

CONNECTING POINT

Magazine

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“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...”

Acts 1:8

“Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and power, and yet much of the Church seems to believe that the very works of Jesus that we’re called to do in His name can be done apart from this same power resting upon us. It is not possible - not now nor at any other time in the history of the Church. Christ’s works are always done in the power of the Spirit. Anything less would be something other than Christ’s works.”

Dr. Randy Lane Bunch



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EXPECTATION AND THE POWER OF GOD: *How a lack of knowledge has undercut our expectation of God’s glory by Dr. Tim McKittrick*

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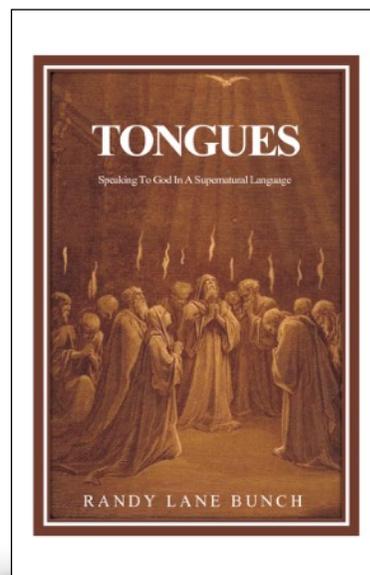
TONGUES: SPEAKING TO GOD IN A SUPERNATURAL LANGUAGE: Read an excerpt from Dr. Randy’s updated and revised book on the Pentecostal experience.

SPECIAL OFFER:

LOOK INSIDE TO SEE HOW YOU CAN GET AN UPDATED EDITION OF

TONGUES:

SPEAKING TO GOD IN A SUPERNATURAL LANGUAGE, BY DR. RANDY LANE BUNCH



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SIGNS AND SOULS

By Dr. Randy Lane Bunch

Despite the objections from some corners of the modern Church, the provision of the Holy Spirit to empower the Church to do the works of Jesus still belongs to us today, and He is confirming the gospel all over the world through signs and wonders.

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EXPECTATION AND THE POWER OF GOD:

By Dr. Tim McKittrick

How a lack of knowledge regarding God's provision for His people has undercut our expectation and experience of God's glory, both in the lives of individuals and in the Church at large.

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TONGUES: SPEAKING TO GOD IN A SUPERNATURAL LANGUAGE:

Years ago, Dr. Randy wrote a book on the experience that changed the course of His life and ministry. Now an updated and revised copy of that book is available for a donation to CPC's work in Pakistan. Read an edited excerpt here!

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IN THE BONDS OF OUR BROTHERS

By Dr. Randy Lane Bunch

In the light of the heightened persecution against Christians worldwide, the Church must be both informed and ready to act to relieve the suffering of hurting believers everywhere.

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LAST WORD: IS A GREAT REVIVAL COMING?

Many are counting on a great end-time revival to rescue the world from the pervasive evil we see on our nightly newscasts and our social media feeds. Are we waiting for God to move, or is He waiting on the Church to simply be the Church?



Connecting Point Magazine is a quarterly publication of *Connecting Point Church* and *Connecting Point Communications*. To contact us, you can email us at info@connectingpc.org. If you would like to donate to support one of our outreaches around the world, you can send your tax-deductible contribution to connectingpc.org/donate. We would also be happy to receive your praise reports and prayer requests as well!

CONTRIBUTORS:



For the past thirty years, Dr. Tim McKittrick has had one goal on his mind: connect ordinary people to the extraordinary presence of God. In pursuit of this goal, Tim earned a Master's and a Doctorate of Ministry from Oral Roberts University, and in 2016 accepted the position of Executive Director

of World Ministry Fellowship - a ministry credentialing organization based in Parker, Texas - worldministry.com. He enjoys promoting the ministry of the Holy Spirit and speaking about the topic closest to his heart: the glory of God. Tim and his family are based in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. To find out more or to contact Dr. McKittrick, please go to timmckittrick.org.



Dr. Randy Bunch is the founder of Connecting Point Communications, a ministry committed to bringing "God's answers to man's questions" through the printed page, digital media, as well as seminars and church meetings. He is the lead pastor of Connecting Point Church in Taft, California and

Northeast Christian Church in Bakersfield California. He has also served as an adjunct professor at Summit Bible College, also located in Bakersfield. In his 30-plus years of ministry, he has served as church planter on both east and west coasts, as well as traveled extensively in local churches throughout the United States and also abroad. For more, go to randylanebunch.org and connectingpc.org.

Be sure to check out our Ministry Update Report on our most recent Skype Crusade in Pakistan on page 18!



A person wearing a red robe is holding a globe of the world. The globe is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the image. The background is a bright, hazy outdoor scene with a sun flare effect. The text 'The world is waiting for you.' is overlaid in large white font on the right side of the image.

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is waiting
for you.**

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FIRST WORD:

DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT HIM!

EDITOR,
DR. RANDY LANE BUNCH



“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” Luke 24:49

Many who are reading this will be too young to remember the commercials for the American Express Card which featured the late actor, Carl Malden. Malden, dressed in an outfit that hearkened back to his days playing a detective on the 70's TV show, *The Streets of San Francisco* (which also featured a very young Michael Douglas), would tout the virtues of American Express. Though the ads varied, depending the particular benefit highlighted, he would always end each commercial by holding the card up for the camera to see and repeat the iconic phrase, “American Express: don't leave home without it!”

Whenever I read the words of Jesus in Luke 24:49 where He told the disciples to remain in Jerusalem until they received the Holy Spirit and were “endued with power from on high,” I think of those old commercials. In a very real way, Jesus was saying, “Don't leave home without Him!” If the power of the Spirit was necessary for the Church then, it still is today.

Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and power (see Acts 10:38), and yet much of the Church seems to believe that the very works of Jesus that we're called to do in His name can be done apart from this same power resting upon us. It is not possible - not now nor at any other time in the history of the Church. Christ's works are always done in the power of the Spirit. Anything less would be something other than Christ's works.

