

JOHN OSTEEN

# The Divine Flow



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Flow**

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## *The Divine Flow*

The Lord desires to use all of His children!

The Lord desires to use you!!

So many times He has tried to use us as vessels of His power to bring His saving, healing mercy, but we have missed the soft touch of His hand of love upon our lives.

Job said, "*Lo, He goeth by me, and I see Him not; He passeth on also, but I perceive Him not.*" Job 9:11. This could be the testimony of thousands of Christians. They want to be used of God, but do not recognize His presence and guidance when it comes. The Lord is so near, yet they perceive it not.

The precious revelation you will find in this book, can change your life. It will help you recognize when "*Jesus of Nazareth passeth by,*" and touches you with His miracle power of love.

I love God's people and desire to help everyone of them find the best for their life. If you will only believe—all things are possible to him that believeth! Believe God wants to use you to help others. Believe that God will use you to reach others.

**YOU CAN WIN SOULS!**

**YOU CAN BRING PEOPLE BACK TO GOD!**

**YOU CAN SEE THE SICK HEALED, BROKEN HEARTS AND HOMES MENDED BY HIS POWER!**

## YOU CAN SEE MIRACLES PERFORMED!

Many of you are already saying, "HOW? HOW? TELL ME HOW I CAN BE USED OF GOD?"

The message of this book will tell you how. Be ready for a surprise. It will shock you as you see how simple it all is.

The Bible says, "*We are workers together with God.*"

Jesus said, "*My Father worketh hitherto and I work.*" He also said, "*I can of my own self do nothing.*"

The Bible says, "*Jesus saw the multitudes and was **MOVED WITH COMPASSION** toward them, and He healed them.*"

What moved Jesus? It was Divine Compassion rising up in His heart. He felt the Divine flow of love flowing out of His Spirit. Which way did it flow? It flowed **TOWARD THE MULTITUDES**. When it flowed **TOWARD** the multitudes, **JESUS FOLLOWED THE FLOW OF COMPASSIONATE LOVE** and went to the multitudes. The end result was that the healing love of God brought deliverance to the suffering people of that day.

Compassion moved Jesus. Love **DIRECTED** His life. It led him constantly.

The Divine flow of God's love can move you toward the people God wants to reach. We need to watch for the rising of this supernatural love, and be ready to follow wherever it flows.

One of the most remarkable scriptures in God's Word is found in II John 6, quoted here from the Amplified

Bible: *"And what the love consists in is this, that we live and walk in accordance with and guided by His commandments, His orders, ordinances, precepts and teachings. This is the commandment, as ye have heard from the beginning that you continue to walk in love, GUIDED BY IT AND FOLLOWING IT."*

In these words are found the basis for the message of this book—*"that you continue to walk in love, GUIDED BY LOVE and FOLLOWING LOVE."*

Nothing in all of my experience as a Christian, apart from being saved and receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, has proved richer and more profitable to me personally than the spiritual truth of the power inherent in the divine flow of love.

Let us look at another scripture on this subject, also quoted from the Amplified Bible. *"And we know and understand, recognize and are conscious of by observation and by experience and believe the love God cherishes for us. God is love and he who dwells and continues in love, dwells and continues in God and God dwells and continues in him. In this union and communion with him, love is brought to completion and attains perfection with us that we may have confidence on the day of judgment with assurance and boldness to face him because as he is, so are we in the world. There is no fear in love, dread does not exist, but full grown, complete, perfect love turns fear out of doors and expels every trace of terror. For fear brings with it the thought of punishment and so he who is afraid has not reached the full maturity of love, is not yet grown into love's complete perfection"* (I John 4:16-18).

Love goes to the door, opens it and commands, "Fear, you go out!"

This doesn't mean you are not a Christian if occasionally you have some anxieties and fears. It just means that you need to grow a little bit more and learn more of God's Word.

*"We love him, because He first loved us"* (I John 4: 19).

God is a great big wonderful God. We cannot put Him in a corner and say, "This is all there is to God." There are so many scintillating, marvelous rays of the divine personality, that we could never capture them all. But one of the richest is this: God is love.

There are two forces in the world, fear and love.

Dread, terror and fear bring sickness, sorrow, trouble and anxiety.

On the other hand, there is the kingdom of love. This flow of love brings life, health and peace.

