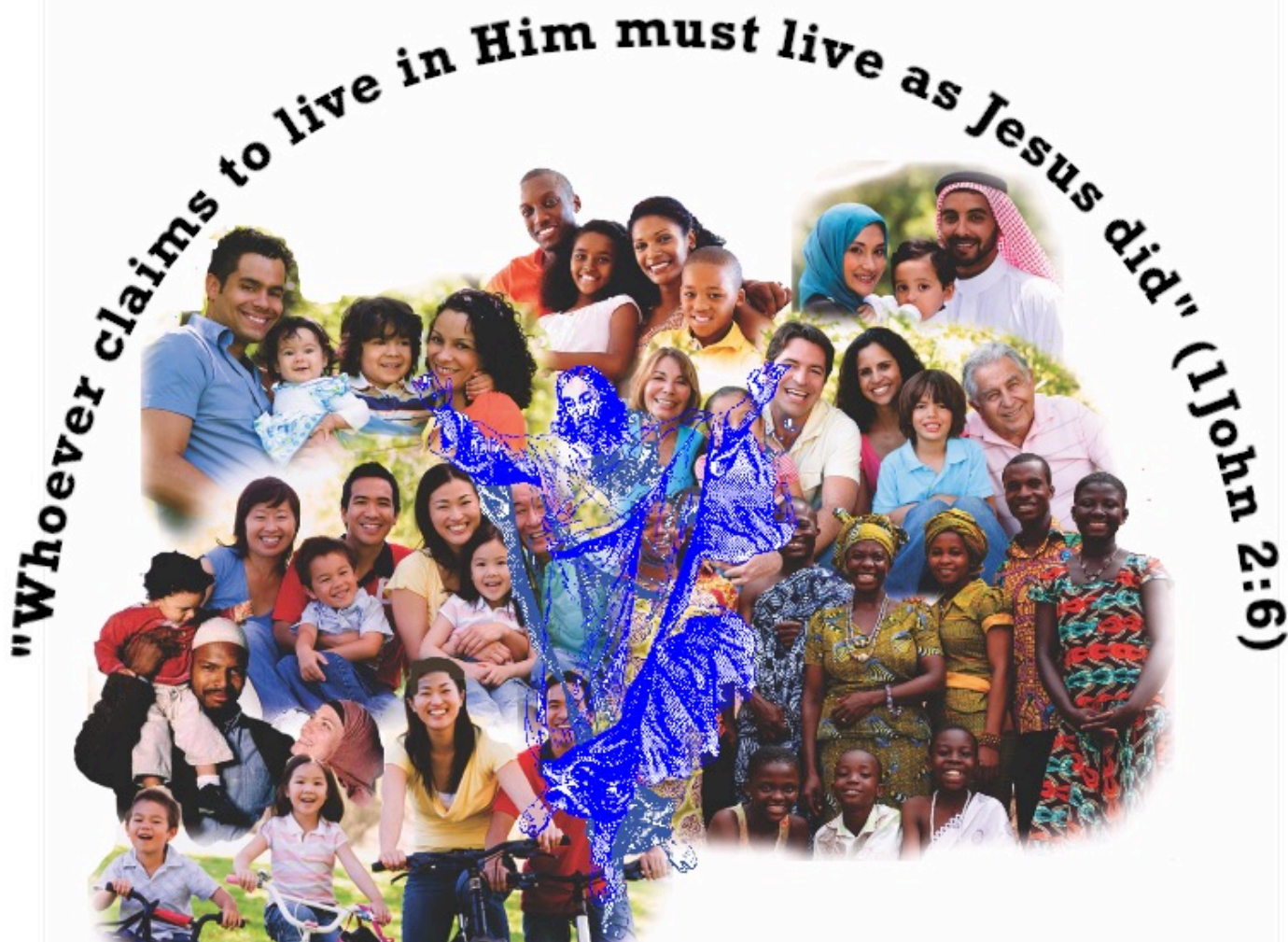


Being The Reality Of Jesus To A Wicked World

Reality 8. Satan Fears The Holy Spirit's Power, Intervention & Guidance



Pinpointing Key Facets Of The Hebraic Foundations

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First, it's not an easy thing to criticize the "Church Fathers" or the Reformers. But we know from the Holy Spirit and our own research that two particular unscriptural influences skewed the understanding of the Bible in both the Church Fathers and the Reformers: the prevailing stance of **anti-Semitism** against anything Jewish, and the domination of **Hellenist thought** and **Roman organization** within organized Christianity. Over the centuries as Christianity hardened into institutionalism, the scholarly quest for more and more Bible knowledge overrode any dependence on the ***Holy Spirit's power, intervention and guidance.***