Jesus said this same power would be ours (Acts 1:8). On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon the one-hundred and twenty disciples in the upper room. Clothed with His power, these disciples gave a bold witness for Christ confirmed by signs and wonders that changed the world forever. Today, according to one researcher, there are 650 million people who have embraced the Pentecostal experience¹. This edition of *Connecting Point* is dedicated to the Holy Spirit who equips the Church by His power and His gifts.

¹Scott McKnight, *ChurchLeaders Podcast*, June 5, 2018

CLEAR TEACHING ON A CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT

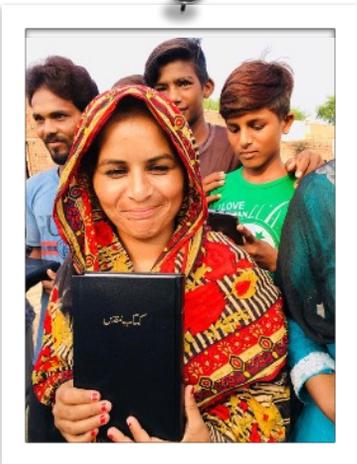
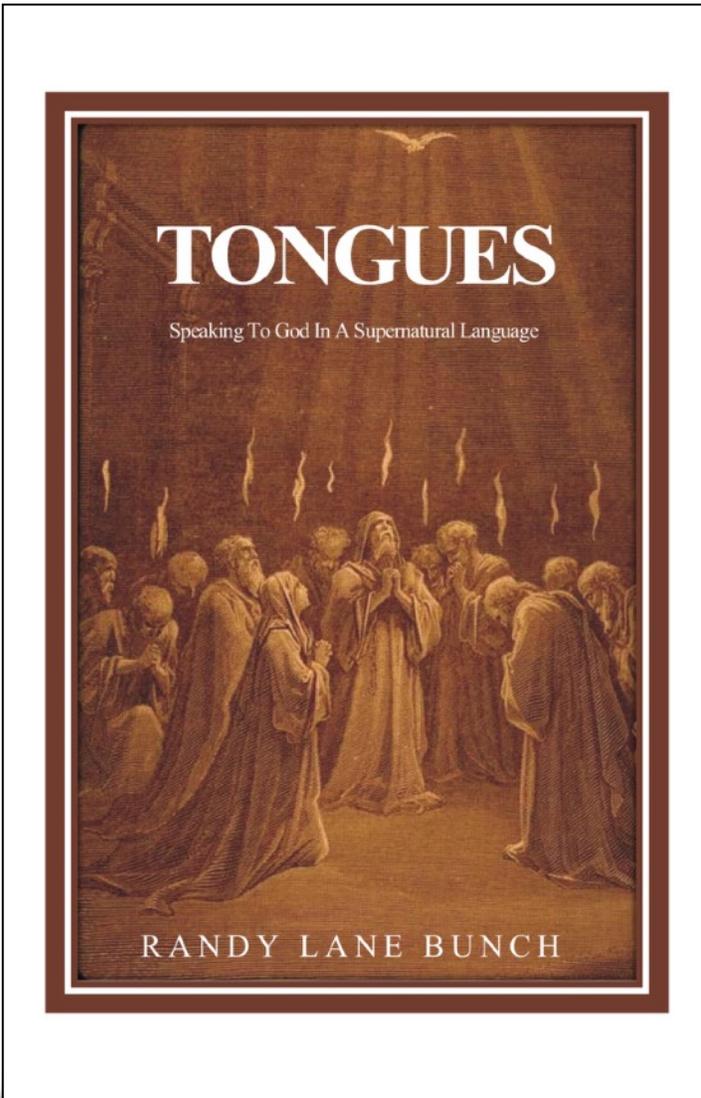
There is perhaps no subject that has suffered more abuse than speaking with other tongues, and yet it holds the promise of great spiritual blessing, both to the individual believer as well as to the body of Christ in general. Sharing from both the Word of God and his own experience, Dr. Randy Lane Bunch helps to shed scriptural light on what has been for many a confusing issue.

If you have had questions on this most important Bible subject, this book will help to answer those questions and give much needed insight as to how to have God's power in your life.

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Dr. Randy Lane Bunch



You can be a part of our work in Pakistan! Each month, we conduct a Skype Crusade in Pakistan. Bibles are the greatest need for those attending the meetings and who respond to the invitation to accept Christ as Savior and Lord. We endeavor to aid with this and other needs by sending what we can to ensure that these new believers are able to grow in their new-found faith. You can help us provide them with their own copy of the scriptures to

ensure they fully mature into disciples of Christ. To give, simply go to connectingpc.org/missions-outreaches. We'll send you a digital edition of our book, *Tongues: Speaking To God In A Supernatural Language* for a donation of \$20 or more. If you prefer a hardcopy, simply email your address to us at info@connectingpc.org.



SIGNS & SOULS

By Dr. Randy Lane Bunch

“BUT YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME UPON YOU; AND YOU SHALL BE WITNESSES TO ME IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE END OF THE EARTH.” ACTS 1:8

Christianity is a supernatural faith. Even the most basic tenets of Christian doctrine require a belief in the supernatural: the creation of our universe *ex nihilo* (out of nothing), the plagues of Egypt and the parting of the Red Sea, the virgin birth, and, of course, the resurrection. A denial of the supernatural is a denial of the inspiration of the scriptures and of the entire gospel message, which is founded, above all else, on the resurrection of Christ.

Most Christians don't seem to have a problem with the miraculous, so long as we're talking about things that happened long ago through men like Moses, Elijah, or especially Jesus. We're fine with Paul or Peter raising the dead, but if some were to hear of such an event happening today, it would be met with fierce skepticism, and in some quarters even accusations of fanaticism or heresy.

My question is, "Why?" Why in the world would we have a problem with the God of the Bible doing miracles among us today? It's not like "He just doesn't have it anymore!" God is unchanging and all-powerful, and "Jesus Christ

is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). So, where does all this skepticism come from? Why are so many uncomfortable with the idea of God healing the sick or working miracles among us today?

