

**CHAPTER I**  
**Endued With Power**

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The topic of spiritual gifts is a major point of contention in the church today. My hope is that by examining the scriptures, we can shed some light on this subject. And remember, this is a peripheral issue. It should not be a cause of division in the church.

I heard an excellent teaching on spiritual gifts about two years ago when a friend gave me a tape by Dr. Walter Martin, founder of *The Christian Research Institute*.

Dr. Martin is with the Lord now, but he was a very scholarly man; very proficient in the Holy Scriptures with a marvelous understanding of God's word and its practical application in the life of the believer.

Please understand that being a Biblical scholar, a theologian, doesn't make you spiritual. And going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you a car. Do you understand that?

You can have all the head knowledge in the world and it won't do you any good at all if it's not in your heart; in your Spirit. You have to have heart knowledge when it comes to the Holy Scriptures.

So, Dr. Martin, thanks for your remarkable insight on this subject. You get all the credit for it and God gets all the glory.

Many Christians believe that the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as prophecy and tongues, came to an end after the first century AD, alleging that these gifts were supernatural signs of God's power necessary for evangelism

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~~at that time, because the canon of scripture had not yet~~  
been completed. They believe that these gifts quickly faded

away when the final revelation of God's word was given in  
the New Testament and the Apostolic Age had passed,

Today in the Christian church, it seems that we need to  
be constantly reminded of the activity, the ministry and the  
power of the Holy Spirit. This was not the case with the  
early Christians. They were an excited bunch of people.  
They were looking for God to do something.

In our day, when we talk about the power of God;  
about the miraculous outpouring of the Holy Spirit, it  
seems we're usually describing what happened to some-  
body else, rather than something we've seen or experi-  
enced in our own lives.

Let's take a look at Luke, chapter 24, verse 49, as the  
Lord was getting ready to leave this earth. He made a  
statement which foretold one of the greatest events of all  
time.

LUKE 24:49

**Behold, I send the promise of my father upon you.  
Wait in the city of Jerusalem until you be endued  
with power from on high.**

It's pretty clear in verse 49 that the promise of the father  
was going to be an enduement of power like the world had  
never seen. Now let's look at the first chapter of Acts.

ACTS 1:4

**...wait for the promise of the father, which you  
have heard from me. For John truly baptized with  
water; you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit  
not many days hence.**

Notice something else Jesus says here in verse 7.

ACTS 1:7

**...it is not for you to know the seasons, which the father hath put in his own power. But you shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and you shall be witnesses unto me in both Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

Jesus said the promise of the father was an enduement of power accompanied by a unique event; an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which would provide something new for the church.

We *all* receive authority to become children of God the moment we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior. Every person that knows Christ as Savior has been baptized into the Body of Christ by the Lord Jesus, and through the agency of the Holy Spirit. That's universal to every member of the church. It doesn't matter whether you're a Baptist, a Methodist, a Presbyterian, a Charismatic, a Pentecostal or whatever. It's universal.

But in the words of D.L. Moody, there are people behind the pulpits and in our pews, in whom the Holy Spirit *lives*, but *upon whom* the Holy Spirit has not *come with power*.

Moody was around more than twenty years before the Pentecostal revival so we can't classify him as a Pentecostal. We'll have to classify him as a good reform theologian because he established one of the great doctrines of the church; and that's this; that God has more for the life of every person who's willing to obey him.

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~~As Walter Martin said "You cannot get more of the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit is God, and we have received~~

*all* that God can *ever* mean to man in this world in the person of Jesus Christ."

What we *can* get is more from God for our lives; more power. Everyone who is in Christ has the authority of a child of God, and access to the power of God.

There are two Greek words which describe power and authority. *Ack-Su-Sea-Uh*, is authority, the right to do something. But *Dee-New-Mus* is the power to carry it out. Every Christian has the right to preach the Gospel, but not everybody has the power from God necessary to carry it as far as God wants it carried.

Today, the Charismatic movement is under attack by people who say that whenever someone gets into the word of God and finds something about the Holy Spirit, they're turning away from the word and relying on experience. That's ridiculous!

The outstanding theologians, teachers, and evangelists of the church were people united to the *Word* of God, but they also recognized that the *Spirit* of God was necessary to implement the *message* of God in people's lives. That's what we need today. A translation; an implementation of the theology into the life of the believer.

