied.

Intrigued, she asked.

"How can you tell them apart?"

He responded,

"3 were on a beer can,

2 were on the phone."







# Is it God . . . or is it Me?



By Alan Taylor (Hamilton, New Zealand)

In the context of giving a prophecy one of the most common reasons I hear for not bringing a word is: “I don’t know if it’s God . . . or me”! And, of course, the implication is, “It’s me and not God, so I won’t bring it.”

Let me say up front: the substance of this article – it’s probably God. Now I’ll tell you why I say that.

## God’s voice is abundant.

Psalms 119   says that **“God’s word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path”** (v. 105). Well, that’s encouraging – whichever way we’re heading God can give us direction, and light the way. And directionally, that means that God’s Word is in front of us. Now Isaiah says that our ears will hear a word behind us saying, **“this is the way, walk in it”** whenever we turn to the right or to the left (Isaiah 30:21  ). Now that’s even more encouraging! God’s Word is not only in front of us, but it’s also behind us. **That’s divine inspiration in stereo!**





But wait, there’s more! 1 Corinthians 2:16   promises that we have **“the mind of Christ” –that’s God’s voice from within.** And 1 Samuel chapter 3 tells the story of young Samuel who heard the audible voice of God ~ which was so real he mistook it for the voice of Eli. **That’s God’s voice from outside.**

**So God’s voice is in front of us, behind us, within and without. That’s not just stereo – that’s full surround quadraphonic sound!**





Interestingly enough, Moslems have to get directional in their prayers – they have to face Mecca. The God of the heavens and the earth; of all time past, present and future, of this realm and all others, is not limited to the points of the compass!

Because of the abundance of God's voice, if you're submitted to God and wanting to hear from Him, it's probably His voice that you're hearing. Particularly in terms of prophecy, when the object is to bless someone. Just accept that and run with it and the person you're prophesying to will no doubt get blessed.

### **But is it God . . . or me?**



We live in a world of choices – BBQ sauce or mayonnaise, the blue shirt or the brown one, trim or full fat. But that can condition our outlook on hearing the voice of God to think that we're limited to the option of a thought being either God or me (or maybe even the devil as another option!). **But as Christians we have Christ in us – a new creation. He made us alive together with Christ** (Ephesians 2:5  ). ***“It's no longer I that live but Christ who lives in me”*** (Galatians 2:20  .

So is that thought God, or me? Neither! **It's God in me!**



Prophetic words can come from the heart and God gave us a heart of flesh (Ezekiel 11:19  ). And prophetic words can also come from the mind and ***“we have the mind of Christ”*** (1 Corinthians 2:16  ). So whether you feel it with your heart or think it with your mind – it's probably God. And the breastplate of righteousness guards what's in our heart, while the helmet of salvation watches over what's in our mind.

Jesus said that ***“His sheep hear His voice and know His voice”*** (John 10:27,4  .







So believe that God wants to speak through you, and the thoughts you have are from Him. **Take a risk.**

Read the story of Jonathan and his armour-bearer in 1 Samuel 14  . Knowing the general will of God (the Philistines are the bad guys and God is against them), Jonathan took the initiative and came up with a plan to attack the enemy. His trust was in God – ***“perhaps the Lord will work for us; for***

***the Lord is not restrained to save by many or by few***" (v. 6). With God's help, Jonathan's plan worked and the Philistines were defeated.

My point is this – because it's the general will of God that ***"all may prophesy"*** (1 Corinthians 14:31  ) , ask God to give you something encouraging for that person who so desperately needs it; thank God for His inspiration; take a risk, and then pass on what comes into your mind. It's probably the voice of God you're hearing.

### **Follow the guidelines.**

Prophecy is for ***"edification, exhortation and encouragement"*** (1 Corinthians 14:3  ). If you have in your heart the thought "How can I bring the love of God to this person in what I will say to them?" then it's really hard to get it wrong. Don't overstep your experience in this area, but only step out according to the proportion of your faith (Romans 12:6  ). **Sharpen those skills – training your senses with practice** (Hebrews 5:14  ) **and you'll find your confidence and accuracy will improve.**

### **Just do it!**

People desperately want to hear from God. Sometimes they don't realize it quite that way, so they read their horoscope in the trash print from the bookshops. Or they visit a psychic because they know there's something else to this world. Whether people are Christian or not, **the world is parched for a life-giving word from God. Don't withhold that life-giving water when it can do so much good. Ask God for inspiration. Put yourself in a place where you can speak an encouraging word. Believe that you can hear from God and then prophesy. You'll change the world – maybe not by much – but it will seem like it to the person on the other end of your prophecy.**

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Paul Christensen

This magazine's purpose is to build up the faith of believers.

I am an elder of St Aidan's Presbyterian Church in Conifer Grove, Auckland NZ. At present, I am assisting with the ministry of the church along with the other elders and very capable preachers as part of an elder-run church.

I am including articles from recognized, effective pastors and ministries that have proved themselves in having the Holy Spirit work with them in the conversion of sinners, effective and powerful impact that they have on believers, and in the growth of their churches. I think that it is important for the members of the congregation to have a range of ministry outside of their usual one-person ministry that has been the norm for a number of years before our current minister recently resigned.

You will notice that I have included jokes and humorous pictures in this magazine. I am a strong believer in humour as a healing resource. I believe that the business of sharing the Gospel is serious, but some become so serious that they are dour and humourless. I don't think that these people are a good advertisement if we want our church to grow and be filled with believers who are passionate for Christ and who approach their faith with joy. "In His presence is fullness of joy" (Psalm 16:11), and good, clean humour is an important part of that.

All articles are printed with the kind permission of the authors, who believe that it is important that the message of the Gospel gets out there, and the importance of walking with God in love and faith, along with unity among Christian believers.

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Once you have read this, pass it on to someone else who might be encouraged by reading it.