The fact is, many believers do NOT take issue with any of these things. In the global south,

where Christianity is exploding, few would take exception with the idea of God confirming His Word with signs and wonders. Not all that long ago, I heard the USA director for Voice of the Martyrs say in an interview on The Eric Metaxas Show that visions and dreams are so common among Muslims today that the first question he asks a Muslim man is, "Have you had any unusual dreams or visions?" A surprising

number answer in the affirmative, and the stories often end with a revelation of the risen Christ. Such was the testimony of the late Nabeel Qureshi, whose wonderful book, *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*, documents his conversion from Islam to Christianity, assisted by such supernatural experiences.

“Even the most basic tenets of Christian doctrine require a belief in the supernatural: the creation of our universe *ex nihilo* (out of nothing), the plagues of Egypt and the parting of the Red Sea, the virgin birth, and, of course, the resurrection.”

In our own ministry, miracles of healing have occurred routinely over the years, as they do in many ministries and churches we are acquainted with personally. We have seen incurables healed and the gospel confirmed with demonstrations of the power of God in both Muslim and Hindu nations where these miracles testify to the divine authority of the gospel. These miracles, done in Jesus' name, testify to the reality of the resurrection and demonstrate a God who loves people and takes a personal interest in the lives of the sick and suffering. Over the last seven to eight months, we have seen over seven hundred come to Christ in our Skype crusades where healings occur regularly to both confirm the gospel and demonstrate the Lord's compassion.

The Church should expect no less, especially when Jesus assured His disciples, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father" (John 14:12). Jesus had told the disciples that it was "to (their) advantage" that He go away, for He would then give them another Helper, the Holy Spirit, who would empower them to do His works and be a witness for Him (see John 16:8 & Acts 1:8). Whereas in the Old Testament the Holy Spirit only came upon those especially anointed to stand in a divinely appointed office, such as the prophet, priest, or king, Joel prophesied what Peter reiterated on the day of Pentecost, that the Holy Spirit would be poured out on all flesh.

"But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,
That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your young men shall see visions,
Your old men shall dream dreams.
And on My menservants and on My maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days;
And they shall prophesy.

I will show wonders in heaven above
And signs in the earth beneath:
Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.
The sun shall be turned into darkness,
And the moon into blood,
Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.
And it shall come to pass
That whoever calls on the name of the Lord
Shall be saved.'" (Acts 2:16-21)

"One could sum up the results of this general outpouring of the Spirit on the Church as resulting in two primary things: signs and souls. Joel's prophecy describes a Spirit-empowered people prophesying, experiencing supernatural revelation and power, and reaping a harvest of souls the world over."

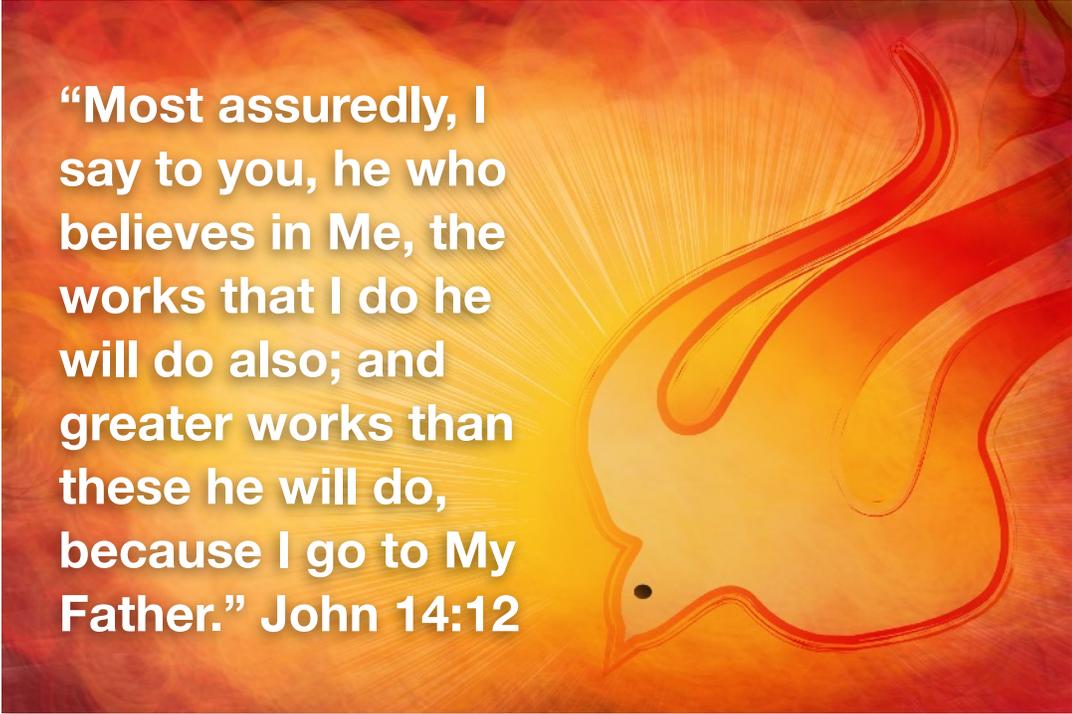
One could sum up the results of this general outpouring of the Spirit on the Church as resulting in two primary things: signs and souls. Joel's prophecy describes a Spirit-empowered people prophesying, experiencing supernatural revelation and power, and reaping a harvest of souls the world over. After all, Jesus told them that they would be witnesses to Him "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8) when the Holy Spirit came upon them. He did, and the Church has been moving in the power of the supernatural ever since.

Interestingly, some in the Church are unaware of this and are not unlike the disciples in Ephesus who told Paul, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit" (Acts 19:2). The assumption by such believers goes something like this: "If God was still working miracles in the earth today, certainly they would be happening among us, and since we don't see them happening in our church, they must not be for us today." However, this is both unscriptural and illogical. For one thing, many are not experiencing any dimension of God's presence or power in the earth today (so far as they are aware), and yet this does not mean God is not moving in the lives of others. God comes where He is invited and moves in an environment of

the level of our knowledge of what God has provided for us. Among those who are uninformed about spiritual gifts, there is no expectation of their operation and thus, no manifestation of God's power where these gifts are concerned.