Remember, I said before, that head knowledge doesn't cut it. You have to get the theology into your Spirit, into your life, and that will happen only through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Now, how does that take place? That's a very important question so let's take a look at it. Jesus said,

LUKE 24:49

**...wait for the promise of the father....you will be  
endued with power...**

ACTS 2: 1

**and when the day of Pentecost was fully come..**

ACTS 2:4

**..they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and be-  
gan to speak with other tongues...**

You see? The promise of the father was an enduement of power. That baptism in the Spirit; that overflowing of the Holy Spirit; that great gift to the church from God the Father; the promise of the father, opened the flood gates of divine power and gave the average Christian access to the gifts of God in a way they had never known before.

Let's take a closer look at what really happened here. Before the Holy Spirit came and filled the church with His presence and His power, where was the gift of wisdom and knowledge? Where was the gift of healing and miracles? Where was the gift of prophesy and discerning of spirits; tongues and interpretation? Where was the supernatural gift of faith?

All the things the disciples and apostles did, they did when Jesus was alive; when He was still walking the earth. And everything they did was in His name and by His authority. Jesus said,

**...behold I give you power...**

But when Jesus died that era of the church's experience ended. They were told to wait in Jerusalem for a new era. Now it would no longer be necessary for Jesus to be present with them. Now the Spirit of God would come upon them as He had anointed Jesus of Nazareth, and he would give the church the power that was exercised previously only by the Son of God. That's what was coming to the church. Personal access to power. When the day of Pentecost came, that power came also.

What was the purpose of that power? Hebrews, the second chapter, verse 3 tells us.

HEBREWS 2:3

**How shall we escape, if we neglect so great a salvation; which at first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness. both with signs and wonders. and with divers miracles. and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?**

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit was an infusion of power into the life of the church for the purpose of confirming the word of God; for the purpose of establishing the authority of Scripture, and the authority of the Apostles and the Disciples of Jesus.

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~~This didn't happen just once. This was not a one shot~~  
deal. The Bible tells us in Acts, chapter 4, that the same people that were filled with the Holy Spirit in the upper room in Acts, chapter 2, got re-filled all over again.

ACTS 4:31

**And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.**

Donald Barnhouse said the reason they got re-filled was because they leaked. And that's true. Christians are sieve-like in their spirituality. They get filled up and they leak.

How many of you know what I'm talking about? You go to church and your pastor fills you up with God's word and you get all filled up with Holy Ghost power. As the

week goes on and you're out in the world getting clobbered by all that negative junk you begin to lose some of that, don't you?

Then on the way home from work somebody cuts you off at the intersection and you give him a friendly salute and you lose a little more of it. Come on now, you know it's true. Right?

And by Wednesday, you're just about empty; you're down a few quarts because you've been leaking all week. That's why you need to be in church every chance you get.

So, being filled with the Holy Spirit, receiving the promise of the Father, and being baptized in the Spirit all describe the same thing. A continuous re-filling of the life

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~~of the believer; with the power of God. And that's some-~~  
thing every Christian desperately needs.

Before the gifts of the Spirit can operate in the life of a Christian, we must first see the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

What good does it do to demonstrate miraculous gifts from God if you're not disciplined by the Spirit in your own life.

On the day of Pentecost, God opened the gate. He had given us access to the Holy of Holies by the Blood of Jesus at the cross, right? When Jesus was crucified the veil to the Holy of Holies, the entrance to the presence of God, was torn in two and we were given access to the throne room of the Father.

At Pentecost, we get access, to the very power that Christ Himself possessed.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9

**..Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.**

Most everyone knows that verse, right? But everyone stops there. There's more. Verse 10 continues,

1 CORINTHIANS 2:10

**But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit...**

Here are the things God has revealed. In first Corinthians chapter 12, God gave the church the gift of wisdom; to some the gift of knowledge; to some the gift of faith; to some healing; to some miracles; verse 10, prophecy, discernment of spirits, tongues and interpretation of tongues.

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~~These things did not manifest themselves in the lives of~~  
the disciples or the apostles until the promise of the father  
had come. They did not manifest themselves at the Resur-  
rection of Christ. They manifested themselves after Christ

sent the promise of the father. After the Holy Spirit was  
given.

Nine gifts that were given by the Holy Spirit are men-  
tioned. They're called Charismatic because they're gifts of  
grace for the purpose of establishing the word of God.  
There's a big difference between Charismatic and Pente-  
costal and we'd better get that one straightened out right  
now.