The devil would make us believe that the burden of dread and fear which he places on the human heart is sent from God. He tries to make us think that we are trembling at the voice of God, when all the time he is the one who is causing our anxiety.

Some people say, "I can't understand the difference between the voice of God and the voice of the devil." There are some areas where this may be true in a sense, but usually you will find it is the devil who brings fear and it is God who brings love.

I never become frightened when my wife says to me,



"Darling, I love you." This doesn't disturb me. It doesn't make me tremble or run to a psychiatrist and say, "I am disturbed because my wife says she loves me." That would be foolishness. It brings comfort and joy to my heart to know that my wife loves me.

My children don't become alarmed when I pick them up in my arms and say, "I love you." As I bend over them in their beds every night to kiss them goodnight and say, "Do you know that I love you?" they answer, "Yes, Daddy." They are not afraid. They do not tremble or have nightmares because of my love for them.

Love doesn't bring fear and torment. The devil does!

When the devil comes along with his bag of fear, we shake and tremble. "*I was afraid,*" was the excuse of the man who buried his talent in the earth, as recorded in the twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew's gospel. Fear caused him to bury his talent rather than use it.

God is not the author of such fear.

*God is love!*

There is a way in which we should fear God and this kind of fear is more than just reverence, which is the way we usually think of fearing God. When God tells us to do something, we must do it. Otherwise we will have to accept the consequences of disobedience to His commands.

As for me, I am not going to fool around with God because there have been times when I have had to learn the hard way. God will put you through one of His grades in the school of life, and you'll be sure to graduate, because you won't want to go through that a second time!

God loves those that tremble at His Word. We ought to be ready to listen to Him.

But this is a different kind of reverence and fear. The fear that the devil brings has torment.

The deepest desire of my heart is that I might please Him who counted me worthy to be called into the ministry. To walk pleasing in His sight and hear Him say at the end of my life, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant," is the greatest ambition of my life. I don't want to wither on the vine. I want to be useful. I want to be an instrument in God's hands.

Even greater than my desire to be used of God is His desire to use me. He wants us all to be fruitful Christians, and He wants to help us be fruitful.

Some people have said to me, "I would like to feel God." When they say this they are usually thinking of some sort of emotional or physical sensation. They want to feel something like an electric current surging through their body as evidence that God is with them. Or they want an experience such as they may have heard about—fire out of heaven, flashes of lightning, or a bright light coming down from heaven. They think that is the only way to feel God. But that is not the only way. We can feel God's presence and power in many, many ways.

As we have said, God is love. There is a way of feeling God by feeling love. When God's love is shed abroad in your heart by the Holy Ghost, you are feeling God. "... *The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us*" (Rom. 5:5).

There can come into our lives a flow of divine love

and compassion that has nothing to do with our minds. It has nothing to do with our personalities. It is implanted instantaneously and supernaturally in our hearts and rises up in us. Then it flows out of us toward individuals. This is surely the moving of God. WHEN YOU FEEL THIS LOVE, YOU ARE FEELING GOD FOR GOD IS LOVE.

I can well remember the first time I felt this divine flow of love—this surging of God's power. While pastoring a Baptist Church a number of years ago, I told my congregation that I was seeking the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. After I received the glorious infilling of God's Spirit, I told my people of this wonderful experience. I told them, "God is a miracle worker and I am praying for miracles to take place in our church."

I tried to have a healing service, but nothing seemed to happen. I prayed for a man and he died. It seemed as if nothing worked right. I had some terrible experiences. I cried to the Lord, "Why don't you confirm your Word, Lord?"

I stood in the pulpit and told the people that God was a healer. But there is a vast difference in telling people that and in preaching the Word of God. The Bible says that the disciples *"went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, CONFIRMING THE WORD with signs following"* (Mark 16:20).

God has not obligated Himself to confirm what I say. He has obligated Himself to confirm what He has said.

The Lord showed this to me and spoke to my heart, "Son, go out on that platform, and preach my Word, and I will *confirm my Word*. I will stand behind my Word."

I began to do this. Sunday by Sunday I faithfully preached the Word.

Then one Wednesday night God seemed to give me a special anointing, and the scriptures became alive as the words poured from my heart to the congregation. The Holy Ghost preached through me as I began to talk about the Jesus of the Bible. I began to walk with Him through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. It seemed as if He marched right out of those scriptures and stood in our midst.

