

**FULL GOSPEL BUSINESS MEN'S
FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL**



Come Let Us
EXALT
HIM



Demos Shakarian

Originally published in English by :

Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International

Bible texts are taken from the King James Version unless noted otherwise.

FGBMFI Belgium VZW

Tresoriersstraat 6 8980 Zonnebeke

Ondernemingsnummer 0804.635.883

RPR Gent, afdeling Ieper

Website : www.fgbmfi.be

E-mail : info@fgbmf.be



© 2024 FGBMFI Belgium VZW

You may distribute this pdf freely, for example via email or via a website.

Visit www.fgbmfi.be to download the latest version.

Come Let Us
EXALT
HIM



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	9
<hr/>	
Stephen EXALTED Jesus!	
CHAPTER ONE	15
<hr/>	
“Exalt the Lord!”	
CHAPTER TWO	21
<hr/>	
“John, do YOU really need the Holy Spirit?”	
CHAPTER THREE	29
<hr/>	
The Winds of Change	
CHAPTER FOUR	35
<hr/>	
Will You Go Anywhere for God?	
CHAPTER FIVE	45
<hr/>	
God Relishes Praise!	
CHAPTER SIX	59
<hr/>	
Exalt Jesus!	
CHAPTER SEVEN	65
<hr/>	
Worship - The Highest Priority	
CHAPTER EIGHT	71
<hr/>	
The Victory of Worship	

Come Let Us
EXALT
HIM



by

Demos Shakarian

*“The Lord is my strength and song,
and he is become my salvation:
he is my God,
and I will prepare him an habitation;
my father’s God,
and I will **exalt** him.”
(Exodus 15:2)*

Full Gospel Business Men’s
Fellowship International

*“O magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together.”
(Psalm 34:3)*

INTRODUCTION

Stephen EXALTED Jesus!

One night, as was praying in my home, seeking the mind of God, I asked the Lord a question particularly pressing on my heart:

“Father, what is the next step You want the Fellowship to take as we enter this turbulent end time hour?”

As I continued to pray and worship the Lord in exaltation, seeking His answer, a very vivid biblical scene came to me, as though it were an unfolding drama I was watching.

What I saw was vivid and real, as though I were watching it live (I had been praying that God would give me the ability to see and describe His Word in a clearer and more graphic fashion, that He would allow me to express and see it in a special way... I believe what I saw that night was an answer to that prayer).

I saw Saint Stephen (who had the honor of being the Church's first martyr) as he preached, prayed, and ultimately, as he experienced the stoning which led to his death.

What a clear vision God gave me of that incident!

I saw the "stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears" (Acts 7:51) - the priests and rulers - adorned in their fancy gold-threaded robes; they did not appreciate Stephen's strong and anointed preaching, yet Stephen stood boldly declaring God's Word to these men with hardened hearts, warning them that they needed to stop resisting the Holy Ghost:

“Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.

Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:” (Acts 7:51-52),

Can you imagine Stephen's boldness?

He called the priests "betrayers and murderers." Stephen's words were mainly a recital of Old Testament history, climaxing in a stinging rebuke for their murder of Jesus.

As he spoke his courageous indictment, the Word tells us his face shone like that of an Angel.

“And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel” (Acts 6:15).

I saw in my spirit how the faces of these priests and rulers grew red with rage, angered by Stephen's holy boldness. I saw their sandals move restlessly in the sand, kicking pebbles and dirt as they listened.

I saw Stephen's face literally glow as he looked towards the heavens and declared,

“Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God” (Acts 7:56).

As Stephen exalted Jesus, and his worshipping increased, so too did the anger of the priests and rulers standing nearby.

Suddenly, they could not listen to the heavenly exaltations any longer!

They exploded into a raw animal rage and started to attack Stephen as though he were a rabid dog, even holding their ears so as not to hear his continued praises and exaltations.

“Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,” (Acts 7:57).

I watched this vivid scene unfold in my mind as these out-of-control men surrounded the serene Stephen, hitting him.

Punching him.

Spitting upon him.

Their anger was without reason; their hatred without provocation.

While Stephen's eyes remained fixed on the face of his heavenly Jesus, Who was sitting at the right hand of the Father, while Stephen gave continuous praise and worship to God, the devil grew angrier and more desperate.

Finally, as the stoning increased, Stephen died as Christ died, without a trace of resentment toward his contemptible murderers.

“And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.” (Acts 7:60)

As I saw this scene, as I witnessed Stephen's faithfulness, as I heard his praises to the heavenly King, I, too, began to exalt Jesus.

In my own personal praise to God, I began to feel a bit of what Stephen must have felt - a special sacred closeness with Almighty God. As I entered into my own time of intense praise and worship, the spirit of God came upon me in a special way and said:

"Son, there are two things that I want you to do:

1. Tell the men to exalt Jesus.
2. Start airlifts within the cities of the United States.

God said,

"If the men will exalt Me, if they will fix their eyes upon Me, I will pour out My Spirit upon them unlike anything they have ever experienced before. But remember, this mighty outpouring of My Holy Spirit is spiritually linked to the exalting of My Son, Jesus."

As a direct result of the sacred experience that night, as a direct result of that simple but spiritually significant revelation, I have felt compelled to write *Come Let Us Exalt Him* so that you could know the full measure of what God intends for you in this end time hour.

Men, God is calling those of us in our Fellowship to lift up our heads toward the heavens, to see Jesus sitting at the right hand of the Father, and to **exalt Him with all of our hearts**, no matter how angry the enemy gets, no matter how strongly the devil tries to stone us for our intensified praise and worship!

God is calling for men who are pure in their hearts and minds, men who are forgiving to their enemies, men who are willing to be washed in the blood of Jesus Christ (for only the blood of Jesus can make us pure and holy).

God is calling us to repent of ALL our sins, to accept the reality of the blood of Jesus Christ, to receive the total, complete cleansing He offers through the power of the blood, the blood of the lamb of God.

That night when I saw the graphic vision of Stephen, the more I exalted Jesus, the more I fixed my eyes on Jesus in the heavenlies, the more I received His blessing, anointing and revelation.

As you read this book, I believe that same anointed blessing and revelation will flow into your life.

So join me now as I share with you some of the spiritual truths God has birthed in my spirit. Together, as we keep our eyes fixed squarely upon Jesus, let us come together in one spirit and proclaim, *Come Let Us Exalt Him.*

Demos Shakarian

*“Exalt ye the LORD our God,
and worship at his footstool;
for he is holy.”
(Psalm 99:5)*

CHAPTER ONE

EXALT THE LORD!

What a joy it is to exalt the Lord!

Even though I am now in my seventies, I never tire of talking about Jesus, and I never grow weary of exalting His Holy Name.

Look how much He first loved us!

He left the ivory palaces of His Father's realm and came down to earth to meet our every need.

He cared about us first - before we even dreamed about caring for Him.

He came down to earth to find and rescue His lost sheep before His wandering sheep even knew they had strayed far away from the path of salvation!

He lived in a hostile world which did not invite Him, and yet, that same world cannot survive in peace without Him.

Oh, how I exalt the Lord for sending the Christ of Calvary so that we might know the Christ of Eternity!

No matter how many times I tell HIS story - whether I share it with thousands of businessmen at a World Convention, or whether I tell it to the person next to me in a small room - it never pales. Each telling reveals once again the infinite riches of His love, and mirrors the mighty magnitude of His mercy and grace!

When we exalt our Father, when we exalt King Jesus, when we exalt His precious Holy Spirit, we begin to experience sacred glimpses into His nature and ministry, and our souls and our hearts somehow become miraculously filled with His divine love.

This book is written to praise the ALL-SUFFICIENT Jesus Christ!

His Power for Your Victory

Do you realize that in His three short years of earthly ministry, Jesus contacted every type of humanity and came to grips with every conceivable problem which has fastened itself upon mankind?

Just for you.

Every day He wrestled with the enemy of men's souls, raising up the arm of His power against the demon forces of evil. Since the fall of Adam, the devil has brought misery and untold suffering to the hearts of men. Yet, through Jesus, one by one the enemies of God were faced, and one by one they were soundly defeated!

Just for you.

Christ was and is more than enough for every emergency. He triumphed in every battle fought for the deliverance of sinful men, and He triumphs today in the lives of His people all around the world.

No matter what circumstances you are facing right now - be it a severe business problem, a failing marriage, an unsaved loved one, a son or daughter in bondage to drugs or alcohol, or a staggering financial devastation - no matter what you face, begin to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ with a pure and repentant heart and He will give you victory over your circumstances.

You have the same tools for spiritual victory that Jesus used when He walked the earth!

When He was tempted, Jesus used the same power to defeat the devil in His life that is now available for you and me! Jesus was tempted on the Mount of Temptation and the devil tested and tried to make Christ Jesus, the man, fall into sin. But Jesus came down from the mountain the complete victor! On that mountain, it is important to notice, the REAL battle, the REAL issue in the confrontation between the devil and Jesus was one of "Who do we worship?"

Satan's Lie to Jesus

Satan challenged Jesus by saying,

"...All of these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me" (Matthew 4:9).

To which Jesus replied,

"... Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve" (Matthew 4:10).

All of your battles in life can be defeated by first understanding that the key to victory is knowing who you worship.

Never let the devil deceive you with his shallow lies. The spiritual battle is always over one subject - "Who do you serve?"

Today, as you read this book, no matter how big your mountain of problems might be, God wants you to walk down your mountain of problems - triumphant in soul, conquering the very forces of hell in the process - through the power of worship!

After Jesus stood His ground, declaring He would only worship "the Lord God,"

"Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him" (Matthew 4:11).

The devil flees in the midst of praise to God.

After the devil left, God received the worship, and sent His heavenly angels to minister to Jesus and give Him love.

Keep Telling the Story

That is why I never tire of telling His incredible story of love.

I never weary of exalting the Lord our God.

The story of Jesus is the ever-unfolding story of a heavenly Father's love for His children. It is a story that displays the manifestation of His power and glory, a power so majestic that the very devil trembles at the sound of His name.

“Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble” (James 2:19).

As you exalt the Lord today, realize that ALL of your strength is in Jesus. Without Him, you would be as helpless as a particle of dust mercilessly tossed to and fro by a raging wind.

Christ is your all, and He will meet your every need through His ALL-SUFFICIENCY in every department of your life.