Additionally, Paul repeatedly told the Corinthians to "desire" and "covet earnestly" the gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:31; 14:1; 14:12-13). One cannot desire that about which he or she is ignorant. That is why Paul told that same Corinthian congregation, "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant" (1 Corinthians 12:1). The words *spiritual gifts* are not translated from

the Greek word, *charis*, from which we get the word *charismatic*, the word most commonly associated with the gifts of the Spirit. Rather, it is the Greek word *pneumatikos*, which actually refers more broadly to the "things of the Spirit," or "spiritual things." The word *gifts* in 1 Corinthians 12:1 was, in fact, added by the translators, and does not appear in the original Greek.



“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.” John 14:12

faith. As we often say, "The atmosphere of expectancy is the breeding ground for miracles."

Dr. Lester Sumrall, a great influence in my own spiritual life and ministry once said, "You only get what you preach." As simple as that sounds, it is a very profound principle. Since "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God," (Romans 10:17), our faith can only rise to

Paul is telling the church here that he does not want them to be ignorant of spiritual things, which, of course, includes the gifts and operations of the Holy Spirit. Why is Paul so adamant that the Corinthians be informed regarding spiritual things, particularly the operation of the Holy Spirit in their midst? There may be many reasons, but here are two important ones:

1. Prejudice is a fear based on ignorance.

There are many things men have been fearful of throughout history. They feared sailing over the edge of the world. Long ago, ocean maps that could not show what lay beyond the knowledge of experienced sailors would simply say, "There be dragons." The unknown has always been associated with danger and fear. Today, many churches simply reject the supernatural operation of the Spirit for the same reason, despite the apostle Paul's admonitions not to do so (see 1 Thessalonians 5:19, 1 Corinthians 14:39). As one minister aptly said, "What you're not up on, you're down on." What is the cure to this fear? Understanding. Men once feared the lightning as being the wrath of the god's until they came to learn the laws of nature that governed its operation. Understanding and knowledge dispelled the fear. Likewise, understanding spiritual gifts will help to dispel fear of the Spirit's operation.

Closely associated with this fear is a pride that refuses to acknowledge as true what is contrary to one's doctrinal presuppositions. Denominational dogmas, or what Jesus referred to as the traditions of men, can still render the Word of the God powerless in the lives of those who refuse to accept what the Bible teaches simply because their denomination has not embraced it. It has been rightly said that what we *think* we know is a far greater impediment to our growth and development than what we *don't* know. The reason for this is easy enough to see. When we know we are ignorant regarding some matter, we tend to be more open to instruction and new insights, whereas when we have a vested interest in promoting our presuppositions, whether they prove to be true or not, we close ourselves off to further illumination. The "entrance of (God's) word gives light," as the Psalmist said (Psalm 119:130), but only to those whose hearts are prepared to receive it.

2. Stewardship Requires Understanding

After Paul tells the Corinthian church that he does not want them to be ignorant of the operations of the Spirit, he proceeds to take the next three chapters teaching on them. Why? So they can steward well the gifts that God gave for the purpose of edifying and strengthening His Church. Even 1 Corinthians 13, thought of by most as the "love chapter," is written to demonstrate that love is the highest ethic and the best, most pure motive for desiring the gifts of the Spirit. In other words, it's not about us and our gifting, it's about glorifying Christ and edifying others. As someone has well said, "When God anointed you it's because He has someone else on His mind."

Paul's guidelines and admonitions for the orderly use of Spiritual gifts in the Church are not to discourage their operation. On the contrary, they are given to *preserve* their use and the intent for which God gave them in the first place. If anything, Paul's guidelines are an *encouragement* to promote their use, just as driver's training classes are to promote the safe use of an automobile. We are not discouraging our teenager from driving by insisting they learn the proper operation of a car but rather ensuring they are able to safely enjoy the benefits of that automobile.

Through the knowledge of God's Word regarding spiritual gifts our faith in and desire for their operation will grow, as will our ability to steward them well. To do the works of Jesus, we must have the same power in which He operated - that very power of the Holy Spirit He promised. The promised Holy Spirit has come. The gift has been given, and now it's up to each of us to receive that gift by faith!

For more information on this and related subjects, be sure to go to randylanebunch.org where you can subscribe to Dr. Randy's podcast and find other free resources as well.



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GOD WANTS TO REVEAL HIS GLORY IN YOU!

Dr. Tim McKitrick

THE HOPE OF GLORY

Everything You Need for Life and Godliness

You were made to carry the presence of God. This is your hope - his glory, his empowerment, and the incredible inheritance he offers us. The down payment of this inheritance is made possible through a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit, who is meant to be working in your life today, revealing the magnitude of what Christ did on the cross, and drawing you closer to God and the vision he has for your life. This inheritance is your hope - The Hope of Glory.

The glory of God is the manifest presence of God - everything that God is: all of his attributes, all of his love, all of his majesty, all of his splendor. It is what makes heaven magnificent, but God's presence is not limited to heaven. Jesus came to give you access to the presence of God and the resources of heaven in your here and now.

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- Understand the role of the Holy Spirit in experiencing your inheritance
- Develop a relationship with the Holy Spirit and experience the glory of God
- Access God's resources for change and personal growth



About the Author

For the past thirty years, Dr. Tim McKitrick has had one goal on his mind: connect ordinary people to the extraordinary presence of God. Tim had an experience with God during his college days that completely transformed him. Now, he hopes to help others encounter the incomparable gift of God's presence. In pursuit of this goal, Tim earned a Master's and a Doctorate of Ministry from Oral Roberts University, and in 2016 accepted the position of Executive Director of World Ministry Fellowship – a ministry credentialing organization based in Parker, Texas – worldministry.com. He enjoys promoting the ministry of the Holy Spirit and speaking about the topic closest to his heart: the glory of God. Tim and his family are based in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. To find out more or to contact Dr. McKitrick, please go to timmckitrick.org.

