

Grand Junction, Colorado 81504

SEPTEMBER, 2023 IS SOMETHING MISSING IN **YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE?**

A lot of people are disappointed with their lives as Christians.

They had heard from preachers and other Christians about a life of peace, contentment and fulfillment, but they didn't find that as Christians. They had heard people say that God would help you overcome your fears and weaknesses and addictions, but that has not been their experience. They had even heard that the Christian life makes your marriage better. But they haven't experienced any of those things. Some are so disappointed that they have given up and gone back to living lives that are "normal" - without God. stopped attending church, stopped reading the Bible, stopped praying, stopped believing.

The disciples were certainly disappointed with the way things turned out. They had expected so much as Jesus followers. But Jesus had been taken captive by the Romans, beaten and humiliated in front of everyone, and then they had taken him out and crucified him like a common criminal. And now the Romans were looking for His followers.

But then an amazing thing happened. Jesus appeared to them! He literally appeared to them in the flesh. He told them to go and wait in Jerusalem and they would receive power from God.

They didn't know what that meant but they certainly needed power. So they gathered in a certain large room and started praying. They prayed for a day and nothing happened. They prayed for 2 days, 3 days, a week and nothing happened. Then suddenly on the 10th day a wind started blowing inside their room. Then flames of fire came down from above and rested on each of their heads..... and they were filled with joy like they had never

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experienced in their lives. They went out into the street and people thought they were drunk.

Then Simon Peter, that fearful guy that had denied that he even knew Jesus, stood up as bold as a lion and preached a powerful message to the crowd. And do you know what happened? 3,000 people were converted, saved, and the church was born!

You can read about that exciting time in Acts 1 and 2. It all started when a small group of normal people like us were filled, baptized with the Holy Spirit.

A friend of mine came to help me with my computer problems last week. He's a really smart guy. He told me that his life is filled with miracles and he is excited about the future. He said, "Do you know when everything changed for me? It was that time a few years ago when you prayed for me to be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Yes, that's an example of how the Holy Spirit can impact someone's life,

I've told you how things changed for me in 1973. I was a Christian at that time, a pastor, I read and studied the Bible and sometimes I even prayed. But I was powerless to get rid of the fear and anger and addictions that were destroying my marriage, my ministry and my life. Then I was encouraged by some men in my church to pray for the baptism of the Holy I was given the phone number of a Lutheran pastor in a small church out in the country. I drove out to see him the next day. He laid his hands on me and prayed for me to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I didn't feel anything happen, but my life started to change that very week. I wouldn't take anything in the world for that experience.

It wasn't a magic moment and then everything was easy peasy. Philippians 2:12 says, "Work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for God is at work in you, giving you the desire and the power to do His will."

I had a lot of spiritual work to do repentance, forgiveness, prayers and tears. But the Holy Spirit was enabling me to overcome those weaknesses and addictions that had been plaguing my life. He started healing my marriage. It was not automatic. I had to humble myself and ask for forgiveness and prove to Doris that I had changed. We gradually started loving and appreciating each other again. Boy, that was a miracle! I started seeing people saved and set free, healed physically, emotionally and spiritually. It all started when I was baptized with the Holy Spirit.

Have you been baptized with the Holy Spirit? Have you received the power that Jesus promised to normal people who believe in Him and obey Him?

You might say that you don't want to get that extreme. Your choice. I'm simply telling you that Jesus offers us more. I'm not going to give you a lot of Scriptures to "prove" this theology. You don't need more Scriptures. You need to decide in your heart if you want more of Him and less of you.

The Colorado University football team, the Buffaloes, are on fire. They hired Deion Sanders as their football coach. He prefers to be called "Prime," which was his nickname when he was a defensive back. The team has won their first two football games, which is more than they won all last season. They are in the national news, their stadium is packed out with 55,000 fans and tickets start at \$200. At the end of the game last Saturday the fans stormed the field. They were almost hysterical with joy, laughing, jumping, crying and hugging one another.

We Americans don't have any reservations about expressing our excitement about a game, but we sure don't want to appear to be excited about God.

What in the name of common sense is wrong with us? Whatever it is, Jesus has come to fix it.

How does a person receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit? You need to have someone lay hands on you and pray for you (Acts 8:17). The Holy Spirit is more caught than taught.

IMAGINE HEAVEN - Part 5

John Burke Interviewed over a thousand people who had near-death experiences. Most of the reports corresponded to things written in the Bible. Many were beautiful and inspiring. Men and women were given a glimpse of heaven and then given the opportunity to return to earth and tell others about their experiences.

But not all of the near-death experiences were positive. Some were dark and terrifying. Many people reported about going to a place where there was a void of emptiness and hopelessness (Matthew 8:12; Lk 13:28) Time and again people heard the question, "What have you done with the life I have given you?"

George Ritchie was a young soldier and in medical training when he got a high fever and died. He was also a committed Christian. Following are his words:

"Jesus was standing beside me and we were looking at a great battlefield where people were writhing, punching, gouging. They were locked into habits of mind and emotion, into hateful, destructive thoughts. Even more hideous than the bites and kicks were the sexual abuses many were performing.

The thoughts they communicated had to do with prideful superiority. "I told you so!" "I always knew." "Didn't I warn you?" were shrieked over and over, yelps of envy and wounded self-importance. I heard myself all too well.

Once again, no condemnation came from Jesus who stood by my side, only compassion for these unhappy creatures that was breaking His heart. Clearly it was not His will that any one of them should be in that place."

There were many other reports of people who apparently visited hell and were given the opportunity to return. Their reports were disgusting, terrifying, horrifying. I don't want to write about them anymore. What upsets me is that there are people whom I love that refuse to take any of this seriously.