Jesus Was Sufficient for Sin

Jesus Christ is the only man, since the time of Adam, Who was never stained by sin or corrupted by iniquity. When all the forces of hell were marshalled in battle against the sinless Christ, they failed miserably in attempting to wreck the whole economy of God's redemptive plan.

This anonymous poem sums up how the victory of Calvary came only through the victory on the Mount of Temptation:

“There was no other good enough
to pay the price of sin;
He only could unlock the gate
Of Heaven and let us in.”

Jesus set us - the captives - free!

Let us exalt the all-sufficient Christ Who is able to meet every need of our soul. In His strength and by His power we can live a victorious life.

Let us exalt Him because He is the Creator.

“...Thou, Lord, in the beginning, hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:” (Hebrews 1:10).

Let us exalt Him because He has made us...

“...the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

“(He) Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

“For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?” (Hebrews 1: 3-5).

Let us exalt Him and cry out,

“O LORD, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth” (Isaiah 25:1).

*“Thou art my God, and will praise thee:
thou art my God, I will exalt thee.”
(Psalm 118:28)*

CHAPTER TWO

“JOHN, DO YOU REALLY NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT?”

In the forty days between His Resurrection and Ascension, Jesus made at least ten recorded appearances to His disciples. He did this so He could abolish forever from their confused minds any doubts as to His continued existence - to His being a living, real person.

Can you imagine what a wonderful experience it must have been for the apostles during those forty days to walk and talk and eat with Jesus in His actual risen, glorified body?

He appeared and disappeared through closed doors.

He materialized out of nowhere, and then disappeared back into the void.

On the fiftieth day after Jesus' resurrection, and the tenth day after His ascension into Heaven, was Pentecost. Pentecost was the “Jewish Feast of Weeks,” also called the “Feast of Harvest,” or the “Day of Firstfruits”; the Jewish Pentecost fell on the fiftieth day after the Feast of the Passover (if you'd like to read specific descriptions of the various Jewish holidays, see Leviticus 23 - it details the Jewish holidays and lists the appropriate sacrifices).

You need to remember that Pentecost was a Jewish religious celebration before it became a Christian celebration.

The fifty days the Jews were celebrating were the fifty days that followed the Passover.

What happened in that upper room on that Jewish Pentecost as detailed in Acts 2 literally transformed the Jewish festival of Pentecost into a Christian celebration - the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the upper room marked the beginning of the Christian Church.

The Holy Spirit Glorifies and Exalts Jesus

Jesus, in John 16:7-14, told of the coming and the purpose of the Holy Spirit, concluding with the significant phrase, “HE (the Holy Spirit) SHALL GLORIFY ME.”

“Nevertheless, I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. HE SHALL GLORIFY ME: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.”

In that upper room on the day of Pentecost, these words came into actuality through a mighty, miraculous manifestation of the Holy Spirit - a manifestation that would GLORIFY GOD beyond anything ever experienced before by man.

God has allowed me to see that entire Pentecostal day described in Acts 2 as clearly in my mind as I saw Stephen's death; He has enabled me to even visualize that day in very specific detail.

In the following pages, I would like to describe for you the conversations that might have taken place on that Pentecost Sunday (as though I were given the assignment as a Christian reporter to cover the spiritually historic event). In writing about Pentecost in this unusual manner, it is my sincere hope that you will better understand and feel the SPIRIT and the ATTITUDE of the 120 disciples on that first Christian Pentecost.

The Early Morning

We are standing at the bottom of the steps leading to the upper room where the apostles have been praying and fasting for seven days in obedience to the command of Jesus to “...wait for the promise of the Father” (Acts 1:4).

In this early morning, the disciples are starting to come once again to the room, including the two Marys and Martha. One by one, they climb those stone stairs that lead to that upper room.

I am standing at the bottom of those stairs, hoping to interview the various people as they pass me (interviewing them not as Demos Shakarian, but as an interested reporter there to cover the events and scenes which will unfold that day). Here comes Peter.

“Peter, can I talk with you?” I ask as he starts to climb the stairs.

“Sure,” he says, looking a bit perplexed.

“Where are you going?” I question,

“I'm going to the upper room to pray and exalt the Lord,” he answers.

“What do you expect to happen today?” I then question.

“I expect to receive the Holy Spirit promised by my Master, Jesus Christ,” was his confident reply.

“Peter, how can you be so bold as to think you can receive the Holy Spirit?” I ask him.

“Why not?” he questions.

“Well,” I continue, “you denied the Lord three times. You didn't believe in your Master. When He needed you most, at the time of His worst earthly trial, you denied Him. You cursed. How can you expect to receive the Holy Spirit now?” I ask him in my toughest reporter tone.

Peter is not daunted by my question.

Looking very confident, he replies, “It is because I denied Him that I need the Holy Spirit. It is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that I shall never deny my Master again. He's already washed my sins with His blood, and now, on this day of Pentecost, I'm going to receive power through the Holy Spirit.”

Without saying another word, and sure that he had answered all of my objections, Peter walks on up the stairs to the upper room.

Just as Peter entered the historic room, Thomas starts to climb the steps.

“Excuse me, Thomas, may I talk with you a moment,” ask. “Where are you going?”

“I'm going to the upper room to pray and exalt the Lord,” he responds.

“What are you expecting to happen there?” I ask.

“Well, my Master told me to go to the upper room and pray and worship Him so I can receive the Holy Spirit,” he replies.

“Certainly YOU don't expect to receive the Holy Spirit,” I retort in a reporter-like fashion.

“Yes, sir, I do,” Thomas responds just as quickly.

“Why?” I ask.

“Because my Master told me I would,” he answers.

“Yes, but you are such a doubter,” I challenge. “You did not believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. You said you needed to see the print of the nails in His hands and to thrust your hands into His side to believe. You were the one who could not take the word of the other disciples when they told you they had seen Jesus.”

“That’s true,” Thomas replies. “That’s all the more reason why I need the Holy Spirit now. When I receive the Holy Spirit, I shall never ever again doubt my Lord and Master. So, I am going up to the upper room to receive the Holy Spirit.”

I watch in amazement as Thomas climbs the stairs. Here was the man who so doubted the Son of God that only when Jesus showed Him His hands and His sides did he finally cry out, “My Lord and My God.”

Only when Thomas saw Jesus in person did he call Jesus, God. And now, here he is - going to the upper room to receive the Holy Spirit - because Jesus said so. This time he believes in full faith, without needing any further proof.

The next man to come to the stairway is John the Beloved.

I am a bit awestruck as I stand before one of the greatest writers of the Bible. Here is a holy man with a pure heart who has been so close to Jesus that at the Passover feast John lay on the breast of Jesus:

“Now there was leaning on Jesus’ bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved” (John 13:23).

“John, do you mind if I talk to you?” I ask.

“Why, of course not,” he replies.

“Where are you going?” I asked, by now fully knowing the answer.

“I’m going to the upper room to pray and exalt the Lord,” he answers.

“What are you expecting to happen today?” I questioned.

“I’m going to receive the Holy Spirit,” he answers joyfully.

“John, do YOU really need the Holy Spirit?” I challenge. “After all, you are one of the best writers in the Bible. You have an excellent memory of Christ’s ministry on earth, and you know more about Jesus than anybody else. Why do you need the Holy Spirit?”

“Well, because my Master told me I did,” he replied, “and that’s enough for me. I want staying power, to be able to go forward and do my Master’s work without wavering. I am through being a fisherman; my only job now is to be out in the field working for Him. Receiving the Holy Spirit will strengthen me in that work.”

Then John goes to the upper room to lift up prayers and praise to the Lord.

Praise and Unity of Spirit

During the course of the next half hour, 117 other people from various backgrounds flooded into the upper room. Each knew very well the strengths and weaknesses of the other.

Peter could have easily looked at Thomas and said, “What are you doing here? You don’t belong here. You are a doubter.”

But he did not.

Instead, he kept an attitude of praise, choosing to exalt the Lord.

Thomas could have easily looked at Peter and said, “Peter, you cursed the Lord when you denied Him. You don’t belong here with the rest of us.”

Instead, he gave praise and exaltation to God.

On this day, the apostles did not indulge in petty character assassination. They knew that each had weak spots, and they understood that ALL of them needed to be cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

So, they did not bicker or argue.

Instead, they all came into a prayerful spirit of unity in their hearts.

They cried out in one accord, “Lord, we exalt You as our Lord and King; please come now through Your Holy Spirit and strengthen and empower us. We need Your Holy Spirit.”

* * *

We are now in the upper room, talking to Mary, the mother of Jesus.

“Mary, you have listened to Jesus so much. You know all the wonderful things He talked about. You are a holy woman. Why do you need this time of prayer and praise? Why do you need the Holy Spirit?”

“Because,” she answers in a patient and loving tone, “prayer and praise bring me ever closer to my precious Son. And, He said if I receive the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit would quicken to my heart all the things He told me. And He would even tell me more! And I want Him to keep talking to me.”

Yes, even Mary, the mother of Jesus, a holy woman, came into a time of unity, prayer, praise - in one accord to receive the Holy Spirit.

“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren” (Acts 1:14).

And then:

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place” (Acts 2:1).

And again:

“And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:46-47).

Through this visualization of the day of Pentecost, I hope you are beginning to see that the Christian Church was born on Pentecost because the spiritual leaders of the Church chosen by Jesus were willing to submit themselves to the Lord through continued prayer, supplication and praise, exalting the Lord for the wonders of His being.

From that time of submission and praise, the Holy Spirit felt welcomed by a climate of humble hearts, ready to receive ALL that Jesus had for them.

*“Let them exalt him also
in the congregation of the people,
and praise him in the assembly of the elders.”
(Psalm 107:32)*

CHAPTER THREE

THE WINDS OF CHANGE

Prayers and songs shot straight up to heaven as the 120 people in that upper room united their hearts and their voices to magnify, glorify and exalt the Lord. As each person poured out love to God, one could almost feel the Spirit of God being attracted to that room in a miraculous way - being seduced by the sweet spirit of their praise to come closer, ever closer, to the hungry hearts crying out for a touch from their heavenly Creator.

Psalm after Psalm rolled off their lips in worship and adoration to the heavenly Father.

“Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen and Amen!” (Psalm 41:13, NIV).

“In God we make our boast all day long, and we will praise your name forever” (Psalm 44:8, NIV).

“Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. How awesome is the LORD Most High, the great King over all the earth” (Psalm 47:1-2, NIV).

“Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain” (Psalm 48:1, NIV).

Songs and Psalms skyrocketed towards the heavens, each more sincere and pleasing to the Lord's ear than the last. The crescendo increased to such a fever pitch of worship that all 120 of the disciples were on their knees, tears in their eyes, praising, praying, exalting, beseeching the Lord to show Himself to them, to manifest His power and His love upon them.

These 120 disciples were passionately and desperately in love with their Lord, and as they praised Him, they hungered for a touch from His Holy Spirit.

The sudden, shocking explosion of loud, thundering sounds not made by human voices brought silence to the 120 in the upper room, and snapped everyone to stiff attention.

Then they heard the roar of a rushing wind - like a mighty hurricane - but this roar thundered INSIDE the upper room!

It permeated the entire place.

The noise came straight down from the ceiling.

In the midst of their praise and the rushing wind, there appeared bright red tongues of fire; while each person knelt, overwhelmed by this mighty manifestation of God, tongues of fire parted asunder on each of the apostles.

Jewish Celebration Disturbed

In another part of the city, thousands of Jews had gathered to celebrate Pentecost. Church historians believe there were tens of thousands of people in Jerusalem to celebrate the feasts of Passover and Pentecost. They had their lambs, their food ready to spread on the table to celebrate the great feast in memory of when their forefathers had put the blood of the lamb on the post and the death angel came and passed over their houses.

The priests paraded around in their beautiful robes and pompous, gold-laced garments, reflecting the wealth and high honor that came with their positions.

They strutted back and forth, everybody bowing to them, as though they were somebody important. Even their shoes were of beautiful handmade leather.

They were the kings of that day.

Quite a contrast to the fishermen. The tax collectors. The ordinary laymen Jesus picked to lead His flock. You could smell the foul scent of the sea in their hands - hands knarled from the handling of the fishing nets. Their bodies bronzed from the sun.

Rough men. Unrefined. Working people. Lay people, in that upper room, were humbling themselves before their exalted God.

* * *

Suddenly in the midst of **this Jewish celebration** the rabbis and priests hear a mighty wind. A frightening experience. Thousands of Jews who heard that noise started moving like ants towards the upper room as though they were attracted by a large mound of sugar.

When the fire set upon these humble laymen in the upper room, they suddenly started speaking in tongues.

Peter stood up and started to preach.

Of course, the Jews did not know it at the time, but this powerful, supernatural manifestation of wind and fire and the heavens opening was a public proclamation to the world of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ!

It was proclaimed both to Jews and Jewish Proselytes assembled at Jerusalem for their Jewish Pentecost (from all the countries of the then known world - 15 nations are specifically mentioned in Acts 2:9-11).

And yet, the Jews heard these Galilean apostles speaking to them in their own language!

And all of these people from the fifteen different nations marveled, saying, "How can these Galileans talk my language?" The apostles were speaking in different native languages, as though they were raised in the various nations and intimately knew their languages.

Where did this supernatural power to be understood by all come from?

It came from Jesus.

And it started with praise and worship to the almighty King.

The apostles spoke in tongues, magnifying God, exalting God in the spirit. They exalted God so much that it shook the entire city.

Jerusalem Transformed

Three thousand people received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior the first day.

“Then they were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls”
(Acts 2:41).

Then, at another time, 5000 more men.

“Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed: and the number of the men was about five thousand”
(Acts 4:4).

And at another time, “multitudes both of men and women.”

“And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women” (Acts 5:14).

They “multiplied exceedingly,” including a great company of priests from inside the opposition ranks.

“And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith”
(Acts 6:7).

Some of the disciples were so vocal and bold in their preaching that many observers declared, “These men are drunk.”

But they had not been drinking.

“For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day” (Acts 2:15).

Peter explained to the observers that the disciples were not drunk, but that they were full of the Spirit of God, just as the prophet Joel had foretold.

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams...

“And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath...” (Acts 2:17,19).

The soul-saving effects of Pentecost were lasting. **As a direct result of their continued prayer and praise on the day of Pentecost, and thereafter, an evangelistic outreach broke out that continued until it changed the world:**

“And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

“Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:46-47).

Why Not the Priests?

Now, you may wonder, why did not God fill those Jewish priests with His power on that Pentecost Sunday?

Because you cannot put the new wine of the Holy Spirit into old wineskins. They had not spent time in prayerful preparation, praying and exalting God in one accord.

God made the disciples new, just like He makes us new creatures today, and He fills up His new wineskins with His best wine. That is what He did with the 120 disciples - filled them with the new wine of the Holy Spirit.

The men watching the miraculous transformation of the apostles cried out, "What shall we do to be saved?"

"Repent and be baptized," was the apostles' answer. That is why 3000 were converted in one day, 5000 in another.

Men, Pentecost happened because the apostles gathered in one accord to pray and exalt Jesus. As they prayed and praised in that upper room, the Holy Spirit moved, and a world was changed forever.

Watch closely in this end time hour.

The same miraculous manifestation of the Holy Spirit is about to be released in our day in a way unlike any we have ever seen before. It will be released through the same attitude as the disciples manifested at Pentecost - an attitude of prayer and praise and exaltation above all to the mighty King and Creator of the Universe!

*“And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God,
I WILL POUR OUT OF MY SPIRIT upon all flesh:
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.”
(Acts 2:17)*

CHAPTER FOUR

WILL YOU GO ANYWHERE FOR GOD?

In the Old Testament, wherever Elijah went, Elisha would follow. When Elijah went to Bethel, Elisha declared:

“As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee” (II Kings 2:2).

When Elijah went to Jericho, Elisha again declared:

“As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee” (II Kings 2:4).

When God sent Elijah to Jordan, again Elisha followed:

“As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee” (II Kings 2:6).

When Elijah asked Elisha what he wanted before he was to be taken away, the faithful Elisha replied:

“I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me” (II Kings 2:9).

Elisha wanted Elijah's mantle, and through his faithfulness, he received it.

He too was able to smite the waters, and they would part:

“And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters,

*they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over”
(II Kings 2:14).*

Many prophets ridiculed Elisha for following Elijah's footsteps so steadily, but in the end, these same men “bowed themselves to the ground before him” (II Kings 2:15).

Men, Elijah is a type of Christ, and you and I are like Elisha.

We must refuse to leave the side of the Master.

We must so hunger for His anointing on our lives that we seek a double portion of His mantle.

We must be willing to withstand the ridicule and the laughing from those around us who disdain any Christian principles.

Men, we must be prepared, like Elisha, to go anywhere at any time for God! We must go all the way with God. We must keep our eyes on Jesus and keep following Him.

Elijah went to the Jordan, and that was exciting for Elisha. Elijah shared many wonderful experiences during that time in the desert, including taking his mantle and striking the waters so that they “divided hither and thither” (II Kings 2:8).

The same miraculous things will happen to us as we faithfully walk with Jesus.

Just like the disciples who went in obedience to Jesus to that upper room. He sent them the Holy Spirit - that was their mantle.

Like Elijah said to Elisha, the Holy Spirit says to each of us individually, “You have come a long way on the journey. Ask Me anything you want and I will give it to you.”

If your heart is pure, and you are shunning sin, then you can say with a humble heart, “Lord, I want Your mantle. I want a double portion of what You have.”

When the disciples went to the upper room, they did not skip anything that Jesus asked them to do. They did everything right. They went in a humble way.

No pride or jealousy or bickering.

They went in a spirit of unity.

And most of all, they earnestly sought the blessings of God through their prayer and praise!

Suddenly, they received the mantle.

Elisha picked up the mantle from Elijah, and he struck the waters and they parted; the prophets of Elisha's day saw this, and they said, "He's got the power. Look at him. He's got it."

I am sure the Jews who were attracted by the noise to that upper room saw the disciples and said, "Look at them. They have the power. They went all the way. They didn't look back."

Men, we need to go all the way for Jesus.

We need to have the fire of God so deeply in our hearts that we cannot help it - we must exalt Jesus in the Holy Spirit with every fiber of our beings.

I remember as a young lad that God raised up people in the church with the gift of exalting God the Father. Today, we need to get back that gift of the Spirit to exalt Jesus!

God hungers to hear the earnest cry of our hearts once again.

We need to find men and women who hunger for God as a young man cries out in every fiber of his being for the touch from his new lover.

We need to be willing to climb any mountain, walk any course, hurdle any obstacle to touch the very pinnacle of heaven with our praise!

This is what God desires, and that is what will please God. If we desire earnestly to seek and crave it, He will give His Spirit and His power to us.

The Holy Spirit told me that if we would begin to exalt Jesus, If we would begin to desire a touch from God so deep in our hearts that we would do anything to receive it, then He would honor our hearts and pour out His Spirit on the Fellowship unlike any time we have ever seen In spiritual history!

The Roman Centurion's Cry

Let us shift for a moment from the scene in the upper room to an outside courtyard where we find one of the Roman centurions.

“Sir, come here, I want to talk to you,” I said.

“Yes, Sir,” he replies, showing the respect the military men are taught to offer to anyone who addresses them.

“Aren't you the one who drove the nails into Jesus' hands?” I ask.

“Yes, I was the one, and I'm frightened,” he replies, looking from side to side as he talks as though he is expecting someone to jump up and stab him with a sword.

“Why are you afraid?” I ask.

“I've crucified many men. I'm an expert. That's my profession,” he began, speaking very rapidly. “But this man was different from all the other men I've crucified. When we put Him on the wooden cross, we didn't have to fight with Him. He just laid there, willingly. His hands were not clinched; we didn't have to force Him to open His hands; He opened His hands willingly so I could drive the nails into His wrist. It was as though He wanted to die, as though He wanted to give His life.”

The Roman centurion paused, looked hurriedly around for potential assassins, then began again.

“I know how to make a man feel pain. That's my job. To hurt you. To hurt you bad. I know I hurt Him so bad that His body shook and quivered. But, you know what? He didn't say a single word; He didn't curse me or spit in my face like the others did. This man didn't do that. I'm frightened because...”

Here the Roman soldier lowered his voice as though he did not want others to hear the words he was about to speak. “... He claimed to be the Son of God. He said we would kill Him, but that He would rise again and come out of the grave.”

The soldier was now visibly sweating from his furrowed brow, and his hands shook as though an electric shock were shooting through his fingers. After he let out a big sigh, as though he was experiencing some relief in admitting to the monstrous crime he now realized he had perpetrated, he began again.