What has been handed down to us today who follow Jesus as our Lord is not a way of life in which everyone who claims to belong to Jesus lives resolutely in fulfilling our Father's will. Instead, if you ask most Christians, they will identify themselves by their place of worship and/or their creed or denominational ties. In fact, following the Lord in love-grounded obedient trust which takes action according to the indwelling Holy Spirit doesn't even come to mind. How tragic is this evil departure from how Lord's first followers experienced His Spirit's divine empowerment and intervention and guidance. The absence of the Holy Spirit's work in the midst of churchgoers is accepted as the norm! So they can gather each week to stimulate their intellect and make a joyful noise, all the while feeling good that that's all that "Christians" are called to do.

"HALO EFFECT": Satan's glee is Christians who have no spiritual power, interventions or guidance from the Holy Spirit!



If you observed Christian services each weekend from Satan's vantage point, you might say that they reinforce a religious life without the Holy Spirit. Even the format in which passive spectators are audience to musical performances and prepared sermons is like a weekly demonic "fix": Christians are subtly convinced by the Spirit's very silence that He is unimportant. And that omission engenders a grievous consequence when these passive spectators return home. Instead of the Holy Spirit controlling their "Christian" way of life, their **sin nature-influenced reason** exercises a far greater influence in their daily decisions and priorities.

What a far cry from the pattern set forth in God's Word! When followers of Jesus are gathering together for worship, our Father calls for His Spirit to *prepare each of His Son's followers beforehand* so that we will be prepared to be His instruments. The Spirit of Christ inspires each of God's people to actively participate for the good of the body. Isn't this how Paul describes collective worship among the family of Jesus?

- *"What then shall we say, brothers? Whenever you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church"* (1Corinthians 14:26).

- *"Be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (Ephesians 5:18b-20).

- *"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you*

teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God" (Colossians 3:15,16).

When our Lord's first followers gathered together in His name, the Holy Spirit manifested Himself in their midst. But as history has sadly shown, both Roman Catholicism and the Protestant Reformers eliminated the **communal participation** that was enjoyed by the earliest followers of Jesus. In place of the mutual sharing of Spirit-breathed songs, instruction and admonition was substituted a **liturgical format** that bred passive spectators. *Liturgy* is a prescribed format by which public religious worship is conducted. Everyone of a particular denominational persuasion must follow that form. For example, in the sixth century Pope Gregory "the Great" invented an order of worship that became the only authorized format to be used in all congregations. For Roman Catholics even today, that "order of worship" has remained basically unchanged. Protestants too were similarly constrained in their worship services. During the Reformation, Martin Luther and John Calvin developed a pattern of worship that has remained standard for most Protestant churches to this day: a welcoming prayer, hymns, announcements, prayer, offertory, sermon, hymn, benediction.

What a sad departure from God's way of Spirit-directed collective worship! Many Protestants don't think of their services as liturgical. But Christians are being hindered by a liturgy influence whenever they come together as a gathering in Christ and aren't allowed to share a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, or a tongue or an interpretation to strengthen one another in the faith (1Corinthians 14:26).

Please note one other alteration of our Lord's intent for His collective body. Beginning with the institution of Roman Catholicism and continuing within much of Protestantism, spiritual power which comes from the Holy Spirit has been ignored or done away with. Why does so much of Christendom today lack the spiritual power which Jesus gave to each of His born-again followers? Think about it. By eliminating any reliance on spiritual gifts, clergy and theologians nullified the power of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' followers. These followers were then dependent on what their clergy taught them. Because they are unconcerned by the absence of the Holy Spirit in their gatherings, Christians today aren't collectively strengthened and encouraged in their weekly gatherings to live in the LORDship of Jesus in the outworking of spiritual gifts.

Too many believers as well as unbelievers view Christianity as a religious institution having no more Holy Spirit-power than any other religion.

Those who truly belong to our Lord Jesus can identify themselves by the Holy Spirit's empowerment, interventions and guidance in their lives.

Your Frame of Reference Must Be The Spirit's Power, Intervention & Guidance

Jesus set the standard for His disciples by empowering them to exercise the spiritual power He gave them. His power at work through them included casting out demons, speaking in new languages and laying their hands on the sick so that they might be healed. As they went, they also called people to repentance: to turn away from their sins and turn to God for forgiveness. Both before His resurrection and afterward Jesus made

clear that His followers would be empowered to do only what the Holy Spirit through them could do:

Mark 16:17-18: “And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will **cast out demons**; they will **speak with new tongues**; they will **take up serpents**; and if they **drink anything deadly**, it will by no means hurt them; they will **lay hands on the sick**, and they will recover.”