EXPECTATION AND THE POWER OF GOD

By Dr. Tim McKittrick

I believe that the main reason people don't walk in the miraculous power of God, the power of the Holy Spirit, is because they simply don't expect to. They don't expect to because they either do not believe God's miraculous power is available to them today, they have just not experienced it yet, or both. If we want to grow in the things of God, we must all come to realize that just because we have not experienced something yet does not mean it is not available to us. To be clear: Just because you have not yet experienced something that God has promised in the Bible does not mean it is not available for you.

At times over my educational career, I have had the opportunity to study the many differing views represented throughout the body of Christ concerning the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church. The differences between these views are vast and far-reaching. Some denominations believe that the gifts of the

Holy Spirit and miracles passed away with the last apostle. Others believe that Jesus came to redeem his people and provides the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit so that his followers can do even greater works than he did while on the earth.

“I am now absolutely convinced that God not only wants you and I to experience his amazing power, but he wants us to walk in it as well.”

I believe that the power of God, the presence of God, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit are for the church today and absolutely available to every person who believes. I believe this for two main reasons. First, I have already personally experienced the power of the Holy Spirit. Second (and more importantly), the Bible explicitly tells me that Jesus came so that I could receive the ministry of

the Holy Spirit. The reality of my situation is simply this: Because of my experience in God, and even more so because the Bible teaches my experience in God is proper and good, my expectations of what I can receive from God have been forever changed. Because of this

new information, I have new and higher expectations. I am now absolutely convinced that God not only wants you and I to experience his amazing power, but he wants us to walk in it as well.

In his book, *Surprised by the Power of the Spirit*, Jack Deere describes why some denominations now believe the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit have ceased.

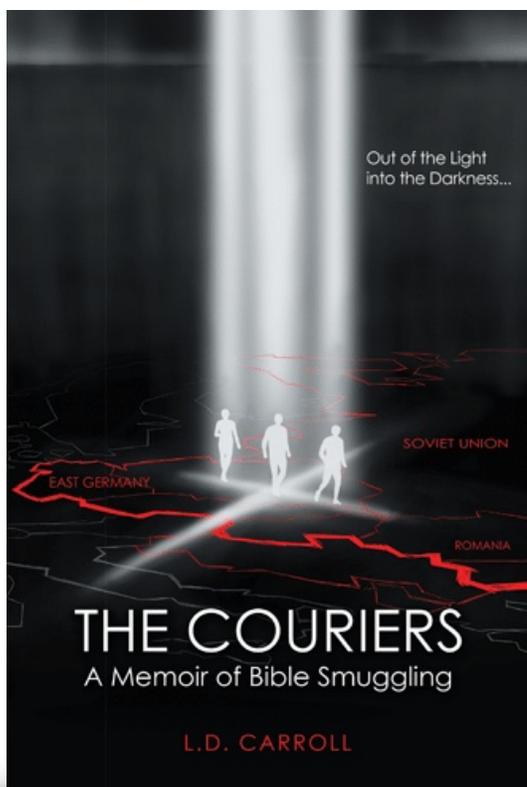
There is one basic reason why Bible believing Christians do not believe in the miraculous gifts of the Spirit today. It is simply this: they have not seen them. Their tradition, of course, supports their lack of belief, but their tradition would have no chance of success if it were not coupled with her lack of experience of the miraculous. Let me repeat: Christians do not disbelieve in the miraculous gifts of the Spirit because the Scriptures teach these gifts have passed away. Rather they disbelieve in the miraculous gifts of the Spirit because they have not experienced them.¹

The main reason people don't walk in the power of the Holy Spirit is because they don't expect to, and they don't expect to because they have never seen the Holy Spirit do the miraculous. Let me assure you, even if you have never seen him do it, God still moves. God still does the miraculous. Jesus still saves, he still heals, he still delivers, and he still fills believers with the Holy Spirit.

Resurrection power is still available through Jesus Christ. This power is available to every single believer through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. This is what the good news of the gospel is all about. God, through Jesus Christ, has provided a way for every believer in the body of Christ to walk in the power of his Holy Spirit.

¹ Jack Deer, *Surprised by the Power of the Spirit* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993), 55.

*For more on this subject, see the ad for Dr. Tim McKittrick's book, *The Hope of Glory*, in this edition of *Connecting Point Magazine*.*



THE COURIERS

A MEMOIR OF BIBLE SMUGGLING

The Couriers is one man's memoirs of his and others' service in a time of Communist oppression against the Christian faith. In this book, Lawrence recounts his experiences taking Bibles and other Christian materials to believers behind the Iron Curtain.

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Tongues

Speaking to God in a Supernatural Language

RANDY LANE BUNCH



BOOK EXCERPT: TONGUES:

SPEAKING TO GOD IN A
SUPERNATURAL LANGUAGE

**"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance."
Acts 2:1-4**

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Acts 1:8

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

The starting place for the discussion on speaking with other tongues is certainly found right here in an experience the Bible calls the Baptism in the Holy Spirit or being filled with the Holy Spirit. While we will not be able here at this time to treat this subject with the detail it deserves, we will touch on some necessary points to advance our subject of speaking with other tongues.

As Jesus said in the verse above, when one is baptized in the Holy Spirit, he or she receives the power of God coming upon them (see also

Luke 24:49). A simple definition of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is that it is the Holy Spirit coming upon the believer to empower Him for Christian service, particularly to do the works of Jesus and be a witness for Him. It is a definite experience that a believer receives subsequent to, and distinct from, the new birth. Speaking with other tongues comes as a result of receiving this experience. It is, in fact, the initial evidence that one has been filled with the Holy Spirit or received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:4

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

These disciples of Jesus were gathered together in the upper room waiting for the

promised Holy Spirit, when suddenly and spontaneously He fell upon them from Heaven. As a result, or consequence of being filled, the disciples began to speak with other tongues. The same thing happened ten years later in the house of Cornelius, a Roman Centurion, as Peter preached the gospel to his household.