A Charismatic says that through the Baptism in the  
Holy Spirit and power from God, every Christian has ac-  
cess to the spiritual gifts, and they will manifest these gifts  
to show that they are real.

One of these gifts is speaking in tongues. You may  
demonstrate that one or you may not. The Pentecostal says  
that everybody has the same experience and everybody  
must speak in tongues. That is not Charismatic theology.

While it may be possible that every Christian may have  
access to every gift, the Apostle Paul says, "Do all proph-  
esy? Do all speak in tongues?" No. God gives the gifts as it  
says in Hebrews 2, verse 4.

HEBREWS 2:4

**God also bearing them witness both with signs  
and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts  
of the Holy Ghost, according to his will."**

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~~We're supposed to be open to Him and the Holy Spirit~~  
will give us those things which build up and edify the whole Body of Christ; and us individually. God help us if we ever get to the place where we tell the Holy Spirit that He has to do what He does the way we say He has to do it. When that happens we're in for a rude awakening.

The Holy Spirit can ruin the best theologies we can come up with. God help you if you ever get to the place where you say, "The Holy Spirit's not going to have His way in my church," because He'll make it a point to do it in those churches especially.

Walter Martin tells the story of how he was talking to a very scholarly Doctor of Theology in the Lutheran Church who was telling him how he confronted the power of the Holy Spirit in his church.

He said, "When I saw all these people coming back from prayer meetings and talking about the gifts of the Spirit, and the power of God, and they were praying for the sick, and people were getting well, and some of them were praying in tongues; you know, that did something to me."

And Walter said, "Well, what did it do?"

And the Lutheran theologian said, "It made me mad."

So Dr. Martin asked, "Why did it make you mad?"

And the Theologian said, "Because *I* wasn't doing it. And *I* was the pastor. How come they were doing it and I wasn't? So I prayed about it," and he always prayed in German, "and I decided that Sunday night I was gonna finish this Charismatic business once and for all, so I went to Luther for help and he was no help at all. Then I went to

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~~the Reformation Theologians and they didn't have much to~~  
say against it either."

"So I decided I'd spend the evening in prayer and then I'd get up and really straighten them out. So I did. I was on my knees and I was praying to the Lord for power and for authority from the scriptures, and asking for guidance on how I might put my hand upon this great evil that had disrupted my congregation, and the Spirit spoke to my heart

while I was praying and said, 'Don't you think you'd better pray on the other side too? Maybe there's something you don't know about.'

"So I grudgingly amended my prayer, and I said, Lord, if this really has some truth to it I want you to reveal it to me; and suddenly I burst forth in another language, and it wasn't German. I got up on the pulpit the next Sunday morning and I said, the gifts and the calling of God are here."

You never tell the Holy Spirit what He can or can't do. He has a way of doing what He wants to do, because the Holy Spirit is God.

Let's take a look at some of the things that happened after the day of Pentecost, because this is the kind of power that's available to the us today.

In 1 Corinthians, chapter 12, verse 8, it says,

1 CORINTHIANS 12:8

**For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom.....**

Well, where does that manifest itself? In Acts, chapter 6, verse 10 we see the supernatural gift of wisdom; the ca-

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~~capacity to know things and to communicate things that~~  
people couldn't possibly resist.

In Acts, chapter 6, Stephen was preaching that Jesus was, indeed, the Messiah. And verse 10 tells us that the gift of wisdom made it's appearance right here.

ACTS 6:10

**...they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spoke.**

What spirit did Stephen speak by? The Spirit of God, right? God, the Holy Spirit. It says he was filled with the Holy Spirit. What manifested in Stephen? The gift of wisdom; from the Holy Spirit.

The Jews, the Sadducces and the Pharisees, were not able to resist the wisdom of God's Spirit. After the day of Pentecost, we have access to divine wisdom to exercise the power of God as never before.

Verse 8 of 1 Corinthians 12 says, the gift of knowledge. What is the gift of knowledge? You'll find it in Acts, chapter 5.

ACTS 5:1

**...a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession,...**

They kept part of the sale price for themselves. They didn't tell anybody about it. The only ones who knew were Ananias, Sapphira, and God. You know it's always dangerous for God to know about these things.

Ananias comes in first, and Peter says, "How are you Ananias? We really appreciate your tithe to the work of God and we praise the Lord for your whole-hearted support of the ministry. We recognize that we all have prob-

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~~lems and sins but let by-gones be by-gones. Keep the~~  
money."