“I'm the one who killed Him. And now look, He came back out of the grave. I crucified Him and I'm frightened. I'm scared. Every time I take a step I'm afraid the earth's going to open up and I'm going to fall into a pit and get killed right there.”

Then he looks at me with a glint of hope in his eye. “Is it true that this man is the Son of God?” he asks. “He said He would be killed, and then He would come out alive again. Where is He now?”

“Yes, He is God, and He is getting ready to go back to heaven and His heavenly Father,” I reply.

Then I shared the Gospel with him, quoting verses John 3:16-18.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

“He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

As we parted, I prayed the Holy Spirit would show him clearly that Jesus was God, and move upon that guard and save his tormented soul from the fire of eternal damnation.

Destined from the Beginning

At one point in the Gospel of John, Jesus says,

“Father; I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my

glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

“O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.

“And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them” (John 17:24-26).

Now men, look at this closely. Jesus glorified the Father so that WE could then be glorified through His Holy Spirit.

What is the Holy Spirit?

It is the glory of God coming into us.

It is the power of God in our lives.

And for what purpose do we become consumed by the Holy Spirit?

So we can glorify God!

So we can glorify the Son in the power of the Holy Spirit!

Once we get to the place where we are willing to sacrifice ALL - e-v-e-r-y-t-h-i-n-g - to please Jesus, our Lord and Savior, then we have learned the most important purpose of our lives.

The most important thing in my life right now - and it has been for almost 40 years - is to serve God, to obey Him, to honor Him, to exalt Him - that is the most important thing any of us can do.

Men, we are now at a place in the Fellowship where God is challenging us. God wants to do something for us, but we have got to do something before He acts.

We must repent.

Love Him.

Desire the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pray for it.

Praise Him for it.

Be willing to honor God and exalt Him with every fiber of our feeble beings, then He will send us a deluge of His Spirit. I can see hundreds of thousands of us standing together, magnifying the Lord.

Exalting the Lord.

Then He will pour more oil on the fire.

I see it coming.

A time of signs, wonders and miracles.

I see it coming.

I always felt that before Jesus comes there would be a powerful outpouring of His Holy Spirit, like in the beginning of the Church. Now, the Holy Spirit has confirmed that truth in my heart through the recent revelation He has given to me.

There are some things we have to do to get to that place of experiencing His Holy Spirit in this special way.

We have a good start. We have been working for forty years, so we have a solid foundation.

Now, we must prepare for the end time spiritual outpouring that is coming.

Start with Prayer and Praise

We must **begin to prayerfully seek God as we never have before**. We must open our hearts even more with a greater determination to serve God. We must exalt Him in everything that we do, with absolutely no concern for ourselves.

Then, we must watch and seek the power of the Holy Spirit and the spiritual blessings of God to sweep through our Fellowship!

It is so easy in the affluence of America to go after the material things of life - the new car, the bigger business, the faster boat, the more luxurious car.

But these things are so temporal.

The Spirit I am talking about is eternal!

The things of the world mean so little, and when you die, you cannot bring any of them to heaven with you. But, God does give you spiritual

talents which you can multiply, and those talents will allow you to build a storehouse in heaven.

Use Your God-given Talents

You know the story of the talents.

One servant had five, one had two, and one had one. When the master came back and talked to the one that had five, he said he had doubled his talents. To this man the master replied,

“...Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord” (Matthew 25:21).

The same accolade was abundantly given to the man who was given two talents, and returned with two more.

God loves those who multiply their spiritual talents.

But for the man who was afraid, and hid his talent in the ground, the Lord had a different reaction; he was very angry.

When God gives you a gift, He expects you to use it. Look at the master's harsh punishment for the “slothful” servant.

“And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matthew 25:30).

God did not give you spiritual gifts for you to hide them, to bury them and dig them up only once every two or three years to wipe off the rust.

There is too much work to be done in this world!

Over one-half of the world has never heard the Name of Jesus even once - let alone had the opportunity to accept Him as their Lord and Savior.

Airlifts to America

If you choose to be productive for God while on this earth, to be a profitable servant, then the Lord is going to trust you for more responsibility in heaven.

But first, you must prove faithful on earth.

That is why I believe God gave me the other part of the revelation - concerning airlifts to America.

In the United States, we have spiritual ghettos in virtually every major city.

On the surface our cities are basking in opulence, beautiful buildings, swimming pools, clean roads, fancy cars and marvelous middle-class homes.

But when you get past the material surface, America is a nation that is decaying beyond belief at an unprecedented pace. In just a few decades, we have gone from a Christian nation that honored God in our courts, our schools, and our laws - to a pagan nation that will not even allow a Christian song to be sung at Christmas in a public place!

From a nation that banned pornography to a nation that protects it.

From a nation that kept our airwaves pure to a nation that insists it is the right of every movie producer and radio announcer to graphically show and describe the vilest actions of man upon other men in violence and sex.

From a nation that considered life sacred to a nation that now kills almost two million defenseless babies each year under the “right” of “free choice.”

Imagine the pain in God's heart.

He is crying out for America to return to Him, to begin to exalt Him again with pure and holy voices and surrendered hearts_

One of our unique ministries, and one of the special reasons God raised up this Fellowship is our airlifts. We must function in the ministry God has given to us. I believe that is why God has put it on my heart (and I pray the Holy Spirit is putting it on your heart as you read this book) that airlifts must explode in America - as we have never seen before.

It is time for men across this once-great land to recognize through spiritual eyes that America is dying spiritually, and only a Holy Spirit revival, fueled by exaltation and praise to the Holy King of kings, can save us.

Get Moving

Men, it is time to get to work!

My desire is that when I get to heaven, the Lord puts me to work at an even greater pace than He has used me here on earth! I love to work and serve the Lord, and my time here is not yet up. I have the energy to keep going, and I pray every single day that God will use me to help bring the Holy Spirit fire back to our Fellowship, and to help bring a Holy Spirit revival back to America.

Remember the promise of the master to his faithful servants. If we are faithful servants now to our Master, God will increase our responsibility and opportunities to serve Him when we get to heaven.

“... Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of the lord” (Matthew 25:21).

“Lift ye up a banner upon the high mountain,
exalt the voice unto them, shake the hand,
that they may go into the gates of the nobles.”
(Isaiah 13:2)

CHAPTER FIVE

GOD RELISHES PRAISE!

God dwells in the praises of His people, and in the deepest parts of their hearts.

This world is so big, yet there is not a place where He is not. He is right in the room with you now as you are reading this book.

There is not one square inch of the earth, or the universe, where He is not.

When I am out driving my car, He is there.

When I am flying to a convention anywhere in the world, He is there.

When men go up in space, He is there.

All the time.

Every single place.

Even when I ran my dairy business, when I walked amongst my cattle, He was there with me.

I remember in the early days of our family business when I was growing up on the dairy farm, the minute I would look up to the sky and cry out to God, thanking and exalting Him for all the wonderful things He had given us, the Holy Spirit would come on me like a mantle, and I would feel the power of God wrap around me. I would get so excited I would start running through the fields, screaming at the top of my voice, blessing His Holy Name.

Exalting Him.

Become Like Children

That is the child-like spirit God wants us to return to - all of us exalting His Name with child-like joy in our hearts, shouting at the top of our voices, so He can start moving in us with His Holy Spirit.

I remember times in the Fellowship when 2,000 people would take their shoes off in a meeting room under the anointing of God where they were gathered - so sacred and strong was the powerful Presence of God.

The divine Presence of God permeated the room.

We felt as though He was right there with us, touching us, acknowledging our praise through His Presence. We set aside our adult inhibitions, we set aside our phony pride, and in child-like and total unity, the men would all fall on their faces simultaneously, without any prompting, weeping and praising Him as their King and Master.

Men, God wants us to return now to that innocence of mind and heart, to seek His power, to desire - no, to crave, the reality of His Presence!

You might say, "Well, Brother Demos, that was great for that time, but God never does the same thing twice."

Let me tell you this: "God never lifts His Spirit forever. He is right with us, and what He did once, He wants to do again!"

Get Ready

I want to serve notice to you men that God is ready to pour out His Spirit.

Are you ready to receive?

Are you willing to receive?

If you are, His word guarantees He will bless you!

"Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice" (I Chronicles 16:8-10, NIV).

Are you willing to forsake all just to make Him number one? If you are willing to put Him number one, He will bless you like you have never been blessed before!

“I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. The horse and its rider he has hurled into the sea. The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God and I will exalt him” (Exodus 15:1-2).

Start lifting up your voices in FGBMFI Chapters everywhere; all around the world, begin to glorify God; as you do, He will honor your hearts, He will visit with you in His supernatural power, supercharging and energizing you for the challenging task of reaching lost souls in our end time ministry.

Only Jesus can put Pentecostal fire into your whole being and give you words to speak to people for healing, and for favor with men.

You will lay hands on the sick and they will recover.

You will say to that mountain, “Move,” and it will move.

We are going to see all of that again - very soon I

Dr. Charles Price once prophesied that the day will come when the layman will go into the hospital and lay hands on the sick and they will recover and empty the hospital beds of all of their patients.

When I was in Daniel Freeman hospital after my stroke, there was a time when I could not sit up, or hold up my head.

My nurse, Sandra, came to me one day and said, “Mr. Shakarian, many of the people in the hospital recognize you from television, and they are requesting that you come to their rooms and pray for them. Would you be willing to do that?”

God told me to begin praying for the sick.

“Sandra, I'd be happy to pray for them,” I replied, “but I can't even walk or move my head. How am I going to do it?”

“Well,” she replied, “I can put you into a wheelchair and strap you in. Then I can wheel you from room to room.”

How could I argue? If she was willing to wheel me around, then I was willing to pray for the sick, even in my weakened condition.

So Sandra put me into the wheelchair, strapped me in, and began to wheel me around that huge hospital.

Most of the people I prayed for were far worse off than I was. Some of their bodies were badly burned. One lady had been placed in complete suspension - in traction. When I saw her, I cried.

As Sandra wheeled me around the hospital, I considered myself fairly lucky. My heart went out to these patients. God gave me great compassion for their needs. As I prayed for them, my heart wanted to grow ever closer to Jesus. I longed for the day that Dr. Price said was coming, when we would pray for the sick and empty out the hospitals.