Acts 10:44-47

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. 45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"

The Jews who were present with Peter understood that these Gentile believers received the Holy Spirit just as they had, "for they heard them speak with tongues." Again, what was the evidence that these Gentiles had received the Holy Spirit? They spoke with other tongues. Speaking with tongues is the initial evidence that one has been filled with, or received the gift of, the Holy Spirit.

The *purpose* for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is power, but the *initial evidence* is speaking in other tongues. Other evidences will undoubtedly follow, as the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is the doorway to the power of God, but as we see in the above incident, speaking with other tongues was all the evidence the Jews needed to know that the Gentiles had received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 19:1-6

1 And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples 2 he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." 3 And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." 4 Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

“The purpose for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is power, but the initial evidence is speaking in other tongues.”

If we were to examine the previous chapter of the book of Acts, we would discover that the reason these disciples had not fully learned of salvation through Jesus was because they had been taught under the ministry of Apollos, a powerful teacher of the scriptures who only knew the Baptism of John until Paul's friends, Aquila and Priscilla, taught him more accurately about the Way (see Acts 18:24- 28). Apollos' early teaching left these disciples uninformed as to salvation through Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit. We can see from these verses that Paul, assuming these men were saved, wanted to know if they had yet received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 19:2

he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."

Their answer helped Paul to locate them a little better, so he proceeded to conduct some further inquiry.

Acts 19:3

And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism."

John's baptism did not get anyone born again. The purpose of John's ministry was to prepare men for the coming of Jesus through a baptism of repentance. Paul explained this to them and then preached Jesus to them. The result was that these men believed and were baptized in the name of the Jesus, receiving Him as their Lord and Savior.

Acts 19:4-5

4 Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

As soon as Paul got them saved, he moved quickly to get them filled with the Spirit. As soon as they received this gift, they demonstrated the same evidence as the disciples of Jesus in Acts 2:4, and those of Cornelius' household in Acts 10:46. They spoke with tongues.

Acts 19:6

And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

In addition to speaking with other tongues, these disciples also prophesied. This is perfectly scriptural since the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is the doorway to the gifts of the Spirit and the power of God. But whether or not other spiritual gifts are in evidence, as they were here, speaking in other tongues is always evidenced when one receives the gift of the Holy Spirit, as we saw in each of these biblical cases.

Two Important Points

At this time it is important to make two important observations that will help avoid confusion down the road. Firstly, we want to again stress that speaking in tongues is the *initial evidence* of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Tongues are not the Baptism and the Baptism is not tongues. Rather, tongues are simply the evidence that one has been filled with the Spirit or baptized in the Holy Spirit. The Baptism is more than speaking with tongues. Again, it is the Spirit of God coming upon the believer to equip him or her to do the works of Jesus. It is the doorway to the other gifts of the Spirit, as well as speaking with other tongues (see 1 Corinthians 12:8-10).

Secondly, we want to be clear that the Holy Spirit does not speak in tongues, but rather He gives *you and I* the ability, and we speak in other tongues.

Acts 2:4

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and (they) began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The Holy Spirit inspires or prompts the utterance, but we are the ones who do the speaking. This is important to clarify so that there is an understanding that we have to cooperate with the Holy Spirit if we are to speak.

Some have thought that when they were filled with the Holy Spirit, He would just take them

“The Baptism is more than speaking with tongues. Again, it is the Spirit of God coming upon the believer to equip him or her to do the works of Jesus.”

over and they would miraculously begin speaking in other tongues. They didn't realize that something was required of them.

When the Holy Spirit comes upon the believer, He will prompt, inspire, and give unction, but we still have to yield to the Holy Spirit and do the speaking. Some people, having done so, were surprised at how natural it seemed. Some have even been concerned that it was "just them." Yes, it was them, but it was them yielding to the influence of the Spirit.

Once one has been filled with the Spirit and has spoken in tongues, they will find that they can speak in tongues from that point on, any time they want to. Paul alludes to this in his writing.

1 Corinthians 14:15

What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

This verse shows us that praying in the spirit, or praying in other tongues, is an act of one's will, just as praying with our own understanding is. Just as you can *will* to pray with your own mind and understanding, you can also will to pray in the spirit. Once one has received the Spirit and has learned to yield to His influence, tongues becomes for him or her a continual stream of blessing, refreshing, and worship. We will discuss this further as we look now to the purposes of speaking with other tongues.

MINISTRY UPDATE: APRIL SKYPE CRUSADE IN PAKISTAN

April's Skype crusade in Pakistan was host to a smaller crowd than some of the former meetings we've conducted there over the last several months.

However, of the more than seventy in attendance, forty-four made decisions for Christ! In addition to this, many healings were reported, including a woman who was having chest pains and another who was unable to breathe properly. Both were received a touch from God and were healed. All told, seventeen such testimonies came out of the meeting and we are thankful for transformed lives.



Our next meeting will be held on May 8, 2019. As always, we help as we are able by providing funds to assist with the cost of Bibles for the new

believers. Your generous contributions are always welcome. No gift is too small and may have an eternal impact on someone in a troubled part of the world.

If you would like to partner with us, simply go to connectingpc.org/missions-outreaches. All

contributions are tax-deductible, and everyone who gives this month will receive a copy of our book, *Tongues: Speaking To God In A Supernatural Language*.

IN THE BONDS OF OUR BROTHERS

DR. RANDY LANE BUNCH

Religious persecutions against Christians is at an all-time high. Some are saying that it is reaching genocidal proportions in certain places of the world, yet the mainstream media seems to be all but ignoring this due to the politically correct narrative to which they are devoted. As believers, we are obligated to stand with our brothers and sisters who are suffering for the name of Jesus. In the light of this, we are publishing this article which we wrote some years back. May it serve to remind us of the price many are paying to share the good news with a lost world.