Do you find that in the text? No, and you never will. It's God's property they're fooling around with here. And Peter, who was never known for any degree of tact, said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled up your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?" That's definitely not tactful is it? "You lied to God."

When Ananias heard these words he fell down and died. It's a good thing the Lord doesn't deal with the church this way today. If He did, we'd have funerals for eternity in the church.

That's right! People say, "It belongs to you Lord," and then they take part of it back. And they give it to God in bits and pieces or however they feel like it. We need to be careful with what we do with God's stuff.

So how did Peter know that Ananias and Sapphira had done this when no one knew except them and God? That's the gift of knowledge. Peter was given information about them that he couldn't have gotten any other way. Knowledge without access to information, except through God. That's the gift of knowledge.

Then there is the gift of faith as demonstrated in Acts, chapter 12, verse 5, where Peter is in jail and the church prays for his release.

ACTS 12:5

**Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.**

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~~The church was believing God for Peters release and~~  
there was supernatural intervention. The Angel of the Lord came and removed Peter's chains, woke him up and said, "Get up, Peter, and get going." That's the gift of faith.

These people believed God for an incredible situation. Peter was in jail. He was going to be tried by Roman law and probably would have been executed. But the people prayed and believed that God would deliver him, and the

Lord answered that faith in a remarkable way. A supernatural faith; a Charismatic faith; a gift from God.

What about the gift of healing in 1 Corinthians 12: 9?

1 CORINTHIANS 12:9

**....to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit..**

In Acts, chapter 14, verses 8-10 , the scripture clearly tells us that Paul exercised the gift of healing by touching a man and commanding that he be restored so he could walk with God. The gift of healing was manifested and the man was healed and raised up.

ACTS 14:8-10

**And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked.**

**The same heard Paul speak: who steadfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,**

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~~Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet.~~

**And he leaped and walked.**

In verse 10 of 1 Corinthians, chapter 12, we have the gift of miracles.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:10

**...To another the working of miracles....**

In Acts, chapter 3, Peter exercises this gift. Remember the man who was paralyzed at the gate of the temple? Peter said,

ACTS 3:6

**...Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.**

This man leaped to his feet and ran into the temple, leaping and praising God. So what do we see, here? We see the manifestation of the gift of miracles. Even the Pharisees recognized it. They said,

ACTS 4:16

**....a notable miracle hath been done by them....and we cannot deny it.**

Next, in verse 10 of 1 Corinthians 12, we have the gift of Prophecy.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:10

In the 20th chapter of Acts, verses 28-30, the Apostle Paul gave a prophecy. I believe it's the only place in the New Testament where there is a prophecy, a confirmation, and the fulfillment of that prophecy taking place before the New Testament record is completed; before the close of the first century.

I'm going to paraphrase here, but you can look it up for yourselves. Paul said, "I know after I leave you, savage wolves will enter in, not sparing the flock." Paul says, "Look out for the false teachers and the false prophets. They're going to divide the Body of Christ. I'm warning you. God revealed this to me. Look out for them."

In Revelation, chapter 2, verse 2, that prophecy is fulfilled.

REVELATION 2:2

**...and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars...**

The Ephesian Elders, who Paul was speaking to in Acts 20, are commended by the Holy Spirit for putting the false prophets and the false teachers to the test and rejecting them. So here you have the gift of Prophecy operating in Acts, chapter 20; and then you have the fulfillment of that prophecy in Revelation 2, verse 2; about thirty years later, after Paul's death.

Next we have the gift of discerning of the Spirits, as given in 1 Corinthians 12:10

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1 CORINTHIANS 12:10

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**...to another discerning of spirits..**

In Acts, chapter 16, verse 16. Paul is walking around, preaching the Gospel, and a demon possessed girl comes up behind him and starts following him through the city. As Paul is preaching, this demon possessed girl starts yelling, saying,

**....These men are the servants of the most high God, which show unto us a way of salvation.**

Notice that she said, "a way of salvation." She didn't say, "the way," because Jesus is "the way;" So what she's really saying is, "Listen to Paul. He's got part of the truth." Sound familiar? It should. That's what the cults and the occult say.

Paul turns around, looks at the girl, and then addresses the demon; not the girl. How did Paul know that this girl was demon possessed? Because he exercised the gift of the discerning of Spirits.