Faith began to rise. Suddenly I noticed a little crippled girl about twelve or thirteen years of age sitting at the front of the church. She had a spastic ankle and had to wear a special built-up shoe. Her ankle was as stiff as steel. I felt a divine flow of love in my heart streaming out toward this girl. Something welled up in me like a golden bowl full of love. I didn't think about her being sick or crippled. It was not so much that I was conscious of her being sick and in need of healing. I felt only a supernatural kind of compassion for her. This love just poured out of me to her, and I felt as if I wanted to go to her and pick her up in my arms.

It was that night, without my even laying hands upon her, that suddenly, as she looked to Jesus, her ankle instantly became normal.

A divine miracle of God took place!

It was the divine flow of love, and one of the first miracles that we ever had in our church.

Someone might ask, "What happened to this little girl? Why did this work without hands being laid on her

or even prayer being offered for her? What was this divine compassion?"

It was God!

God is love, and he who feels love feels God.

As the scripture which we looked at earlier in II John 6 says, "*Walk in love, be guided by it. Follow it.*"

Do you want to follow God?

Then follow love.

Do you want to be guided by the Holy Spirit? Then be guided by love.

Wherever that stream of love flows out, follow it.

Many times I have had it stream out of me and leap over cities and states to flow toward a person in a distant place. I have picked up the telephone and called them. If I had been completely honest with them I would have said, "Brother, there is a stream of love flowing out of me toward you." "My sister, there is a stream of love flowing out of me toward you, and I know it is God." But usually I don't tell them this. I just minister to them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Sometimes I do tell them of this Divine flow of love going out of my heart toward them.

God mends hearts. He encourages lives. He works miracles by His love.

Follow love! Be guided by love!

You might wonder, "Where is God? Where is He leading me? To whom does He want me to minister? How shall I know?"

God is love. Follow love. Be guided by love.

A noted minister and one of God's prophets, who is now taking his reward on high, once told a remarkable story of how this divine love flowed out of him under very unusual circumstances.

This minister was a man who loved the outdoors and loved to hunt. He loved to be next to nature. One time as he was crossing a pasture, a wild bull saw him and began to paw the ground. Suddenly he charged toward him. His first impulse was to be afraid. Then all at once this love that we have been talking about seemed to well up within him. He said, "I don't know how to explain it, but in my heart I felt such love for that bull. I spoke to the bull in my heart and said, 'Bless your heart, you are just a dumb animal. You don't know that I didn't mean to intrude on your territory. You don't understand that I hold no animosity toward you and that I didn't mean to come out here and disturb you. I am not going to harm you, but you don't understand that God made you and God made me. You are a brute animal and I am in the image of God, but I don't mean you any harm. I am God's servant and I am not going to harm you.' "

He didn't rebuke the bull. These thoughts were going through his mind, and as he was thinking these things this divine love streamed out of him.

The bull was still racing toward him, and was a few hundred feet away. As he got closer and closer, this minister said he never felt any fear or dread. He just stood there calmly, feeling this compassion in his heart and realizing that the animal didn't understand.

A few feet in front of him, the bull suddenly stopped, lowered his head, and went over under a tree and laid

down!

The ministry of Oral Roberts is another that has been singly blessed of God. He is a man full of compassion for the sick and afflicted. In himself he feels so inadequate to minister to the needs of the thousands who seek his prayers. He is utterly dependent upon God to heal the sick.

I once heard him tell of the time when he was called to the hospital to minister to the sick baby of one of the employees who worked for him. The child was very near death and had been placed under an oxygen tent. No visitors were allowed; however, Brother Roberts was permitted to go into the room. He could not lift up the oxygen tent to lay hands on the baby and pray for him, so he just reached a finger under a corner of the tent and touched its tiny foot.

As he stood there for what seemed a long time, he felt something wash through him and into the child. God's love was flowing through him to the baby. The next morning the child was well on its way to recovery!

*God is love.*

If you have accepted Christ as your personal Saviour, you have had the love of God shed abroad in your heart by the Holy Ghost. If you have been baptized in the Holy Ghost, that love flows out far more freely.

Let me urge you never to follow hate. Never follow evil thoughts or an impulse to get even. Never return evil for evil. Never follow that which is selfish or that which is full of greed and covetousness. These are not of God.

Follow that divine flow of love. Be guided by it every

day.

