

**The Azusa Street Papers Overview – Speak The Word**  
**Message 28 – November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

AZUSA PAPERS says;

*“Up to the time of my first visit to the Azusa Street Mission, I had heard many conflicting stories of the place, and as I was at the time hungering for the deeper things of God, yet in my simplicity knew not how to attain to the standard of the early day Christians, for it seemed as though no one had risen higher or could tell me how to do so. I knew that my experience fell short of the Pentecostal life, somehow every one seemed so void of power.”*

How does everyone seem to you today in your church, in your Christian clique, in your, ‘us four and no more’ clique? Is it void of Holy Ghost power; is it void of Pentecost power? It’s one thing to believe, it’s another thing to have faith in whom you believe. Do you believe in Jesus today, that’s great, but do you have faith in the One whom you believe in?

Jesus talks to a Roman centurion who’s servant is dying in **Matthew 8:5-13** in the Amplified Bible, Classic Edition; *“5 As Jesus went into Capernaum, a centurion came up to Him, begging Him, 6 And saying, Lord, my servant boy is lying at the house paralyzed and [a]distressed with intense pains. 7 And Jesus said to him, I will come and restore him. 8 But the centurion replied to Him, Lord, I am not worthy or fit to have You come under my roof; **but only speak the word, and my servant boy will be cured.** 9 For I also am a man subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, Go, and he goes; and to another, Come, and he comes; and to my slave, Do this, and he does it. 10 When Jesus heard him, He marveled and said to those who followed Him [[b]who adhered steadfastly to Him, conforming to His example in living and, if need be, in dying also], I tell you truly, I have not found so much faith as this [c]with anyone, even in Israel. 11 I tell you, many will come from east and west, and will sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of heaven, 12 While the sons and heirs of the Kingdom will be driven out into the darkness outside, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. 13 Then to the centurion Jesus said, go; it shall be done for you as you have believed. And the servant boy was restored to health at that very [d]moment.*

Vs. 7 says; *“but only speak the word, and my servant boy will be cured.”* These were the words of this Roman centurion who was not a believer filled with the Holy Spirit. The centurion had faith enough to believe that all Jesus needed to do was simply speak the word of healing over his servant and he would be healed. This centurion was a Roman soldier that believed in Jesus, and was not part of the inner circle of Christians that followed Jesus on a daily basis, but rather served as a military leader with authority over other soldiers that served the Roman Emperor, who claimed to be God. If this centurion was born again, it probably would have been incognito – just to save face with the Emperor as to not loose his head.

As Christians we have to be careful not to become a clique, but be open to God pouring out His Spirit upon all flesh, and not limit His power to be demonstrated in Christian settings only. There will be a lot of believers outside of the Christian Church that have more faith in God’s word than those who claim to be heirs to the Kingdom. This is not to diminish Church gatherings, but to point out that in these last days, Jesus is not limited to save souls and baptise them in the Holy Spirit in Christian gatherings only, but will fulfill what the prophet Joel said in **Joel 2:28-29**; *“28 And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. 29 And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.”*

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE SERIES BY PASTOR RICHARD BASED ON  
THE AZUSA STREET PAPERS

Notice that Joel didn't reference a particular group of Christians, nor did he reference the church, he said God would pour His Spirit out on ALL flesh.

In **Matthew 8:11-12** Jesus says; *"11 I tell you, many will come from east and west, and will sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of heaven, 12 While the sons and heirs of the Kingdom will be driven out into the darkness outside, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."*

That sounds like hell to me. As a result of the Holy Spirit be poured out on all flesh, there will be harvest of souls that will become active members of the Church Body of Christ without any Christian upbringing or heritage and will sit down in heaven some day with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. There will also be those that have were raised in the Church that have religiously become a 'Christian lite clique', who reject the out pouring of the Holy Spirit spoken of by the prophet Joel in exchange for a rational, religious traditional experience that is void of the supernatural power of God, and as result, will find themselves not to have even been born again of His Spirit, and in the end are driven outside into darkness where their will be weeping and grinding of teeth for eternity. You may say that that's impossible because they were raised in church, steeped in it, trained in it, baptized in it....how could they not be born again? It's a good and valid question. A person may be a believer but not be born again. Remember that even the demons believe in God and tremble, James 2:19.