ACTS 16:18

**...But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.**

The Bible says the demon left the same hour. Paul exercised the gift of discerning of Spirits.

Then we have the gift of tongues.

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1 CORINTHIANS 12:10

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**..to another divers kinds of tongues**

1 Corinthians, chapter 14, tells us that what began at Pentecost as a sign, continued in the Corinthian church. 1 Corinthians, chapter 14 is very clear on this subject.

Some people say. "The gift of tongues isn't for our day. The gift of tongues is listed last in 1 Corinthians, chapter

12, so the gift of tongues is least. The rule is, 'last therefore least.'

The people who came up with this rule need to continue reading in 1 Corinthians, chapter 13, where Paul ends the chapter, the love chapter, saying,

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13

**And now abideth faith, hope, charity (love), these three...**

And the greatest of these is the last one. Right?

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13

**...but the greatest of these is charity (love).**

It says the greatest of these is love and love is listed last, so the law is revoked. Last is greatest, not least. So you can't use that argument anymore in 1 Corinthians, chapter 12.

I CORINTHIANS 14:18

**I thank my God I speak with tongues more than ye all.**

Paul, according to these people, must have been very immature and very childish, because speaking in tongues was supposed to be immature. I don't think a man who went to the third Heaven and saw things that aren't lawful to speak about is immature, do you?

I don't think a man who said that he was summoned personally by Jesus Christ and preached the Gospel to the

Gentiles was immature. But Paul puts this gift in proper balance. He says, in 1 Corinthians 14:19

1 CORINTHIANS 14:19

**Yet in the church had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.**

So, put in it's proper perspective, tongues has three functions in the New Testament. The first is a sign to the un-believer.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:22

**...tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not...**

Second, in 1 Corinthians, chapter 14, tongues is for personal prayer and building up your spiritual life. And you're supposed to pray that you may interpret so your mind is built up as well as your spiritual nature.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:26

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~~...every one of you... hath a tongue, hath a revelation,~~  
**...every one of you... hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be unto edifying.**

The third function of tongues is prophecy. It's given in the church.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:27

**If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three... and let one interpret.**

It must be done by the Holy Spirit and the word of God. So there's no doubt about what's going on. Order. Always order.

There are a lot of people, who, when you talk to them about the gift of tongues, say, "I don't want the gift of tongues. because if I'm praying in tongues and I don't know what's going on in my mind, what benefit is there to that?"

Well, Paul has the answer to that question too. He says there's benefit, whether you understand it or not. Because he that prays in a tongue to God builds up his spiritual nature.

Some people think that if they don't understand what's going on, *nothing* is going on. There are all kinds of things going on right now that we don't understand. But our lack of understanding doesn't mean they aren't happening, does it?

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~~Tongues in the church is to build up the Body of Christ,~~  
not some exercise to get people's attention. I heard a pastor talking about people who interrupt church services with messages from God. He said one time he was speaking and somebody got up and started to give a message right in the middle of his sermon, and he said, "Please sit down. The Holy Spirit is speaking through me now and God doesn't interrupt himself. After the service then you tell us if God is speaking and we'll judge it. But you don't interrupt the Holy Spirit."

God is a God of order isn't He? So that Pastor was right to do that.

So what should the Christian attitude toward spiritual gifts be? The Bible is very clear.

I CORINTHIANS 14:12

**Even so ye...**

Who is "ye" ? You! You Baptist, you Methodist, you Lutheran, you Episcopalian, you Roman Catholic, you Eastern Orthodox, you Greek Orthodox, you Congregationalist, you Independent, you Christian. You whatever your label might be. If you know Jesus Christ as your savior, God is talking to you.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:12

**...forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church."**

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~~What is a Christian supposed to do? Seek the power of the Spirit in your life.~~

People say, "But I'm so powerless." Probably. Because you're not actively seeking God's very best for you. The early Christians grabbed ahold of the spiritual gifts and everything else they could because with the Romans breathing down their neck on the right, and the Jews on the left, and everybody else in between; they needed all the help they could get.

So many Christians today go to church and get all fired up; they soak up all that good preaching and "Hallelujah" this and "Amen" that, and then they go out and do abso-

lutely nothing; don't even mention the name of Jesus all week; and then they come back to church the next Sunday and get all filled up with God's word again and that's the end of it.

They take and take and take and never give anything back; never do one thing for God all week.