I am sure that at some time or another you have felt this divine love. Have you ever been cooking dinner, or sweeping the floor, or working on the job, when suddenly you thought of someone with love and tenderness? Have you thought to yourself, "Bless dear Sister Jones. I would love to see her right now and give her a big hug. I would like to bake a pie and take it to her."

Follow that impulse. That is God.

Don't miss that blessing. You are experiencing God.

Be guided by love.

Follow love.

Where is it? It is streaming over to Sister Jones' house. Get in your car and follow that stream. Get over there as quickly as you can. Call her or go to see her. Minister to her while God is moving in your heart. She needs more than a pie! She needs God's miracle power!

God's love is not going to flow in us if we are selfish and mean. God's love is not going to flow in us if we are covetous, or if we fuss and argue.

I have heard married couples say, "We have lived together for fifty years and have never had a cross word."

I don't know whether to think that they are liars, imbeciles, or that they married an angel. Maybe it is true, but somehow I find it very hard to believe. I am just not convinced.

"Do you and your wife ever have cross words?" you might ask then. Yes, once in awhile we do. Oh, I don't mean that we come to blows or anything like that. But it



is not possible to raise a family in today's world without there occasionally being tension of some kind.

However, you cannot harbor bitterness and ill will. You can't let ugly feelings linger in your heart and still feel this divine flow of love that I am talking about.

When you have an argument with your husband or wife, you have a choice. You can either go around with a chip on your shoulder, you can pout or act surly, you can refuse to be on speaking terms for a few hours, or you can apologize and clear the air.

Through the years, my wife and I have had an arrangement which has worked well for us when strain arises in our relationship. The Bible says, ". . . *Let not the sun go down upon your wrath*" (Eph. 4:26). Many times I have hurried to get home before the sun went down. As my wife can tell you, there have been times when I have run into the house and said, "Darling, the sun is going down. Forgive me, please forgive me."

But there is an even better way. We have learned in times of stress and strain just to hold hands and say, "Now, let's don't move. There is no need to carry this on for another five minutes or another hour." Then we commit it all to God right there. When we step out of that place we are already forgiven and everything is settled.

We cannot harbor ill will and malice and still allow God, who is love, to move through us. Let us keep our hearts clean of all animosity toward anyone. Let us be willing to humble ourselves, not to have a high opinion of ourselves, but be willing to make peace with everybody. Then the love of God will dwell in our hearts.

The dove is a symbol of the Holy Ghost. The gentle dove of the Holy Spirit is not going to abide and shed abroad the love of God if we have animosity and unforgiveness in our hearts.

Do you want to follow God?

Do you want to be guided by God?

God is love! Where love flows, where love is streaming, God is going. Follow and be guided by love.

You might wonder, "Where shall I go today?" Get full of love and see where it goes out. You don't have to manufacture it. When this divine flow of love comes, you will automatically begin to think of others. It is not necessary to say, "I am going to spread everybody's name out before me today and see where love leads." It doesn't work that way. Just stay full of love and pray. Stay full of the Holy Ghost. Suddenly you will have somebody on your heart. Until then, just go on, love God and do your work. Then when you feel God's love flowing through you to a certain person, act right then. Don't hesitate. Pick up the telephone and call them right then. Go to them personally, if possible.

When the Lord moves on me in this way, flooding in my heart with His supernatural love for an individual, I pick up the telephone and dial their number. I say, "Well, brother, I don't know what your need is (unless God has revealed it to me), but God has impressed me that He is going to bless you today and that His love is flowing out toward you. Whatever you have need of, you are going to get it because God's love is shining on your heart. God guided me to you today to minister to you in the name of the Lord Jesus."

Many times these people have broken into tears and have said, "Oh, you will never know the burden I've been under!" But God knew.

One time while glancing through the magazine of a well-known minister, I felt drawn in my spirit toward that person. I felt such a warmth toward him and I thought, "Bless his heart. He has helped so many people in certain areas." But I just put the magazine down without doing anything more about it. I missed it that day. I didn't yield to the Holy Spirit. I thought, "I have never been particularly interested in what he is doing." It was not that I was opposed to him, but just that I had never been attracted to his ministry in any way.

About two weeks later the Lord dealt with me again about this man whose world-wide ministry was far greater than mine. I picked up his magazine and as I did, again felt a warmth of Divine love in my spirit toward him. I thought, "Lord, bless him. He has prayed and labored so hard for you!" Then I realized that this wasn't just a warm feeling. This was God's love trying to flow through me to bless His servant and it was leaping over mountains to another state where this man lived.