That day is coming! These people in the hospitals want deliverance from their pain and suffering, and God is going to give it to them in this end time hour.

Men, we are an end time ministry that God is going to use to shake the world!

Oh, how I thank God that my time was not wasted when I was in the hospital. I thank God that He gave me the opportunity to minister to others, even in my weakened condition.

I believe the day is coming when we will walk in a greater power than the early Church. Can you imagine what Peter would have done if he were walking through Daniel Freeman hospital? Can you imagine the miraculous healings that would have taken place?

That same power - and greater - is coming again!

Therapy for Me?

Later, in that same hospital, Sandra, my nurse, came into my room and said, “Mr. Shakarian, I'm here to take you to your first therapy treatment.”

“Therapy?” I repeated. “How can I go to therapy? I can't even sit up.”

“I'm going to put you in a wheelchair and strap you in like I've been doing when you go to pray for people,” she replied.

And that's just what she did. She strapped me into a wheelchair and pushed me into the therapy room. When we arrived there, I saw about fifteen people in wheelchairs in a big circle. The scene reminded me of the old tent meetings I attended where all the sick in their wheelchairs would be pushed to the front for healing prayer.

This was probably the most depressing moment of my entire life. When I saw all of these people, and realized how sick they were, it finally dawned on me for the first time how sick I was. My memory was gone - I could not remember one day to the next; I couldn't walk; parts of my body were paralyzed.

An air of depression permeated that entire room. Finally, in the midst of that deafening silence, one of the patients screamed out, “Somebody do something! Somebody do something!”

Another silence.

Then, as if it were an answer from heaven, a black lady sitting behind me started to sing from her wheelchair. She sang like an angel; I've never heard such beautiful singing; it was as though the song came directly from the heart of heaven.

“Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry, while on others Thou art calling, do not pass me by.”

“Lord, I want to touch You,” I cried out.

Everybody started crying and sobbing. Praise and worship broke out for several minutes in the room.

When the praise and exaltation stopped, I realized I had experienced a miraculous healing touch from God. My memory came back to me, and I suddenly had no fear of dying. I also realized God wanted me to continue to live and work for the Fellowship, and for His glory.

Today, my body continues to get stronger every day, and God has put a powerful anointing on my life, greater than He gave me before I had my stroke. Before my stroke, people I prayed for did not fall under the power of the Holy Spirit. Now, when I pray over people, hundreds fall under the power, thanks to the new anointing God has given me.

People are getting healed.

I was in Kansas City and prayed for a woman in a wheelchair who had never walked, and through God's healing grace, she got out of her wheelchair and started walking (I understand she is still walking today).

That's why I want to exalt Him more now than ever!

He is the Christ, the Son of God!

As we exalt Him, He will change our world.

Men, I am expecting this to happen very soon. God is not through. The Church will be stronger now than when it first started. A powerful move of the Holy Spirit is coming!

This is what God wants to do.

God wants a witness. A holy, pure, righteous witness for His glory!

Sin Must Stop!

The devil has had his way in this world for too long!

There is too much sin - and sin blocks the will of God in your life!

Too much disobedience to God's will.

There is only one way we are going to get rid of sin and get people right, and that is by and through the power of God!

The same way the disciples did on Pentecost.

From that solitary prayer and praise meeting in the upper room, the whole city of Jerusalem was shaken!

Three thousand repented and came to Jesus in the first outreach - because the power of God moved through the Holy Spirit on that crowd.

God wants His people ready to receive His power once again.

There is a spiritual time for everything.

There was a time for Pentecost, and when the clock struck, the Holy Spirit came and poured out His power upon the apostles.

I do not know the precise second, in the spiritual time, we are living in now. But I do know the hour - we are living in the final end time moments of spiritual history, and God wants us to get ready to receive His Holy Spirit power in a special way!

It is going to happen.

George Warnock, in his book *The Feast Of Tabernacles*, discusses the feasts in Leviticus 23, and parallels them with the times in the Church through the ages. The Feasts mentioned were:

1. The Passover
2. The Unleavened Bread
3. The Feast of Firstfruits
4. The Feast of Pentecost
5. The Blowing of the Trumpets
6. The Day of Atonement
7. The Feast of Tabernacles

Within the Body of the Church, each of these feasts symbolizes a time of 1,000 years (to the Lord, a day is as 1,000 years). Of the seven feasts, all have been fulfilled within the Body of the Church except the Feast of Tabernacles - which is the end of the week (or an age) of toil and labor - the day of rest.

“There remaineth therefore a rest (a Sabbath) to the people of God” (Hebrews 4:9).

I believe that when we enter the year 2,000, we will enter the age of the Feast of Tabernacles - the end of the Church's week (remember, one day to God is as 1,000 years) of strife and turmoil. Soon, we will enter the Feast of all Feasts, the Sabbath of all Sabbaths, basking in the ultimate rich heritage that is ours in the Word of God.

That is when we will see peace in the whole world, and the power of God. That is when we will see the promised “latter rain.”

“Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he (it) receive the early and latter rain” (James 5:7).

God is anxiously waiting for the hour when He will bestow His latter rain - when the coming of the Lord will manifest into the midst of His people. That time is almost here, and if you are not praying for God's mighty hand in your life, you are going to miss the latter rain of glory God will release upon the earth.

Receive the Glory of Jesus

You know, Jesus was the one to talk with Moses in the burning bush. He was before Abraham.

“...Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am” (John 8:58).

Two of the means God used to exalt Jesus in the New Testament were the transfiguration and the ascension. The ascension alone is spoken of thirty-three times in the New Testament.

“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight” (Acts 1:9).

Jesus Christ was carried up into heaven while the disciples were watching; He was transported and received out of their sight. This same Jesus was then seated at the right hand of the Father, and is exalted above all principalities and power and might and dominion, both in this world, and in that which is to come.

“Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins” (Acts 5:31).

Without a shadow of doubt, Jesus was God, not a mere, ordinary man. He said, “If you are going to kill Me, I’ll raise Myself up.”

And He did.

People everywhere honored Him. Jesus said, “The glory that You gave to Me, I want to give to these disciples.”

“And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them” (John 17:26).

What did He mean by that?

When the fire came at Pentecost, the glory of God poured out upon His children.

Imagine, the glory that came down that day from heaven in the form of a rushing wind shook the whole city of Jerusalem. Thousands upon thousands were affected. One hundred and twenty disciples spoke the languages of 15 different nations!

God wants to do that and even more today!

It is now the “ascended” or “exalted” Christ Who today rules us believers and gives us repentance and forgiveness of sins, and prepares for us a place in heaven.

Praise God! It is through the exaltation of Jesus Christ that we have a great high Priest Who has passed through the heavens. We can hold fast to our confession and draw near to Him with boldness through His throne of grace. If we have any hesitation in our approach to God, all we need to do is to remember our ascended Savior, our great high Priest, in the Presence of God, interceding on our behalf - head over all things!

“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:9-11).

You Can Have This Power Today

To receive this power today, you and I must repent and be humble - just as the fishermen were humble men before their God.

No false pride or sense of self-importance.

Peter walked humbly into a synagogue, saw a man lame from the time he was born, and said simply to him,

"... 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.

"And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength" (Acts 3: 6-7).

Can you imagine this crippled man running up and down the aisles of the synagogue, praising God and thanking Him for this miracle?

That is the power God wants you to have in your life today!

When we are called, we must obey - with the humble heart of a servant.

While I was in the process of writing this book, I received a call from President George Bush's office, requesting that I serve as a liaison to the Christian world on a committee. At first I did not give an answer (requesting time to pray about the opportunity).

Then I called them back and told them, "I will serve for one reason. I believe the morale of our nation is very low, and if God can use me to minister to others and help raise the morale of our nation, through the power of God, then I should do it."

I would like to continue to speak to the Church as a layman. In this new position within the Bush administration, I believe God will use me to encourage others to get back to the godly principles that made this nation great, to get to a place where God can pour out His Spirit and we can receive His anointing. When we walk in this reality, then He will answer our prayers.

I will never forget a very special time in 1961 when I was attending the World Pentecostal Conference in Jerusalem with four thousand preachers, when the Holy Spirit allowed me to pray for an old gentleman Jew - all crippled up like the man in the synagogue. He could not straighten his back.

While we were gathered outside waiting to go into the meeting, a lady approached me and said, “Mr. Shakarian, I have a friend who is badly crippled. This man needs your help.” She explained that she had found him living in a lean-to outside the city. He had asked her to help him get into the auditorium because he had heard that Jesus was healing people there. When they learned that they had to have a badge to get in, someone suggested they speak to me.

Of course, my heart went out to the little man. I decided to give him my badge. When I bent down to pin it on him, I heard an unmistakable voice say to me, “Demos, you are to pray for his healing right now.”

I was taken aback.

Here? Now? With the place full of high-powered Pentecostal leaders from all over the world?

“You, Demos, right here,” the Holy Spirit replied.

So I told the lady I would pray for the man. I bent down to him and asked, “What is it you need?”

The man was in total pain, and could not straighten up. He stood there crooked, looking like the number 7. He had a stick he was hanging onto as a crutch, rocking back and forth in obvious pain.

I leaned over and hugged him. His hair and clothes were a mess, and a strong unwashed stench permeated his body. Ignoring his dirty physical appearance and smell, I then said this simple prayer:

**“Jesus, right here in these same Judean hills You
healed everyone who came to You.**

You didn't turn anyone down. And Lord, if You were standing here right now, You would heal this brother. You would not let him suffer another moment.

“Now Jesus, I'm going to pray for him. I can't heal, but You can heal him. You asked me to be a channel, and I'll be your channel now, Lord.”

Then I said to the Jewish man, “Brother, I'm going to pray for you now. Do you believe Jesus can heal you?”

“That's why I came,” was his answer,

So I began to pray.

“Jesus, take every pain away from this body now, and loosen every joint. In the Name of Jesus, I command all the pain to leave his joints so he can stand straight! Thank You, Father.”

“Brother, stand up now,” I said to him.

He gave a jerk. I could hear it. It was like his whole back was making the sound of cracking knuckles. Instantly, I heard something snap.

At first I was afraid the fragile little man had broken something. But the groan that came from him was of release, not pain. Slowly he straightened up and gazed triumphantly into my face. From all around us came a loud chorus of praise.