Mark 6:7,12-13: “And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and **gave them power over unclean spirits**... So they went out and preached that people **should repent**. And they **cast out many demons**, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and **healed them**.”

There is no indication anywhere in the Bible that the work of the Holy Spirit in and through those who were born from above ceased when the last of the Apostles passed into eternity. The same Holy Spirit in them is the same Holy Spirit dwelling within each and every follower of Jesus who has experienced spiritual rebirth — and the same call to glorify Jesus through exercising that spiritual power remains today.

Listed below you'll find examples of what a life of spiritual power, divine intervention and guidance looks like for those whom our Lord views as His own. Some of the passages are experienced by individuals, while others are collective. If you aren't experiencing the Holy Spirit at work in and through you in any of the ways described, then you may be in bondage to the halo effect of liturgy and/or living with unconfessed sin or strongholds you haven't demolished.

This sampling from the Acts of the Apostles recounts the reality of the **Spiritual Power (SP)** which followers of Jesus are able to exercise through His Spirit at work through them, and the **Divine Interventions (DI)** when God revealed Himself supernaturally in circumstances which were beyond man's natural ability. Also are examples of **Divine Guidance (DG)**. As you read through these, put yourself into the Spirit's hands asking Him to use you in any and all ways which will fulfill Father's will for you and bring glory to our Lord Jesus.

Examples of Specific Spiritual Power, Interventions and Guidance in the Book of Acts:

SP 1:8 Jesus said: “But you will **receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you**; and you will be **My witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Witnesses of Jesus are Living Testimonies!

DI 2:4 “And they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to **speak with other tongues**, as **the Spirit gave them utterance**.” Then in 2:6, God-fearing Jews from every nation “**heard them speak in his own language**.”

SP 3:6-8 Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: **In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk**.” And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately **his feet and ankle bones received strength**. So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them— **walking, leaping, and praising God**.”

SP 4:29-31 “Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they **may speak Your word**, by **stretching out Your hand to heal**, and that **signs and wonders may be done** through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus. And **when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken**; and they were **all filled with the Holy Spirit**, and they **spoke the word of God with boldness.**”

SP 5:12 “And through the hands of the apostles **many signs and wonders** were done among the people.”

SP 5:16 “Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing **sick people** and those who were **tormented by unclean spirits**, and they were **all healed.**”

DI 5:19 “But at night **an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors** and brought them out.”

SP 6:8,10 “And Stephen, full of faith and power, did **great wonders and signs** among the people... And they were not able to resist the **wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.**”

DI 7:30,34 “And when forty years had passed, **an Angel of the Lord appeared to him** in a flame of fire in a bush, in the wilderness of Mount Sinai... **‘I have surely seen** the oppression of My people who are in Egypt; **I have heard** their groaning and **have come down to deliver them.** And now come, **I will send you** to Egypt.”

SP 8:6,7 “And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, **hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.** For **unclean spirits**, crying with a loud voice, **came out of many who were possessed**; and many who were **paralyzed and lame were healed.**”

DI 8:26,29,39 Now an **angel of the Lord spoke to Philip**, saying, “**Arise and go toward the south** along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”...Then the **Spirit said to Philip**, “**Go near and overtake this chariot.**” Now when they came up out of the water, the **Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away**, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.”

DI 9:3-6 “As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and **suddenly a light shone around him** from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a **voice saying to him**, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” **Then the Lord said**, “**I am Jesus**, whom you are persecuting. So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” **Then the Lord said to him**, “**Arise and go into the city**, and you will be told what you must do.”

DI 8:10,12 “to him **the Lord said in a vision**, “Ananias.” And he said, “**Here I am, Lord.**”...And **in a vision he [Saul] has seen a man named Ananias** coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might **receive his sight.**”

SP 9:17 “And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and **laying his hands on him** he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you

came, **has sent me** that you may **receive your sight** and **be filled with the Holy Spirit.**”

SP 9:31 “...had peace and were edified. And walking in the **fear of the Lord** and in the **comfort of the Holy Spirit**, they were multiplied.”

SP 9:40 “But Peter put them all out, and **knelt down and prayed**. And turning to the body he said, “Tabitha, arise.” **And she opened her eyes**, and when she saw Peter she sat up.”

DI 10:3,4 “About the ninth hour of the day he **saw clearly in a vision an angel of God** coming in and saying to him, “Cornelius!” And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, “What is it, lord?” So he said to him, “**Your prayers and your alms** have come up for **a memorial before God.**”

DI 10:19 “While Peter thought about **the vision**, the **Spirit said to him**, “Behold, three men are seeking you.”