I picked up my telephone and called him right then. When he answered his phone, I said, "Brother, I just want to tell you that God loves you. I just want to encourage you that you are doing good work for the Lord. I want to tell you that God is going to strengthen you, and whatever problems you have, everything is going to be all right." Then I prayed for him and ministered to him in the Holy Ghost.

I thought he was going to weep right over the

telephone. He said, "Brother Osteen, for two weeks the devil has fought me and I have almost closed my offices. My work has almost been destroyed." (Two weeks previously God had laid this man on my heart, but I had missed it. I didn't follow love. I wasn't guided by love.) "You will never know," he went on to say, "you will just never know what this means to me. I have never received a call like this before. It means so much to me, Brother Osteen!"

So many times we try to make it such a complicated thing. But it is not. *God is love!* Follow love! Be guided by love!

Another time that I felt this divine flow of love was while I was conducting a crusade in Texas. It was during this crusade that I determined to step out boldly in faith, and it was a real turning point in my ministry. I determined that I could do great things for God if I would just act my faith—if I would boldly claim His promises.

One night a little girl about nine years of age came forward for prayer. One of her legs was one and one-half inches shorter than the other and she had to wear a built-up shoe. Ever since she was a baby she had had to sleep in a removable cast at night.

The Reverend Ward Chandler, a Baptist minister seated in the audience, came up to the platform and helped me measure her legs. He did not have the baptism in the Holy Spirit then. He said, "I am going to see that this is done right." He placed her knees together, measured, and found that one leg was about an inch and a half shorter than the other.

I put my hands on the girl and prayed for her, saying,

"God, I ask you to heal this child in the name of the Lord Jesus." She told me later that when I laid hands on her and prayed for her, she opened her heart and accepted Jesus as her Saviour.

I didn't wait for her leg to grow out. My faith was not very strong, and to tell the truth, I was not even sure it would grow out. I thought I would just pray for the girl and leave the rest to God.

"All right, darling, get up," I said to the little girl. "Give us a report later on." She marched off the platform limping as she went.

As I watched her leave I felt a stream of love flowing out to her. I just wanted to go to her, pick her up in my arms, and say, "Oh, I want you to be healed! I want you to be blessed. I want you to have a new dress and good clothes. I want you to have plenty of good food to eat."

This was God's holy stream of love that flowed from me to the child. It seemed to reach out of my heart to her as she walked away.

Then it happened! It seemed this stream of love reached out and touched her.

When she was about ten yards away from me she suddenly stopped and turned around. As the audience of several hundred people sat hushed before me, she said, "I felt it grow out!"

"What did you say?" I asked.

"I felt it grow out. I felt my leg grow out!" she said.

I called her to me and put her in the chair to measure her legs again. The Baptist preacher, Ward Chandler,

jumped up again and came to help me. He was going to be sure her legs were even at the knees when we measured and that there was no trick of any kind. He wanted to be sure it was done right.

When we put her knees together, we saw that her legs were absolutely even! Then the audience exploded with joy! That night Dr. Ward Chandler received the baptism in the Holy Ghost!!

You ask, "How can I follow God? How can I know and be guided by God?"

*God is love!*

He who feels love feels God! Be guided by it! Walk in it!

Where shall I walk?" you might ask.

Walk in that stream of love. Be guided by it and follow it; for where love is streaming, God is going and God is working.

Many of you who read this book have felt this divine flow of love at some time. But many miss this precious experience by holding back when God moves on them and by failing to yield to Him when He leads them to reach out and touch and bless the lives of others.

Don't wait for some divine explosion. Don't wait until you are set on fire as if you were plugged into an electrical socket. Don't wait until some sensation like electricity runs up and down your body.

God is love. He who follows love follows God, and he who is guided by love is guided by God.

You may say, "But that sounds so simple." It is.

A lot of people don't want this because they would rather just shout and sing, feel a little touch of God's presence, and still be mean in their spirit. However, one cannot live that way and still feel this gentle flow of God's divine love in his life.

The Apostle Paul said, *"But earnestly desire and zealously cultivate the greatest and best, the highest gifts and the choicest graces. But yet I show you a more excellent way, one that is better and by far and highest of them all which is love"* (1 Cor. 12:31, Amplified Version). Then Paul said in the next chapter, *"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing"* (1 Cor. 13:1-2). Paul was saying that even though we may speak in tongues, even though we may have the gifts of the spirit operating in our lives, if we do all these things and have not love, they are worth nothing.