In a few moments, he was standing eyeball to eyeball with me. No more figure 7. I took the wooden stick he was leaning on and gave it to the lady. When she took it, it was like she received an electric shock.

She started screaming. Four thousand preachers could hear her crying “A miracle. A miracle.” They rushed out to see what was going on.

“What do you mean, a miracle?” they asked.

“Look at this man,” the excited lady replied, waving the stick in the air. “Just a few minutes ago he was crippled and bent over in pain - look at him now.”

She pointed to the Jewish man who started running around the grounds. He even went to the meeting that night, jumping up and down in the balcony, saying “I’m the one, I’m the one that Jesus healed.”

As I journeyed back to the King David Hotel that night, the Jewish man traveled on the same bus I was on. Out of all those buses, he took the same one. He had to be pretty spry to find me. And when I got off the bus at the King David Hotel, he bowed in front of me, saying, “Thank you, sir, thank you.”

“No, listen,” I corrected him, “you thank Jesus Christ for your healing. I cannot heal, only Jesus.”

“Okay,” he replied, “I understand.”

I hugged him one final time and said “Good-bye.” That was the last time I have ever seen or heard from him.

End time Anointing

Men, this is the type of miracle God wants to unleash in each of your lives. But to be ready to receive this end time anointing, you must first get down on your knees every morning and exalt the God of the universe with every fiber of your being, to praise His Holy Name with your mouth and your heart, and desperately seek everything your God has to give, asking Him to pour out His Holy Spirit on your life.

This is not a game. It is the real thing!

You must pursue God with all your heart, mind and soul. Nothing on this earth must be more important. When God is absolutely your number one priority, and not someone you sandwich between business appointments and television shows, THEN He will manifest Himself in your life in a way you never imagined possible.

As you lift passionate praises to heaven, as you sing the sweet songs of exaltation, God will move ever closer to your heart, until finally, in a miraculous movement of His Spirit, both you and He will become one.

*“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise
to God continually, that is,
the fruit of our lips
giving thanks to his name.”
(Hebrews 13:15)*

CHAPTER SIX

EXALT JESUS

I believe God wants to do something very special for us in this end time hour. I have been really praying, “God, how are we going to get close to You where these things can happen?”

That is when the Holy Spirit said, “EXALT JESUS! Tell the men to exalt Jesus. I will send the power of the Holy Spirit. He will deal with the men.”

Yes, we have a commission to win people to Christ.

Yes, we have a commission to give God our tithes and offerings.

But the most important thing a child of God can do is to EXALT THE LORD!

When you do that, everything else will flow naturally.

*“Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted
among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth”
(Psalm 46:10).*

Sometimes the devil tries to get us discouraged, but we cannot listen to his lies.

A few days ago I met one of our Fellowship leaders from Indonesia who told me about an invitation he extended to a very rich Moslem friend of his to attend a Full Gospel luncheon. This Moslem was the head of one of the largest corporations in the entire country. When he received the invitation, the Moslem replied, “I’ll come, but I can’t be there more than half an hour. I’ve got a very big business appointment after that.”

The Moslem businessman came to the Fellowship meeting and the anointing there was so strong that this Moslem businessman said, “Sir, can I use your phone? I have an appointment, but I can’t leave this room right now.”

He called his office and postponed his appointment by thirty minutes.

At the end of the thirty minutes, he again asked to use the phone, and again postponed his big business appointment. “I can’t leave this room,” he explained. “Something is happening inside of me. I have got to stay here.”

At the end of the next thirty minutes, he finally called his office and cancelled all of his appointments for the rest of the day! Then, the man got saved and filled with the Holy Spirit.

After that meeting, the ex-Moslem businessman invited our Full Gospel representative to come to his huge factory and present the Gospel to all of his employees. When that happened, the power of God came upon these factory workers and many were saved.

The same power that was in that Indonesia meeting was at our own breakfast meetings at Clifton’s Cafeteria. Some “first timers” would initially be frightened by the power of the Holy Spirit, but they always seemed to come back again, seeking the power of God.

George Otis, now President of High Adventure Ministries, received the Holy Spirit in one of our meetings. Look what God has done through him. George was a total stranger to the Fellowship, yet he became baptized, and now God is using him mightily through his “Voice of Hope” International Radio Network. Just this year his huge international radio network started beaming the Gospel into China and Asia.

The men I have talked about here have at times felt low and discouraged, but they have learned in their lives that when the going is most difficult, that is the time they need to exalt Jesus.

When you exalt Jesus, the devil will take off in a flash. You see, he cannot stand the blood of Christ.

When you exalt Him, Jesus is pleased, so He blesses your sacred worship even more.

When the devil tried to tempt the Lord Jesus, He replied, "It is written, thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

He focused on the Lord; He exalted God.

When Jesus came to the home of Mary and Martha, and Martha went around working and preparing food and doing all the things she felt necessary to make Jesus comfortable, she noticed Mary was not helping. She said to Jesus, "What about my sister, she is just sitting there at the feet of Jesus, worshipping."

Jesus said to Martha,

"Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

"But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her"
(Luke 10:41-42).

Jesus knew that worship came first, even before service! Worship is where everything in our relationship with God begins.

God does not worry about what we do, He cares about who we are in our hearts. He rejoices when we have an attitude of praise for Him. We must forget about ourselves and exalt Him.

"The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation" (II Samuel 22:47).

A Universal Message for the Hour

It is my experience that when the Lord births a message for a particular time, He births that message in the hearts of godly men and women all over the world.

A recent testimony update we received here at FGBMFI Headquarters ministered mightily to me, since it confirmed in my heart that God is giving this same message to others - EXALT HIM above all else.

Here's what I read in that testimony update from Ken Evenhus:

“For the past two years I have not been working as hard on writing applications for insurance as I did in the past. I have received what I consider to be God's will to not only keep up my business but to go into something else that will help the elderly.

“In 1985 the lumber mills that had been the backbone of our community went out and the town was gradually going downhill. I put a sign on my insurance reader board stating, 'God's people will pray a great industry into Lebanon.'

“Throughout 1990 I kept praying that something would occur to bring life back to my town. Then I felt compelled to fast, and did so for 23 days; from April 22nd to May 15th, 1990.

“I got an offer to move on with the national company which would have meant a great increase in salary, but my prayers and dreams seemed to steer me from that option.

“The burden given me from God was driving me to secure and develop two subdivisions. The purpose of this was that I'd build complexes and condominiums, sell them at a reasonable price and use the money to build senior complexes and affordable housing for low income people.

“My instructions from God were that I would not benefit financially from the sale of the original complexes but the money would all go toward the building of the senior and low income housing.

"The first two complexes will be sold in the summer of 1992. This will be seven years from the time I put that sign on the reader board and it is exactly nine months and three days from 2-28-92 from when I first woke up in the middle of the night and knew I had to name this project 'A B E Enterprises' - meaning 'ALMIGHTY BEING EXALTED Enterprises'."

"This whole burden is explained in Ecclesiastes 9:10,11:

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might..." and "the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all."

Oh, how I thank God for the move of His spirit all around our nation, and all around the world. How I thank God that the Holy Spirit is moving on men and women all over the world to give HIM their first priority - to EXALT HIM above all else.

If you are feeling God's spirit move on you right now, please join me in your spirit and say this prayer that I have written out:

**"Oh Lord, thank You for Your Holy Spirit.
We exalt You. Jesus, Your word is so precious.
Thank you for men like Stephen who, though
they killed him, was so involved in praising You
that I honestly do not think he felt one moment
of pain. You let him see part of heaven so he
could look up and see You at the right hand of
the Father.**

“You are exalted all the way to the Father, all the way to the throne. You are sitting on Your heavenly throne right now, hearing and receiving our prayers.

“Lord, help us. Bless us. Open new thoughts in our minds as to what You want. We love You, Jesus. Thank You for the privilege You have given us all these years to work for You. We just love You so much. We cannot thank You enough.

“Give us the burden to do something more for You, Father God. There's so much more to be done. Give us the burden and Your empowering to accomplish every task You set before us. We want to do everything we can to glorify and exalt Your Name before Jesus comes once again. Amen.”

*“O LORD, thou art my God; I will exalt thee,
I will praise thy name;
for thou hast done wonderful things;
thy counsels of old are faithfulness and
truth.” (Isaiah 25:1)*

CHAPTER SEVEN

WORSHIP - THE HIGHEST PRIORITY

Worship and exaltation of God are not options; they are the highest priority in God's Word.

In Chapter 20 of Exodus, when God reveals the ten commandments, the first priority was to worship the Lord to the exclusion of all other gods.

*“I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out
of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*

“Thou shalt have no other gods before me”

(Exodus 20: 2-3).

In the New Testament, Jesus said,

*“The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel;
The Lord our God is one Lord:*

*“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy
heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and
with all thy strength: this is the first commandment”
(Mark 12:29-30).*

God places a top priority on worship!

When He gave instructions on how to build a temple for worship in the Old Testament (starting in Leviticus 7), it took several chapters to disclose His desire, and to make sure the worship center was built in a fitting and proper manner.

God was concerned about His people and how they worshipped Him. Worship is a pattern for living in both the New and Old Testaments; to exalt God is our primary responsibility.

A. W. Tozier once wrote, “Man was made to worship God. Worship is the missing jewel in modern evangelicalism. He inhabits the praise of His people.”

“But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel” (Psalm 22:3).

“... Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve” (Matthew 4:10).

Worship even comes before service.

“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:23-24).

Beware False Idols

Anything you worship instead of God is an idol; anything between God and you is an idol. The golden calf was an idol, and violated the true concept of worship. In ALL cases, God comes strongly against this practice of giving worship to false gods:

“Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;” (Exodus 20:5).

The Psalms were written almost exclusively to exalt God, and it is clear that exalting HIM is a high priority to our heavenly Father.

“Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness” (Psalm 29:2).

“It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High:

“To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night” (Psalm 92:1-2).

“Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD” (Psalm 150:6).

Praise is saying, “Thank You, Lord, for saving me from this wretched world.”

Worship is saying, “Thank You, Lord, for Who You are.”

Worship appears very early in scripture. The first time we see worship is when Abraham says:

“... Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you” (Genesis 22:5).

Now remember, this was when Abraham was bringing his own son to God in sacrifice - the supreme act of worship a father could do for his God. Abraham was willing to give everything he had - his only son Isaac - to worship God.