“Remember the prisoners as if chained with them – those who are mistreated – since you yourselves are in the body also.” (Hebrews 13:3)

In his book, *Tortured for Christ*, Richard Wurmbrand, founder of The Voice of the Martyrs, tells of the fateful moment when he and his wife chose to stand for Christ against the evil communist regime that had taken over their beloved Romania. The communists had assembled a congress of pastors and priests from all over the nation to meet in the Parliament building. The honorary chairman of this congress was Joseph Stalin, the same man who was the murderer of millions, including many Christians. The communists used the subtle voice of seduction to endeavor to enlist the pastors to their cause. After listening to this for a while, Richard’s wife, Sabina, turned to her husband and the following conversation ensued: “Richard, stand up and wash away this shame from the face of Christ! They are spitting in His face.” I said to her, “If I do so, you lose your husband.” She replied, “I don’t wish to have a coward as a husband.”

Richard took his stand, and as he predicted, he was soon arrested and spent the next fourteen years of his life in a communist prison, three years of which he spent in a below-ground dungeon in isolation. Both he and his wife suffered terrible horrors from the hands of the communists, even worse than the beatings they had endured at the hands of the Nazis some years before. Many times, secret agents were sent in disguise to tell Sabina that Richard had died in prison in an attempt to break her spirit. However, God always reassured her and told her to hold on to her hope. Richard was tortured years on end for his devotion to Christ until at last he was ransomed and brought to the West. It was in that isolation cell that his vision for The Voice of the Martyrs was born; an organization that gives aid to, and teaches the body of Christ about, those suffering for their faith around the world.

Stories of Christian persecution have once again come before the public eye, as news agencies and social media sites have posted the videos and images of Christians who have been beheaded by terror groups such as ISIS. While the names of terror have changed over the years, from Nazis to Communists to Islamic Extremists, the evil which seeks to destroy the

Recently, I heard from a dear friend of mine with whom we labor in the ministry. They serve God in one of these difficult places in the earth. They have massive crusades where the lost are saved in the Muslim nation in which they live, and they care for the orphaned children of their community. They are truly poised to have a hand in changing their nation for Christ. But this



innocent and snuff out the voice of the gospel is the same. It would seem that the depths of man's inhumanity to his fellow man is unfathomable. No longer merely stories of a by-gone era when Christians were fed to the lions in the Coliseum or whose bodies were used as human torches to light the Apian Way in ancient Rome, the reality we see of those suffering for Christ today cries out to us to act on behalf of our suffering brethren. What can we do to relieve those suffering the world over because of their love for Christ?

has not come without a cost. My friend was recently beaten and pistol-whipped by a group of men as his wife looked on, horrified and helpless. It is truly only by God's grace that he survived. Even though the bruises have healed and they continue their work for the Kingdom of God, the danger remains. Recently, a young husband and his pregnant wife in a nearby area were burned alive by radicals who thought they had somehow shown disrespect to the Koran. Though it was only a horrible misunderstanding, it ended with the loss of three beautiful lives,

martyrs for Christ and victims of the inhuman madness that seems to be fermenting right now in many nations of the world.

Just tonight my friend messaged me, asking us to pray for the Christians in his nation. A church only forty-five minutes away from them was burned, and three girls were viciously attacked. Two are in critical condition and one lost her life. Not only is this horrific persecution happening in our day, but it is also very likely coming to a neighborhood near you. As our nation becomes more secular, religious liberties such as our First Amendment right of freedom of religious expression erode, and hostility toward those who refuse to follow the politically correct narrative of our culture increases.

What are we to do? First of all, we are not to make enemies of those who hate us, whether they are members of radical terror groups or simply those who are hostile toward our faith here at home. We are to love our enemies, realizing that our true enemy is not flesh and blood but the spiritual hosts of darkness who control this world system (see Ephesians 6:12), and the Devil who blinds the minds of those who do not believe (see 2 Corinthians 4:4). We are also to stand with and support our brothers

and sisters who suffer, both with our finances and our prayers. There are great organizations, such as The Voice of the Martyrs, Open Doors, and others, who are making great inroads to relieve the sufferings of persecuted Christians. Also, God is doing great things behind enemy lines.

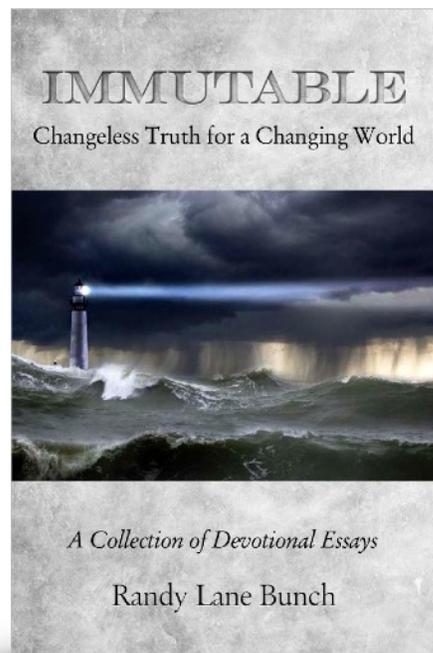
It has been said that so many Muslims are having visions of Jesus around the world that one man who works in these areas said his first question to them is, "Have you had any unusual dreams lately?" He said it is amazing how many of them say, "Yes," and testify to what God has shown them. Many have come to Christ in this way. There are no boundaries to God or His gospel. There is no bunker deep enough, no tribe remote enough, and no wall high enough that He cannot reach those whose hearts are hungry for Him. So, pray for our brothers and sisters who are suffering around the world for their faith, but always remember that after the darkness comes the dawn, and after the tomb came the resurrection. We have a hope in Christ that can never be extinguished!

The Voice of the Martyrs website is persecution.com.