Further in this same chapter Paul said, *"Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful nor proud, never haughty nor selfish nor rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong. It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out"* (1 Cor. 13:4-6, Living Bible).

And in another version it says, "Making your great quest love."

If you have everything in the world, if you have all

the knowledge that the finest universities can give you, if your heart is not full of love, it is not going to amount to anything. But if you will be guided by love, you can experience some of God's richest blessings in your life.

First of all you have to get full of love. Allow the love of God to be shed abroad in your heart by the Holy Ghost every day. Walk in love, be guided by it, and follow it.

Success in Christian living is rooted in love. The fruit of the spirit is, first of all, love. When you feel the glorious love of God, you are feeling the Holy Ghost. As you follow that love, you and the Lord will be working together.

Jesus said, *"My Father worketh hitherto, and I work"* (John 5:17). The Father knew who was ready and He knows today who is ready. He will send that love into your heart if you are ready to allow Him to use you to bless others. Jesus said, *"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men"* (Matt. 4:19).

Get rid of any bitterness that may be in your heart.

Avoid strife and bitterness. Never allow any filthy communication to come from your lips. Stay right with God and live peaceably with man. When someone wrongs you, forgive him instantly so you will not harbor any grudge. Rid your heart of anything that would be displeasing to the Lord, and stay humble before Him.

With pure motives of heart, you can stay full of compassion as you let God fill your heart every day with His divine love.

Then, when you are least expecting it, someone will



enter your mind and you will feel impressed to call them or go see them. Or it may be that you will just be sitting next to them in a church service. This has happened to me. I have sometimes been sitting in an audience when, suddenly as I looked at individuals, God's love flowed out of me toward them.

Once while holding a meeting in Norman, Oklahoma, I looked out in the audience one night, and felt especially drawn to a certain man sitting among the crowd. There were several hundred people present, and I didn't know very many of them. I had never before seen this man to whom I was particularly drawn. He was a stranger.

I pointed him out and said, "Sir, would you stand, please. I feel the love of God streaming out of my heart toward you. I don't know what is wrong with you or what you may need, but I just want to say that God loves you, and whatever problems you have, everything is going to be all right because God's love is shining on you."

I began to minister to him and tell him some things. He stood with joy and rejoicing and said, "While I was driving down the highway, God spoke to me in my sorrow, trouble and confusion and said, "There is a meeting in this town, and if you will go to that meeting, I will speak to you in that service."

God is love! Follow love and you follow God!

One of the greatest miracles that I ever saw the Holy Ghost perform in Jesus' name was my sister's healing.

Years ago I heard that my sister was sick with a disease similar to epilepsy, but I didn't know how very ill she was. We had not been in close contact with one

another since I had received the Baptism in the Holy Ghost. There wasn't any really warm fellowship between us.

I had won my sister to the Lord a number of years before this. In fact, she was the first person I ever led to Christ. After I got saved I used to stay at home a lot just reading my Bible. She would get dressed up and go out to night clubs. One evening, after dinner, I was sitting at the table reading my Bible and as she passed the table she asked me. "John, why do you read the Bible now instead of going out to the places you used to go?"

I was very timid at that time and was afraid to tell anyone that I had gotten saved. I just stayed at home and read my Bible. I didn't have the courage to tell them what had happened to me. When she asked me this question, however, I summoned enough courage to tell her, "Mary, I have been saved. The Lord Jesus has saved me, and I am through with the world."

I thought that she would laugh and make fun of me. Instead she started to cry. She said, "Do you think He would save somebody like me?" You see, the world is not nearly as hard as we think it is.

"I guess He would, Mary," I told her. "He saved me." So she knelt down beside the dining room table and gave her heart to Jesus. She has been a good Christian ever since then and taught Sunday School for many years in the Hampton Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas. Her class grew so much under her teaching that it had to be divided numerous times.

But then a terrible malady came upon her—a great trial of her faith. The devil came against her with violent

convulsions. These seizures, we were told, were similar to epilepsy. But I do not believe it was epilepsy. I believe it was the devil.

She lost her sense of reality. She couldn't remember the scriptures she had memorized. She couldn't even remember the name of God. She was sucked down into a dark hole as it were, and terror struck her heart.