Worship Involves Participation

Men, we cannot hold back in our own worship. We must recognize that worship and exaltation are not options in our lives - they are a command from the living God - to place Him first in the universe, above all else - even our own families!

Worship is God's idea, and the act of worship has always been carefully guided by God. He gave Abraham very specific instructions on how to offer his son. He gave the builders of His temple very specific instructions. God cares about how we worship Him.

Worship is an activity we are involved in as a result of God's command, and it cannot be passive - it must be one in which we actively participate.

Abraham had to actively bring his son to the altar, and raise the knife in the ultimate act of obedience. He participated in the process.

You can sit for forty-five minutes in church and listen to a powerful sermon, but you are not required to participate in it. When you exalt your heavenly Father, you must open your mouth and let the words flow out from your heart.

You cannot worship in a passive manner.

Worship requires the best we have to offer.

Imagine how Abraham must have felt when he received this command from God:

“Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Morlah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of” (Genesis 22:2).

God did not ask Abraham for something easy. Worship is not a cheap or casual action.

Worship Costs Something

When David went to build a temple to give worship and honor to God, Araunah offered to give him the materials he would need for the project. But David respectfully declined, saying,

“... Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.

“And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD was entreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel” (II Samuel 24:24-25).

David wanted to build a temple for God - but the act of worship had to be something that would cost him something personally!

Worship means to give worth back to God, to reverently bow before Him on the ground as an outward sign of reverence and give HIM the glory that He alone deserves.

“And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

“The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created” (Revelation 4: 9-11).

If you know the Lord, you have to celebrate what God has done.

Praise Before Prayer

There is more said about praise in the Bible than about prayer. Only man, as a creature of God, can communicate through pitch and harmony and song.

No animal can sing like the human being.

Christianity is the only one of all the religions of the world that is musical.

Heaven is the ultimate homeland of music. I still tingle in my soul when I sing the words in "Amazing Grace" that say,

“When we’ve been there 10,000 years... we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we first begun.”

Worship is the responsibility of every person in the congregation, and is a response from the heart.

In I Chronicles 23:5, 4,000 praised the Lord with instruments:

“Moreover four thousand were porters; and four thousand praised the LORD with the instruments which I made, said David, to praise therewith.”

Praise = Revival

So many times, men come up to me and say, “Brother Demos, when is God going to send revival across America?”

I tell them that revival ALWAYS comes after praise and worship, and in close association with music - these ingredients are essential to our spiritual life, and to revival. Singing and praise are the direct result of being filled with the spirit of God.

“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;” (Ephesians 5:18-19).

Singing releases grace into your hearts.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” (Colossians 3:16).

Even Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn together after the last supper.

“And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives” (Matthew 26:30).

Men, praise, exaltation and worship are God's first priorities. If the Holy Spirit is going to pour Himself out on us in this end time hour, then praise, exaltation and worship must also be OUR priorities. The Holy Spirit will pour Himself out upon us when our priorities are in order.

*“But I will sing of thy power; yea,
I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning:
for thou hast been my defence
and refuge in the day of my trouble.
Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing:
for God is my defence, and the God of my
mercy.” (Psalm 59:16-17)*

CHAPTER EIGHT

THE VICTORY OF WORSHIP

Praise and worship are the keys to spiritual warfare.

Worship and warfare go together.

In the Old Testament, for the people of Israel, there was a direct link between warfare and worship. If their worship was not right, their warfare was not right. It was closely integrated.

*“And my people are bent to backsliding from me:
though they called them to the most High, none at all
would exalt him” (Hosea 11:7).*

When God's people were not right in worship (as in the book of Joshua), they would go out and be soundly defeated. If we do not have clean hands and hearts as we worship, our ability to defeat the enemy is diminished.

Youth Defeat Devil-worshippers

Dr. David Jeremiah, Senior Pastor of the Scott Memorial Baptist Church in El Cajon, California, on his radio program “Turning Point,” recently told a story that deeply touched my heart; I feel it worth retelling here. It is about a congregation in Alabama, and how they changed the face of their city forever - by exalting the Lord.

In 1987, in southeast Alabama, there was a rash of teenage suicides that nobody could explain (you may have read about it in your own local newspaper). A Southern Baptist preacher by the name of Rick Haggins knew that there was something satanic in the area that was causing these suicides, something beyond the natural tendency of teenagers to drastically blow incidents in their lives out of proportion.

In fact, in his own mind, Rick associated these teenage suicides with satanic cults, since there was a growing satanic cult in that particular city.

In ministering to young people, and from hearing what they were saying about their friends, Rick knew there had to be some connection between what was happening with those suicidal kids, and the rise in the worship of Satan. Some of the kids in his youth group told him about a ring of devil worshippers, and a friend of theirs, one of the most popular boys in the high school, had told them he was involved in the cult. Although he wanted to get out of the cult, the leaders told him they would not let him escape. So afraid was this young man of what his cult might do to him that he once told his other friends, "I want you to know that if I am found dead, it was the cult members who killed me."

A few weeks later, that very boy was found dead in a car with the hose from an exhaust pipe taped to his wrist! The investigating officials ruled this boy had died of suicide by asphyxiation, but the young people in Rick's youth group knew better; they knew something had happened to this boy that he had no control over.

Pastor Rick decided he would mobilize the other Christians into spiritual warfare. He went to see some of the police investigators in the small communities where these suicides were occurring, and he discovered from his conversations with them that the satanic cult members were very active, and were actually drawing names and targeting various students for suicide. If the student would not voluntarily commit suicide, then the group would kill them and make it look like suicide.

Apparently, there were even a number of adults involved in this cult, and incredible as it might seem, even some ministers were reportedly involved!

Rick knew this was a strong spiritual battle, so every day for a week he went with his youth group to the place where these suicides were taking place most often and they would worship and praise the Lord to cleanse and purify the area.

The Challenge Is Issued!

Then, they decided that their marching words would be from the story of Elijah in the Old Testament. Rick said he remembered how Elijah stood up on the mountain and confronted the prophets of Baal, and challenged them by declaring, “Let’s see who the real God is.”

“And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God” (1 Kings 18:24).

Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal. When the devil-worshippers of the Old Testament tried to talk to their gods, there was no response.

Only silence.

Elijah mocked them:

“And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked” (1 Kings 18:27).

Just as Elijah had done, Rick decided to confront the evil forces of the community. He went on radio and television and announced that on Halloween night, at midnight, in the graveyard, he and his followers would be there, and he invited those who were responsible for all of this wickedness to come and join them!

Pastor Rick intended to confront the satanic cults with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Halloween night came, and at midnight Rick and his friends stood in the cemetery ready to confront the satanic cult.

War With Praise

Rick said, "I've always fought the devil with prayer and preaching, but as I prayed about how to do this, God seemed to be telling me that preaching should not be the focus that night, but instead **we were to praise God and worship Him!**

"We had a twelve-foot cross made, and each of us had a bag of tracts that we were going to pass out when the cult people came. We put the cross up and put enough light on it so the Satan worshippers could see it, but we did not do anything else but worship and praise Him."

The Christian youth gathered together in the center of that dark cemetery, singing many of the old familiar hymns such as "Just as I am," "The Old Rugged Cross," and "Amazing Grace."

They exalted God in that cemetery.

Then, the enemy came.

What a spooky night (in a remote part of the cemetery near where the actual confrontation took place, they later discovered that the satanic cult had actually sacrificed and butchered a cow - its entrails were taken out and spewed all over the ground)!

As the satanic crowd began to gather around the singers, they began to jeer and taunt them. Many were dressed in Halloween costumes such as ghosts and bloody vampires.

But these horrific costumes did not disturb the youth group; instead, the Christian young people kept praising and worshipping God.

"We didn't pray warfare type prayers," said Rick. "We didn't break curses or talk about strongholds. **All we did was praise and worship God. As we did, God's spirit seemed to captivate the crowd.**"

They stopped jeering.

They stopped taunting.

The Satan worshippers sat there as if transfixed for hours as the young group sang praises to the Lord (these youth were not professional musicians - they did not even have a guitar).

Finally, at 4:00 a.m. the satanic group left, having listened to the praise and worship of God for almost four hours.

There was never a single threat made against the Christian youth group.

And, according to the newspaper reports, from that night on, there were no more teenage suicides in that community! The satanic curses prematurely snatching the lives of young teenagers in Alabama ended right there in that graveyard on Halloween night - through the power of worship and praise to God.

Warfare for Your Life

Worship and praise are tools for spiritual warfare.

If you are currently under pressure, experiencing some difficult times, perhaps facing battles that seem beyond your strength - a broken marriage, problems with your children, hopeless financial problems, satanic lies trying to discourage you - immediately begin to play some worship music in your home - and JOIN IN THE WORSHIP by singing out loud to the Lord!

Worship God and praise Him as a pattern in your life, and you will defeat the enemy in every circumstance.

Worship Through Giving

You cannot worship God without giving something. That is why our joyful tithes and offerings are so important to God.

Some pastors have told me they never mention money. But, if they really understood what Old Testament believers did to worship God, they would realize that giving our money is another way to exalt God.

In the book of Leviticus, there is a long list of all the offerings. The burnt offering - a voluntary offering for sin. A bull without blemish or a male sheep without blemish, or turtle doves and young pigeons. Can you imagine coming to church today with a grain offering, or an offering mixed with flour and frankincense?

Certainly not.

But God expects you to come with tithes and offerings, because, as David knew, you cannot worship God and not ever give anything that costs you nothing. When Jesus "... sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury" (Mark 12:41), He noticed a poor widow as she threw in her two mites. When He witnessed this, He called to His disciples to note that this woman had given more than others, because she gave that which cost her something:

"Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury.

"For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living" (Mark 12:43-44).

Worship Starts With The Heart

Jesus looks to our heart to determine what things we believe are important. He cautions us about making the things of this earth too important:

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:19-21).

In the Old Testament, no one came to church empty-handed. They brought something to say, “God, I love You, I want to worship You.”

You cannot worship without involvement of self, substance and praise.

The book of Hebrews takes the Old Testament scriptures and uses them as a backdrop for truth. The only way the apostles could make Christianity understandable was to relate it to the Jews. In Chapter 13 of Hebrews we learn of a new altar, and a new way to offer sacrifice to our heavenly Father:

“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God, continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name” (Hebrews 13:15).

In Chapter 16 of Acts, we see Paul and Silas, beaten and bruised, at midnight in prison began to sing praises to God.