The church in America needs a little bit of friendly persecution. I'm serious. It's happening everywhere else in the world. Maybe what we need in this country is just a little persecution so that Christians will get up off their fat surpluses from in front of the TV and get out there for Jesus and do something.

I know some of you are all bent out of shape now. Well, good! Maybe if you get upset enough you'll do something for once in your life.

The power of God must be sought after. You aren't going to sit there and say, "Here I am. Drop it on me." If you're going to receive power from God, you're going to get it when you seek Him. God gives the Holy Spirit to them that obey Him; those who are coming to Him.

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~~Now we're not talking about Pentecostal theology here.~~  
We're talking about good old, solid reformation theology. Good old church history. All the saints of God in all the ages learned this one secret. If you really want power from God you have to seek God and cry out to heaven for it. And that's the only way God responds. The only way.

And we have no hold on God either. Some people think that because they have access to the power of God it means God is always there to do what we want Him to do. God's not your divine bell-hop. When things get bad you don't push the button and say, "We need help in room 1201." It doesn't work that way. We have to be operating within the will of God; and to glorify Jesus.

Now there are people who say, "In 1 Corinthians, chapter 13, you Charismatics all neglect the fact that the Bible says that tongues will cease, and knowledge will stop, and prophesy will go away." No, we don't ignore that.

Open to 1 Corinthians 13 and let's look at what Paul says in verses 8-10.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:8-10

**Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.**

Okay. We agree one hundred percent. Tongues will come to a stop... one day. Prophecy will cease... one day.

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~~Knowledge will disappear... one day. And the time of that~~  
disappearance is verse 10.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:10

**...when that which is perfect has come.**

Most commentators on the Bible maintain that "that which is perfect," is the second coming of Christ or the Kingdom of God coming to earth. It could also refer to the fact that when you die you will see face to face and then the gifts are not necessary.

And those who are trying to get rid of the gifts have as their chief motivation, though they'd be the last to realize it....fear! That's right; fear.

Fear of the unknown. Fear that God might get loose in their churches, in their schools, in their communities, and really upset their theology.

I'm going to prove to you, through scripture, that the gifts of God will be here until you die or Jesus comes back. The first verse we'll look at is Romans 11:29.

Speaking of the Jews in verse 28, the Apostle Paul says,

ROMANS 11:28-29

**...concerning the Gospel, they (the Jews) are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election of God, they are beloved for the fathers' (their ancestors) sakes.**

**For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.**

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~~The Greek word for repentance here means, "without~~ the change of mind." Most modern translations have said, "the gift and the calling of God are irrevocable." They'll be here just as long as God's mercy is extended to the Jew.

Romans, chapter 11, verse 1 says,

ROMANS 11:1

**...Hath God cast away His people? God forbid...**

So He's never going to take His gifts away either, because He combines two words. Gift and calling. So the Jews have been called and they'll be here until God's purpose for them is fulfilled. In the same verse; the gifts of God will be here until His purpose is complete and that is irrevocable until the coming of Jesus Christ.

Secondly, in 1 Corinthians, chapter 13, the very passage which our friends quote so frequently, they completely ignore the context of the passage. They run away from it.

Here's what they say. In 1 Corinthians, chapter 13, verse 8, "that which is perfect," the Greek word *ack-tain-ose* is in the neuter, therefore, since it's neither masculine or feminine, but neuter, it must refer to the close of the Apostolic age or to the closing of the canon of the New Testament.

Their whole argument is based on the neuter gender of a Greek term. Okay, now let's deal with it. We're going to accept their interpretation. We'll use their interpretation in this passage and we'll read the passage with that interpretation. beginning at verse 8.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:8.

**Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away**

**For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.**

**But when the canon of scripture is closed, then that which is in part (the gift of the Spirit) shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child, but when I became a man I put away childish things.**

**For now (when the canon of scripture is not complete) we see through a glass darkly; but then (when the canon of scripture is complete) we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; but when the canon of scripture is complete, I will know even as also I am known.**

That's how it's got to read according to their theology! Well, Paul never lived to the closing of the canon of scripture, so he never saw face to face. He always saw partially.

The canon is now complete. It was completed in the first century. Do we see face to face? You bet we don't! And we never will see face to face until the Lord comes back or we go to meet Him. So the interpretation that this is the canon of Scripture doesn't fit, does it?