Months of suffering followed. Her husband spent thousands upon thousands of dollars for hospitals, institutions and shock treatments. Finally she was sent home with no hope of recovery.

She lay in bed at her home in Dallas, Texas, with a tortured soul. Her eyes were glazed. She was unable to walk as she had no equilibrium. She had to be spoon-fed like a child. She couldn't even get up to go to the bathroom. Nurses had to care for her twenty-four hours a day. At times she screamed with terror as she was tormented by the devil.

In one of her times of great agony, she leaped out and grabbed my mother. Holding on to her, she screamed to die and be free of such torment. Then for some reason unknown to her at the time, she screamed out, "Call John, call John!" She meant me, of course.

At the time, I knew nothing of the torture she was enduring. I didn't know that the doctors had given her up.

While driving my car down the East Texas Freeway in Houston, Texas, my wife, mother-in-law, and children with me, suddenly my sister came before me. It was not an open vision, but this was just a spiritual perception. Suddenly this golden flow of love began to stream out

toward Mary, my sister. How can I describe it? It is so wonderful to feel this divine flow of love. I knew God was ready to help her no matter what her need. God helped me to know her desperate condition, and I knew His love was flowing out toward her.

I turned to my wife and my mother-in-law and said, "Mary is desperately ill, but God has spoken to me that the hour of her deliverance has come."

Two days later my mother called to tell me that Mary was very sick; that she was worse than they had realized. I said, "Mother, I know all about it. God spoke to me two days ago and said, 'The hour of her deliverance has come'."

Mother began to cry and said, "When can you come?" She didn't have the Baptism of the Holy Spirit at that time either. This is an example that, even though your family does not understand your Holy Ghost experience, show love and just bide your time. There will be a time when they will say, "When can you come?"

I said to her, "Mother, we are expecting a baby at any time now and I cannot come until the baby is born." The baby was born that night, and I left my wife in the hospital to drive to Dallas where my sister was. On the way I had a 240-mile prayer meeting. I was speaking in tongues all the way. I can imagine a devil sitting on top of my car and another on each fender wondering, "What is he talking about?" But they couldn't know, because, when we are speaking in other tongues, we speak secrets to God and the devil cannot understand us.

Before leaving home the devil had said to me, "Your sister Mary is not going to be healed. This is all your

imagination." He hammered away at me with this until I began to feel beaten down and disheartened. In my discouragement, I cried out to the Lord saying, "Lord, the devil is telling me that my sister Mary is not going to be healed. I believe I have heard from you. Lord, speak to me now, please. You know how ignorant I am. I don't know too much about this. Speak to me right now."

Then I did something which I don't recommend as a general practice, as one can get into real trouble this way. But the Lord knew my desperation, my utter dependence on Him and the promises of His Word, and He was merciful to me.

I opened my Bible and put my finger on a scripture, asking God to speak to me definitely about my sister Mary. It was Luke 1:30, ". . . *Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.*" My heart spilled over with praise! Why, the Lord even called my sister's name! "*Fear not, Mary: Thou hast found favor with God.*"

As I said, however, I do not recommend that we seek guidance in this manner except in very unusual circumstances. The Bible is not a magic book. It is not some kind of an astrological toy. It is not something to play with. But sometimes God does speak to us in this way.

When I arrived in Dallas, the Reverend H. C. Noah, pastor of Oak Cliff Assembly of God Church, went to Mary's house with me. As we went in, I saw her lying on her bed. She didn't recognize me. As we stood over her body, I said, "You devils, I command you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to leave my sister Mary. Leave this room and leave this house. In the name of Jesus Christ,

rise and walk, Mary."

Then it seemed as if four people took her and threw her out of that bed. At the time I didn't know that she couldn't walk. I didn't know she had no equilibrium. It just looked as if somebody had thrown her out of bed and against the wall. She didn't stand up. She just crumpled like a dish rag. Brother Noah and I picked her up and led her to the center of the bedroom. We laid hands upon her and I began to pray for her in tongues. Then I said to her, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost," and she began to speak in other tongues! She received the baptism in the Holy Ghost!

We turned her loose and she stood. She took one step, then another, and before we knew it she was not only walking, but she ran through that house praising God. That day she was healed! That day she went to the table and fed herself normally. That day she laid aside the Dilanten tablets which she had been taking. That day she became normal. Many years have now passed since that day and she is still normal.