Churches are full of believers who are not even born again, but have been riding on the coat-tails of religious tradition for their salvation, but even Jesus himself said to Nicodemus, who was a devout religious Pharisee, that he had to be born again to see the Kingdom of heaven.

It's one thing to lay claim to be an heir to the Kingdom of heaven, with all the Christianese down to a science, but it's another thing to actually be born again of His Spirit, and with childlike faith say like the believing centurion, *"but only speak the word, and my servant boy will be cured."* There's no reference to this centurion being born again, but if there would be a scale to weigh out his faith, he'd be far closer to God than many of the Jews at that time, who laid claim to be heirs to the Kingdom of Heaven, that laid claim to the religious privilege they had. Today too, there are many in their own minds believe they are privileged, having ridden on the coat-tails of their parents, grandparents or religious denominations prayers. Privileged in mind yet not born again of the Spirit of God. God resists the proud yet gives grace to the humble.

**Matthew 8:10** says; *"When Jesus heard him, He marveled and said to those who followed Him [[b]who adhered steadfastly to Him, conforming to His example in living and, if need be, in dying also], I tell you truly, I have not found so much faith as this [c]with anyone, even in Israel."*

It's amazing to see that the centurion's faith out-weighed those Jesus referenced above as followers of His. The devout believers that followed Jesus and those disciples that were part of His inner circle, who were all Israelites, did not have as much faith in Jesus as this believing Roman centurion who served an Emperor who claimed to be God. It's one thing to believe, it's another thing to have faith in whom you believe, that He will watch over all that He says in His word, the Bible, to perform it. Churches are full of sincerely devout believers that if need be would die for Him, but they don't have faith in what Jesus says in His word about the baptism of the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues, healing, signs, wonders and miracles, and as a result God raises up men and women from outside the Church, baptizes them in Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues and gives them faith to speak the word like He did for the centurion, and see signs wonders and miracles done in His name. It's one thing to believe it's another thing to have faith in whom you believe.

AZUSA PAPERS says;

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE SERIES BY PASTOR RICHARD BASED ON  
THE AZUSA STREET PAPERS

*“SOLDIERS RECEIVE PENTECOST. Oakland, Cal., April 6th.*

*The work at San Francisco is just grand. Sinners saved, sanctified and three a day got Pentecost and most wonderful cases of Pentecost. The jails, hospitals and the soldiers' camps were thrown open to us, and now we have carried this precious gospel to those places and hold regular meetings there. The chaplain of the soldiers got his Pentecost the other night and since he received it another soldier received the baptism.”*

We've read **Acts 2:40-47** numerous times but we'll read it again; *“40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this [a]perverse generation.” 41 Then those who [b]gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' [c]doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and [d]sold their possessions and goods, and divided[e] them among all, as anyone had need. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added [f]to the church daily those who were being saved.”*

The Book of Acts clearly describes the birth of a Church that while under extreme persecution gathered daily in the temple, house to house, in the streets or where ever the Lord sent them and boldly preached what Jesus taught them with the power of the Holy Spirit that they received on the day of Pentecost. In the middle of all the church planting, God calls Peter to go somewhere that went against his traditional religious mindset, to minister the Gospel to the Gentiles at the home of Cornelius who was a Roman centurion, and as a result Cornelius and all his household were Baptised in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