DI 10:44,46 “While Peter was still speaking these words, the **Holy Spirit fell upon** all those who heard the word... For they heard them **speak with tongues** and magnify God.”

DI 11:11,12,13 “**At that very moment, three men stood before the house** where I was, having been sent to me from Caesarea. Then **the Spirit told me** to go with them, doubting nothing... And he told us how he had **seen an angel standing in his house...**”

DG 11:28 “Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and **showed by the Spirit** that there was **going to be a great famine** throughout all the world, **which also happened** in the days of Claudius Caesar.”

SP, DI 12:5,7 “Peter was therefore kept in prison, but **constant prayer was offered to God for him** by the church. ...Now behold, **an angel of the Lord stood by him**, and a **light shone** in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, “Arise quickly!” And **his chains fell off** his hands.”

DI 12:23 “Then immediately **an angel of the Lord struck him**, because he did not give glory to God.”

DG 13:2,4 “As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, **the Holy Spirit said**, “**Now separate to Me** Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”...So, being **sent out by the Holy Spirit...**”

SP 13:9 “Then Saul, who also is called Paul, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, looked intently at him”

SP 13:52 “And the disciples were **filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.**”

SP 14:3 “Therefore they stayed there a long time, **speaking boldly in the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders** to be done by their hands.”

SP 14:9,10 “This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that **he had faith to be healed**, said with a loud voice, “Stand up straight on your feet!” And **he leaped and walked.**”

DI 15:8,9 “So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by **giving them the Holy Spirit**, just as He did to us, and made no distinction between us and them, **purifying their hearts by faith.**”

DI 16:6,7 “they were **forbidden by the Holy Spirit** to preach the word in Asia. After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the **Spirit did not permit them.**”

DG 16:9,10 “And **a vision appeared to Paul** in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, “**Come over to Macedonia and help us.**” Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that **the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.**

DI 16:14 “**The Lord opened her heart** to heed the things spoken by Paul.”

SP 16:18 “But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “**I command you** in the name of Jesus Christ to **come out of her.**” And he **came out** that very hour.”

DI 16:25,26 “But at midnight Paul and Silas were **praying and singing hymns to God**, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was **a great earthquake**, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately **all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed.**”

DG 18:9,10 “Now the **Lord spoke to Paul** in the night **by a vision**, “Do not be afraid, but **speak**, and **do not keep silent**; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.”

SP 19:6,11 “And when Paul had laid hands on them, the **Holy Spirit came upon them**, and they **spoke with tongues and prophesied...** Now God **worked unusual miracles** by the hands of Paul.”

SP 20:10 “But **Paul went down, fell on him**, and embracing *him* said, “Do not trouble yourselves, for **his life is in him.**”

DG 20:23 “except that **the Holy Spirit testifies** in every city, saying that **chains and tribulations await me.**”

DG 21:11 “Thus **says the Holy Spirit**, ‘So shall the Jews at Jerusalem **bind the man** who owns this belt, and **deliver him** into the hands of the Gentiles.’”

DG 22:17,18 ““Now it happened, when I returned to Jerusalem and was **praying** in the temple, that I was in a trance and **saw Him saying to me**, “Make haste and **get out of Jerusalem quickly**, for they will not receive your testimony concerning Me.”

DI 27:23 “For there stood by me this night **an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve**, saying, “Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed **God has granted you all those** who sail with you.”

SP 28:8,9 “Paul went in to him and **prayed**, and he **laid his hands on him and healed him**. So when this was done, the rest of those on the island who **had diseases also came and were healed.**”

Over the centuries, the straightforward truth of these verses has been altered to suit the agenda of various theologians. This deceptive practice is called revisionism. Roman Catholic doctrine as well as a large number of Protestant denominations and sects assert that the work of the Holy Spirit in and through our forefathers in the faith ended when the last apostle died. But these misguided theologians have lied, and our lives and the lives of others who love and serve our Lord Jesus as His family of brothers and sisters prove them wrong.

You have the opportunity to make the Book of Acts real for yourselves and your children. You don't have to search for spiritual power, divine intervention or divine guidance. You just need to possess our Father's **grace with purpose** to be fulfilling His will for you. Stop being in bondage to the halo effect of clergy and services utilizing liturgical format. Repent of any unconfessed sin, and demolish all strongholds. Then with the Holy Spirit abiding within you, the Book of Acts becomes a way of life for you. It has for us!

Mike & Sue