She later told me, "The first sign of my healing came when I heard somebody speaking a language that I couldn't understand. That language went beyond my mind and down into my spirit. It liberated me and brought healing to me."

"Mary," I asked, "why did you jump out of bed so quickly?"

"I heard God say, 'Mary, rise and walk'," she said.

"No, you heard me say that. I told you to rise and walk," I said.

"No, John. I heard God say, 'Rise and walk'."

"But I was standing right over your bed, and I said, 'Rise and walk'," I argued.

Becoming impatient with me she said even more emphatically, "No I heard a voice from the Ancient of Days that came to me out of eternity. The majestic voice said, 'Rise and walk!' "

When we walk in the Holy Ghost, our voice becomes blended with the voice of the Almighty!

What does this mean? God is love, and He had a stream of love all the way from Houston to Dallas where Mary lay. I followed love, and thereby followed God, and a miracle was the result.

I could have said, "Well, I wish I could get plugged into the spiritual socket. I wish I could fall out under the power." I could have wished for some outstanding manifestation to occur that would lead me. But such great experiences are few and far between. However, we can all experience God's divine flow of love and be guided by it every day.

God was giving me an open pathway, a divine supernatural leading. I allowed myself to be guided by it. I was guided by love. I followed that love to where it stopped and God was there to perform a miracle. Jesus works when we follow love.

God is love! Jesus was moved with compassion. Be guided by love! Follow love!

When you feel this spiritual compassion called love, you are feeling God.

May the Lord help you to follow this divine flow of love and bring deliverance to needy humanity.

Let me share one incident that happened in our church, soon after I received the Baptism in the Holy Ghost. We were having a Sunday morning service. When the altar call was given, a young boy about twelve years of age came forward. I asked him what he desired the Lord to do for him. He said, "Brother Osteen, I am blind in one eye. I want the Lord to heal me."

Without warning, I suddenly felt something supernatural rise up within my heart. It was not coming from my human sympathy. It was purely supernatural. I felt the DIVINE FLOW OF LOVE. When I did, it seemed as though the Lord spoke his words again to me, "Brother Osteen, I am blind!" The words seemed to fill the whole world. They became a cry for help that moved me greatly. These words made me want to weep. "BROTHER OSTEEEN, I AM BLIND!" I recognized this flow. God spoke those words in the Divine flow of love!

We stood at the altar. God is love. His love was flowing out to that little boy. We simply followed that Divine flow, and reached out and prayed for God to heal him in the Name of Jesus Christ. That moment his eye was opened, and he could see perfectly!

I saw this young man a few days ago. His healing occurred about thirteen years ago. Since that time, he had been in the service, and been discharged after his term of service was over. He was now a big strong man. I asked him about his eye, and the miracle of the Sunday morning. He said, "Brother Osteen, since that day God healed my eye of blindness, I have never had anything but



perfect sight!!!

Through the years, we have seen this multiplied many times. As I have stood before audiences, I could feel and almost see this stream of Divine love flowing to different ones in the congregation. By following this flow, I was able to help those the Lord was already dealing with. He had them ready for His miracle touch.

Let me say it again.

**GOD IS LOVE!**

When you feel this Divine flow of love, you are feeling God!

Be guided by this Divine flow!

Follow it!

It will lead you to the person God wants you to help. When you get there, God will be there waiting to confirm His word and bring deliverance.

From this day forth, life will be most exciting for you!

You will enjoy the new adventures awaiting you as you follow the **DIVINE FLOW OF LOVE!!!**



## About the Author

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### John Osteen

has served as pastor, evangelist, author, and teacher for over fifty years. Ordained as a Southern Baptist, he received the baptism in the Holy Ghost in 1958, an experience which revolutionized his ministry into a worldwide outreach for Jesus Christ. He has traveled extensively throughout the world, taking the message of God's love, healing, and power to people of all nations.

Today, John Osteen pastors Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas, widely known as *An Oasis of Love in a Troubled World*. His weekly television program reaches millions in the U.S. and in many other countries. His numerous books, cassettes, and videotapes are widely distributed throughout the Body of Christ.

John Osteen holds a Bachelor's Degree from John Brown University, a Master's Degree from Northern Baptist Seminary, a Doctor of Letters from Indiana Christian University, and a Doctor of Divinity from Oral Roberts University.