We read the full account in [Acts 10](#). In summary, The Roman centurion, Cornelius, who was a God-fearing Gentile, receives a vision by an angel to call for Peter to preach to him, then, Peter falls into a trance and the Lord tells him that what He has cleansed, he shouldn't call unclean. This meaning that if God calls the Gentiles clean, then Peter could no longer resist going into the Gentile's homes to preach the gospel of Jesus. Then Cornelius' men whom he had sent, arrive at Peter's home and Peter knew he was to go with them. Upon arriving at the Cornelius' home, he preached the gospel of Jesus, baptized them in Jesus' name and then the following happens in **Acts 10:34-46**; *“<sup>34</sup> Then Peter opened his mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. <sup>35</sup> But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. <sup>36</sup> The word which God sent to the [l]children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all— <sup>37</sup> that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. <sup>39</sup> And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom [m]they killed by hanging on a tree. <sup>40</sup> Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission<sup>[n]</sup> of sins.” <sup>44</sup> While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. <sup>45</sup> And [a]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. <sup>46</sup> For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.”*

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE SERIES BY PASTOR RICHARD BASED ON  
THE AZUSA STREET PAPERS

Had Peter allowed tradition to get in the way, God probably would have sent someone else, but he obeyed. Don't allow traditional religious mindsets to hinder you from accomplishing all that God is calling you to do for His Glory, and boldly speak His word by faith.

AZUSA PAPERS says;

*“O my beloved, in the Gospel, what God will do for us if we keep clean and under the Blood. Two German girls received the African tongue which was interpreted. The Hebrew brother from Seattle you all know of, got his Pentecost in our meeting the other night. An Italian heard a little girl speak in his own tongue, he was a professor and wondered at it. O, God is working here. The Lord laid me out one night and gave me prophecy, and while I was in the hands of God, three got Pentecost, one sanctified, and two saved.”*

The saints of Azusa preached the Gospel all over the world and by faith saw God watch over His word to perform it, as a result Christians all over the world were baptised in the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues with interpretation and operated in signs, wonders and miracles on a daily basis. It's one thing to hear about how a foreigner heard someone speaking in tongues in their own language, but it's a lot closer to home when you are in a church that doesn't speak English, but speaks in tongues that are English, let's read the following account of what took place in India.

AZUSA PAPERS says;

*“One week ago today, I visited the Mukti Mission at Kedgaon, 13 miles from here, which is under the superintendence of Pandita Ramabal. Miss Abrams asked me if I would not like to go in the room where about 20 girls were praying. After entering I knelt on one side, with closed eyes. Presently I heard some one near me, praying very distinctly in English. Among the petitions were. —“O Lord, open the mouth; O Lord open the mouth: O Lord open the heart; O Lord, open the heart; O Lord, open the eyes; O Lord open the eyes; O the Blood of Jesus, the Blood of Jesus; O, give complete victory! O, such a blessing! O, such a glory!” I was struck with astonishment, as I knew there was no one in the room who could speak English, besides Miss Abrams. I opened my eyes, and within three feet of me, on her knees, with closed eyes and raised hand, was ----- whom I had baptized in Kedgaon in 1899, nearly 8 years ago, and whom my wife and I had known intimately since, as a devoted Christian worker. Her mother tongue was Marathi, and she could speak a little Hindustani. But she was utterly unable to speak or understand English such as she was using.”*

All of these testimony's are a result of the disciples having faith in whom they believed to obey His last command found in **Acts 1:4-5**; “4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

The promise was received in **Acts 2:1-4**; “2 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all [[a](#)]with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them [[b](#)]divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

All over the world today, Christians are receiving the same promise that Jesus gave His disciples, and over the years from then till now, nothing has changed, the same Holy Ghost and fire with the evidence of speaking in

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE SERIES BY PASTOR RICHARD BASED ON  
THE AZUSA STREET PAPERS

tongues. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever and His commandments have not changed. You can't stop the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire with the evidence of speaking in tongues! You can't.

There are 21 reasons as to why you need to speak in tongues found in a booklet by Gordon Lindsay. [Click on this read to read them.](#)

To read Vol.1,No.7 of The Apostolic Faith (The Azusa Street Papers), [please click on this link.](#)