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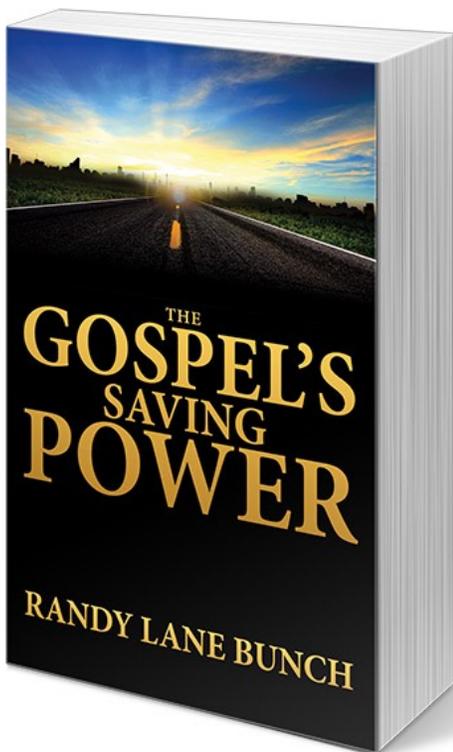
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SAVING TRUTH

**"FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST,
FOR IT IS THE POWER OF GOD TO SALVATION FOR
EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES, FOR THE JEW FIRST
AND ALSO FOR THE GREEK." ROMANS 1:16**

Published in 2013, The Gospel's Saving Power is Dr. Randy's book which deals with the comprehensive scope of the salvation that Christ purchased for us through redemption. Pastor Randy shares from both God's Word and his own personal experience to teach about the life-changing power of God available in the gospel. This book is available through Amazon or Barnes & Noble. It is also available in digital format in iBooks for Apple devices.



LAST WORD:

IS A GREAT REVIVAL COMING?

If you've spent much time around Pentecostal or Charismatic circles, this is a question you hear discussed...A LOT. Prophecies from great leaders like Smith Wigglesworth and others will be cited. Scriptures which seem to promise a latter rain outpouring which will usher in the greatest harvest of souls ever are quoted. Anticipation that a move of God is coming that will eclipse the two Great Awakenings - indeed all former moves of God - is often at a fever pitch. Sermon series have been preached, and much prayer has been offered for the time of the latter rain outpouring to finally come.

If you're expecting me to burst this bubble, I'm not going to do that. I believe God indeed has something great planned for this hour. Where I may differ from some of my friends, however, is that while many are waiting for God to "come," I would argue He already *has*! In fact, I don't think revival is coming *per se*, I think it is here! The question is, "Where are we looking?"

If we're only looking at North America, then, no, the signs of revival don't seem to be too apparent, and it is arguable that the Church has lost rather than gained ground in the west. However, if you are looking at much of the global south, revival has been taking place for years!

Without question, there are seasons in which God visits His people in unusual ways. The 1900's were replete with one mighty move of God after another: The Azusa Street Revival, the

Healing Revival of the 1950's, the Charismatic Renewal, and on and on it goes. Certainly, it is important to recognize and "ride the waves" of revival that God sends. During the 70's, while the Charismatic renewal was on, the Jesus Movement was also seeing thousands of young people come to Christ. This revival is not as much on our "Charismatic radar" today since it was not necessarily a revival noted for signs and wonders. However, Jesus Himself said that John the Baptist was the greatest prophet born of a woman and yet "(he) didn't perform miraculous signs" (John 10:41 *NLT*). Everything God does is supernatural, even if it is not spectacular, and we need to recognize the work God does in the shadows as well as those He does in the glaring light of the miraculous.

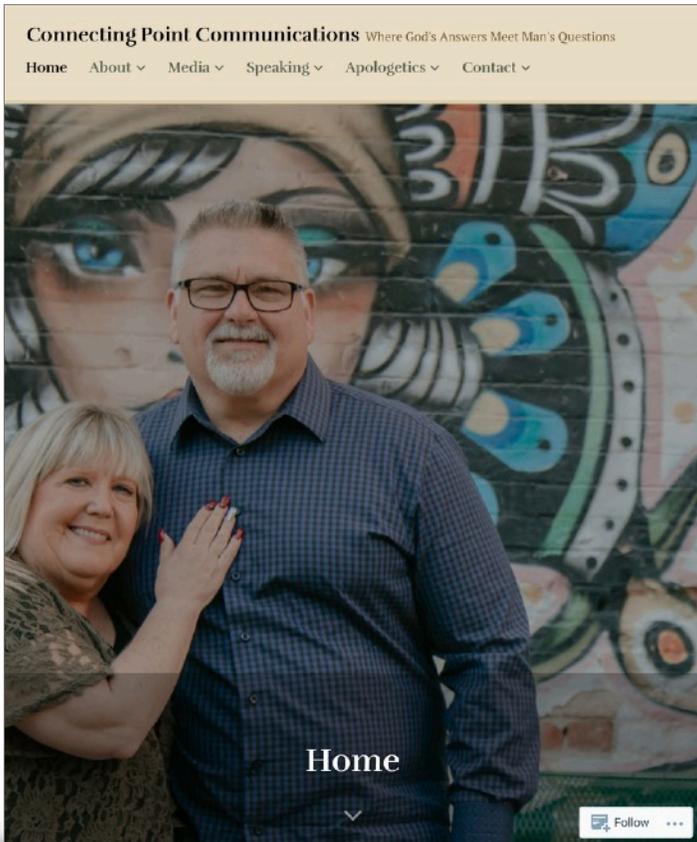
The real answer, I believe, to the question of the coming great revival is to recognize that you and I *are* a move of God. The Holy Spirit who empowers us today is not a lesser version of Himself than He was in the upper room on the day of Pentecost or in the Azusa Street Mission in 1906. He is ever-ready to confirm the gospel with signs following. The question isn't "*Is He coming?*" so much as it is "*Are we going?*"

Jesus has commissioned us to reach a lost world. We don't do this alone. He is with us "always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). As we are obedient to the Great Commission, He will confirm our message with power. Is a great revival coming? Yes, it's coming with you and me!

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Connecting Point Church is the name of the church that Dr. Randy and his wife, Maria, pastor in their home town of Taft, California. Additionally, they lead North East Christian Church in Bakersfield, California (nechristian.net). The church website, connectingpc.org, contains much of the content Dr. Randy's personal site does, along with directions to the church and service times. Again, you can contact via email, at info@connectingpc.org to schedule Dr. Randy to speak at your church or ministry event.

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