Are you one of those people?

BIBLE QUIZ

What did Paul say is the only thing that counts in this life?

Answer: "The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."

(Galatians 5: 6)

THE COST

"We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." (Acts 14:22)

"Whoever does not bear his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:27)

"No one should be shaken by these afflictions, for you yourselves know that we were appointed to this." (1 Thessalonians 3:3)

GOD"S THOUGHTS OF US

"I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil." (Jeremiah 29:11)

"How precious are your thoughts to me, O God, how great is the sum of them. If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand." (Psalm 92:15)

"The unsearchable riches of Christ." (Ephesians 3:8)

QUIZ NO. 2

What is the "Solomon Paradox?"

Answer: It's when you give great advice to others but you don't do it yourself.

SUPERNATURAL CHILDBIRTH

Have you ever heard of travailing prayer? Travailing is what a woman does when she is giving birth to a child;

Dutch Sheets teaches about this subject in his book <u>Intercessory Prayer</u>. Dutch knows a lot about it and I don't know hardly nothin'.

When a woman travails, birthing a child, it is usually accompanied by groaning weeping, crying out, sweating and hard work. Travailing prayer can also be accompanied by these physical manifestations. But Dutch believes that it is not defined by them; in fact, that a

person can travail while doing the dishes, mowing the lawn, or driving a car - anything a person can do and still pray. I hope that that is right. When praying for someone, sometimes I shed tears, but I don't ever remember groaning, etc. So I have always felt myself to be an amateur when it comes to intercession.

Let me give you a few brief examples from Scripture:

1st Kings chapter 18 tells the story of Elijah praying for rain after a long drought. "He crouched down on the earth and put his face between his knees and prayed." In that culture that was the position that women took as they travailed in childbirth.

James 5:16 refers to this event and calls it "fervent" prayer.

John 11 tells about Jesus raising Lazarus from the grave. It says that Jesus was deeply moved, troubled and was weeping. These words in the Hebrew have to do with travailing, giving birth.

In Galatians 4:19 Paul says, "My little children with whom I travail in birth again until Christ is formed in you." (KJV)

"Brooding" and "hovering" are other words that in Hebrew connote the birthing process. The Holy Spirit brooded over or hovered over the darkness, the primeval chaos, to birth the universe. (Genesis 1:2) And the Holy Spirit hovered over or overshadowed the Virgin Mary. (Luke 1:35).

And there are many other scriptural examples.

Marlena O'Hearn, of Maple Valley Washington, tells of travailing for her brother. She had been praying for her brother Kevin for about 12 years and had grown frustrated. Early in 1995 she heard Dutch teach about intercession. She and her husband Patrick and their children all began to pray for Kevin. They prayed that the Holy Spirit would "hover over him." In about two weeks Kevin was born again and is serving the lord today

Carol Millspaugh of Colorado Springs told of an experience she had in Germany several years ago. She worked there as a psychotherapist and Christian counselor. The people she counseled had many problems: addictions, eating disorders, family problems, and others. They were not believers. Carol said she felt as if she were pregnant with two of these folks, carrying them in her spirit. She would intercede for them daily, often moaning and crying for hours. This went on for several months.

During her times of intercession the Lord would reveal things about them to Carol. Then one day she sensed that the Spirit powerfully hovered over them during their session, enabling them to hear and understand as Carol shared Scriptures with them. The next time she met with them both of them received the Lord. She had a strong sense of a birthing happening. Then began the time of growing and maturing as Carol nurtured them and helped them find solid Biblical teaching and Christian relationships.

I believe we need much teaching about prayer, and you may want to get the book Intercessory Prayer. Above all, I encourage you to keep praying. The Lord hears our prayers even if they are not profound. Let me give you an example of one of my most effective prayers: "Help!"

INNER HEALING AND DELIVERANCE

Can parasites get into a human body? Of course they can. How do they get in? Through food or water or a cut in the skin. I have seen photographs of parasites magnified and they're scary little monsters. Yuck!

The Bible describes spiritual parasites called demons, that can get inside a human. You can't photograph them but their effects are clearly discerned.

Almost 50 years ago, God called me to the ministry of helping people get free of these spiritual parasites. In time, I learned that this ministry is a process and that in order for people to get free and stay free of these parasites it requires work. The following analogy might be helpful:

Picture the garbage dump of a city. You will notice that there are a lot of rats and

cockroaches and vermin running around. Why are they there? They are feeding on the garbage. If you wanted to get rid of all the vermin, how would you do it? The only thing that would be effective and permanent would involve getting rid of the garbage.

The reason that vermin are in humans is that they are feeding on the garbage. If you want to get rid of the spiritual parasites you're going to have to deal with the garbage. (As we go through life, all of us accumulate some garbage.)

What is the garbage that attracts demonic vermin and that they feed on? They are things warned about in the Bible in many diverse places:

- unforgiveness,
- fear,
- anger, hatred and bitterness,
- ungodly soul ties,
- word curses,
- generational curses,
- self-hatred and self-condemnation,
- involvement in the occult.

Some of these things were in my life, and it was a lot of work to get rid of them. I teach about these things in the videos I made a couple of years ago. There are 42 videos, about 20 minutes each, and you can access these videos by clicking on the following icon:

■ Video Index

If you're reading a hard copy of this message, you can email or call me and I will forward you the videos.

If you would like for me to pray for you on the phone, my number is in the heading of this newsletter. If you would like to have a time of ministry with me on Zoom, just call and we will set up an appointment. If you would like for me to pray for you to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, call me. It's much better to have someone lay hands on you, but we will see what God will do.

I would love to pray for you. God bless, Glenn