This interpretation came about in the 19th century of the Christian era. So what did the church believe for 19

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~~centuries before that? They believed that this passage~~  
means that the gifts of God are here until Jesus returns or  
until we go to be with Him.

In John, chapter 14, verse 12, Jesus is speaking.

JOHN 14:12.

**..He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall  
he do also; and greater works than these.....**

Greater works than these what? Greater works than  
these works that Jesus did! Jesus said it; I didn't. This is Je-  
sus talking. Greater works than He did. Is that what it  
says? Alright, follow this now.

**...greater works than these (these works that I do)  
shall he do...**

Who is "he" in this text? He that believeth. Right? The  
believer. The believer in Jesus Christ. Are you a believer in  
Jesus Christ? Well, are you? Well then you should be get-  
ting pretty excited here because He's talking about you!

**...greater works than these shall he do; because I  
go unto my father.**

Okay now skip down to verse 14.

JOHN 14:14.

**If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.**

Anything! I like that! Anything! Now verse 15.

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~~JOHN 14:15~~

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**If you love me...**

Okay, that's good. We all love Jesus right? Continuing in verse 15...

**...keep my commandments.**

I knew there was a catch. What commandments?  
Flip over to Matthew 22, verse 37. Jesus is talking again.

MATTHEW 22:37

**...Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.**

Okay, I can do that. Go down a couple of lines now; verse 39.

**And the second is like unto it...**

Oh, there's another one? Alright, Two isn't bad. I can handle two.

**...Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself**

Oh, come on now! This guy? You don't know what he's done to me! You have no idea what he's put me through!

It doesn't say that does it? It doesn't say, "love your neighbor if he's a great guy." It just says to love him....unconditionally. There are no conditions listed here, are there? Unconditionally, the way that God loves us.

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~~Where would we be if God put conditions on loving~~  
us? God loves us even when we aren't lovable, doesn't He?  
Well, that's what He's asking us to do here.

Okay, let's go back before we get totally lost here.  
We've already established that we've been endowed with  
power from on high through the power of the Holy Spirit.  
Also, we saw that this power is available to every believer.

Now, what is this power for? Why have we been given  
this power? To promote the Christian church. To promote  
God's word and the Kingdom of God. To demonstrate  
God's power to the non-believer so that he might believe.

Now do you think God is really going to give this Holy  
Ghost power to every believer? I know, you're thinking,  
"Well, that's what you just said, isn't it?" No. We said it's  
*available* to every believer. We know that there are condi-  
tions on this, don't we?

Let's wrap this all up in as neat a package as we can.  
Bob Havey paraphrase coming up here; In Acts 1:4. Jesus  
says...

**..Wait for the promise of the father that I told you  
about before.**

Where did the Lord tell them that before? In Luke 24:49.  
And what was that promise; the promise of the father?  
Again Luke 24:49. An enduement of power. That was the  
promise; power.

Okay. Who was the power for? Believers. And how was  
that power to be distributed?

In Hebrews chapter 2, verse 4 we see the answer to that  
question.

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HEBREWS 2:4

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**....according to his own will.**

So, if you're a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you have been given power and what?

HEBREWS 2:4

**...gifts of the Holy Ghost according to his own will.**

Now 1 Corinthians, Chapter 2, verses 9 and 10 tells us,

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9-10

**...Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.**

**But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.**

No one can understand the things God has for us unless he reveals them by the Holy Spirit. Who gets the power and gifts? We do? Do we all get all of the gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12? Not necessarily. Again, they are given according to God's will.

What should our attitude toward Spiritual gifts be? Just read 1 Corinthians 14:12. All this is in the Book. Be zealous for the Spiritual gifts for the building up of the church. Seek the power of God in your life.

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~~—And how long will this power be available to the church?~~ 1 Corinthians 13, verse 10 has that answer. "Until that which is perfect is come." Until Jesus comes or you go to be with Him. We proved that already, didn't we?

Now, here's the clincher. Remember we said there were conditions? God gives the gifts; God gives you the Holy Ghost power to do all these things in the name of Jesus according to His will. And if you ask anything in the name of Jesus, (John 14:14) He'll do it. Under what conditions?

*If you love Him!*

*If you keep His commandments!*

God requires something of you.

Submission.

Obedience.

Think about it!

God has not left you powerless before the enemy.

He has "endued you with power," to do His work; to promote His kingdom.

God is able to continue His good work in you until it's fruition at the day of Jesus Christ.