“And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them” (Acts 16:25).

Then look what happened.

“And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one’s bands were loosed” (Acts 16:26).

This shaking of the foundations of the prison started with their praise. As a result, the keeper of the prison was so moved that he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord, and was baptized.

And, Paul and Silas were released from prison - all through prayer and praise!

What Worship Means

The word for worship means “to make yourself prostrate before God. It is the act of bowing or kneeling as an outward symbol of an inward attitude of gratitude and submission.

Our hands are worship instruments; the lifting up of our hands is also praise. When we do this, we are saying, “Lord here am I.”

Raised hands are the international sign of surrender. Even in the Iraq war, when the men who could not speak English wanted to surrender, they knew the universal sign - raised hands.

In the last glimpse we have of Christ, He was returning to heaven with His hands lifted up.

“And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

“And it came to pass, while he blessed them (with lifted hands), he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

“And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:

“And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen” (Luke 24:50-53).

Exalting the Lord must be the center of all that we do.

“Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.

“Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name” (Psalm 63:3-4).

If you want to see God entirely at home and feeling perfectly comfortable, it is when we praise Him.

When Jesus met the woman at Samaria, she told Him in their discussion that “Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship” (John 4:20). To this, Jesus replied:

“Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship; for salvation is of the Jews.

“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him” (John 4:22-23).

Look at the last line of that passage... God is looking for people who will worship Him!

Begin To Worship God

You can be the answer to God's search.

You can gratify the passion of our God.

I honestly believe there will be no preaching in heaven, only praise!

Who knows, throughout eternity, we might find our ultimate purpose is to sing over and over again the words of this Psalm unto the Lord:

Psalm 150

Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.

Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.

Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the Lord.

The Ultimate Dimension

A few years ago I wrote a little booklet entitled *The Ultimate Dimension*. This book described a dimension of spiritual power few men have ever experienced, yet a dimension I believe will be available to all Christians in these end time days.

Until now, many of us have been willing to know “something” of God, have been satisfied to “occasionally” hear His voice, and sincerely believe that the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the closest relationship they can enjoy with our God.

But in these end times, God is seeking a special people who will not be satisfied with anything less than the ultimate that God Himself has to offer - and that experience will come only one way - the same way as Pentecost started - through deep and sincere exaltation of the almighty God of heaven!

God is looking for men willing to risk ALL.

Do you want to have more of God in your life?

If you do, then you must be willing to sacrifice and pray and praise. That is the start of releasing God's special plan for this end time hour.

Begin now to earnestly strive for a perfect oneness-with-Jesus through prayer and praise. Desire His nature to be your nature; His words to be your words; His knowledge to be your knowledge; His love to be your love.

When we enter His gates with praise, we can become one with God. Then, the world will stand amazed at the miracles we perform and the mountains we move.

No Employees For God

Up until now, our relationship with Jesus has often been that of an employer and an employee. We both share the same basic environment and general objectives, but often do not share the same **passion**, the same **heart**, the same **zeal**. Seldom will an employee willingly **sacrifice** for the sake of the company.

God is not looking for employees - He is looking for co-owners of His Spirit - He wants to **inhabit** your praises!

“For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones” (Ephesians 5:30).

When we are united together with Jesus through our prayers and praise, we are made one with Him by God Himself.

Ephesians 2:5-6 says He:

“... hath quickened us together with Christ... hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”

Our Ultimate Dimension is to be one-with-Jesus so that we can live as He did, walk as He walked, perform miracles as He did, knowing the will of the Father and willing to sacrifice ALL to achieve that divinely ordained end time purpose!

And to walk in that dimension starts with prayer and praise.

If you want to walk in that dimension, you must be willing to seek and do God's will, no matter what the cost. Jesus so emptied Himself that He was willing to experience the beatings, the crown of thorns, the scourging at the pillar, and the death on the cross!

Those painful experiences were not His desire... but He knew and understood that they were the will of the Father for His hour.

Jesus set a pattern for His followers so they too might enjoy the special relationship He had with the Father. Like it or not, sacrifice was part of the spiritual pattern.

“For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ”

(II Corinthians 1:5).

Follow the Pattern Son

Jesus so emptied Himself of His own desires, His own plans, His own needs, that His one and only goal was to accomplish the will of God Who had sent Him! He lived so closely to the Father that He could do nothing that was not in the Father's will.

Jesus gave the example.

Men, begin to realize that your life is constantly on the very edge of eternity. God came to us, from out of eternity into time, so that we might know Him, and one day soon go from time into eternity.

Passion and vision - birthed through prayer and praise - that is the difference between Christians little used and Christians used mightily.

Praise and prayer bring us into that oneness with Jesus. I believe that so powerful will be the end time movement of God that there will come a day when our walk with God is so close that, like Moses, our faces will glow with a supernatural light:

“And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone...” (Exodus 34:30).

Begin to intensify your prayer and praise life today so that God will give you the desire, the passion, the all-consuming drive to be one with Jesus.

Then, I believe our conventions will become mobilized in miraculous unity as men come together in the same Spirit of God, sharing the same goals, the same zeal, the same love, and the same unselfish willingness to sacrifice for His glory!

We will be one in unity, purpose, power and passion!

Praise God so He will give you that same eternal vision and passion to do God's work that Jesus had to do the will of His Father, that the 120 apostles had on that Pentecost Sunday.

Jesus walked with an intensity that produced a magnitude of miracles never seen before on the face of this earth. Yet, this mighty Man, and Son of God, has commissioned us to follow Him:

“As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world” (John 17:18).

And, then later He declares,

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father” (John 14:12).

Not only has He sent us, but He has said we shall do His works, and even greater!

God intends for you and I to function in a power level even greater than Jesus manifested 2000 years ago!

We Are His Chosen Ones

Now is the time when God will raise up His special group of chosen people who are willing to enter into His holy gates with praise until the reality of spiritual oneness takes place! God is seeking and preparing a special end time people, a people willing and ready to make sacrifices in their personal lives so that they may experience breakthroughs in their spiritual lives.

Leonard Ravenhill, in his classic book entitled *Why Revival Tarries*, writes, "We must alter the altar, for the altar is a place to die on. Let those who will not pay this price leave it alone!"

As you complete this book, may it be the beginning of your entering a new dimension of prayer and praise with your heavenly Father, a time when you are willing to put yourself on the altar and sacrifice your every personal need to His supreme will.

These are not lust fiery slogans to try and inspire you. This is a sacred message from God... the precise revelation He gave me to share with you NOW during this critical end time moment in spiritual history.

It is time to enter into and experience the very courts of heaven.

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise" (Psalm 100:4).

May you strive to exalt Him until you enter into a relationship of absolute oneness with Jesus.

"Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.

“Praise him with the timbrel and dance; praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

“Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.

“Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD” (Psalm 150:4-6).

Men, our modern world has crucified Jesus afresh in the flush of sins pouring its pollution into the sewer we call humanity. The Incarnate Christ has once again been placed in the tomb by our own rejection of the total man. We have driven nails of modern theological criticism into His hands. We have torn the seamless robe of His deity from Film by claiming He was “just” a great prophet and teacher. It is time to make atonement in the holy of holies, to once again be cleansed by the blood of the lamb.

The power has departed and the glory of God is gone. Only through prayer and praise will God once again pour out His Holy Spirit in a mighty and unique way upon us. It is God dwelling in us that will give us His strength and His victory over every enemy and every foe.

Without God we are helpless.

Then - it was the pillar of fire by day and the pillar of cloud by night.

Now - it is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit Who has come to lead us from our Egypt to the promised land.

Now - the indwelling of the Word is in human hearts and lives. There is no victory for man without the indwelling Presence of a victorious Christ through the manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

Before Jesus returns, we will see the fullness of the return of the power of Pentecost. Before Jesus returns, we will see a restoration of ALL the gifts which have been lost by the sinfulness and disobedience of the Church.

Living Arks

Once we had the box called “the ark,” but it was of no use without the glory of the Shekinah.

Today, we are the living “temple” of God, but we are simply an empty box without the indwelling Presence of the Word made flesh; the God within us.

On Pentecost, they heard the rushing of a mighty wind. The 120 disciples in that upper room were moved and stirred by the presence of the One Who alone can hear and answer prayer and praise. **The revival called Pentecost was in reality a revival of the indwelling Presence into surrendered hearts and lives.** The Shekinah was back above the blood-sprinkled mercy seat! The ark was coming up the road!

The cry of hungry men was for the living God. Then the power fell. The Comforter came. Waves of glory followed. They experienced bliss beyond compare.

Men, today I want to tell you the ark is coming up the road again. The power is coming back and our eyes are yet to see the fullness of the manifestation of His glory.

The fullness of the Pentecostal power is just ahead. The completeness of His outpouring is yet to come. The church dispensation began with the upper-room and it will finish with an upper room experience.

What happened then will happen again - but even greater!

I believe you want to become one of God's chosen servants in this end time hour, to experience the fullness God has to offer to those ready to receive. The day is coming when the power of the Spirit will rest so mightily upon the hearts of Spirit-filled men that they will command blind eyes to open and they will obey instantly at the word. Soon we will receive POWER - God's power, Holy Ghost power, such as we have never known.

If you believe there is coming a time when God will shake cities, when the winds of revival will roar up the road again, when God's full Shekinah glory will pour out on all who are ready to receive it through their prayer and praise, then unite with me right now, in the Spirit, and let's agree in prayer that you experience the reality of Pentecost in your life today:

“Heavenly Father, we thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to walk with us. We thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to live within us. And now, Lord, we thank You for allowing us to become ONE with You, to walk in Your power, to operate in Your wisdom, and to perform Your miracles so we may be mighty end time witnesses for Your glory!

“Lord, accept our praises. We exalt You in everything we do. We ask now in a very specific way that You empower us with a desire to seek You above all else, so that we are willing to sacrifice for Your glory, and so that we might serve In this end time generation.

“Lord, we love You, praise You, exalt You, and give You all the glory for everything You will do through each of our lives. Amen.”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Demos Shakarian is founder and president of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International, a worldwide organization with approximately 4,000 chapters in the nations of the world. Vinson Synan, Chairman of the North American Renewal Service Committee, has called FGBMFI "...the greatest Christian laymen's organization in the world."

The purpose of each chapter is to allow men to fellowship with each other, and to bring testimonies of the saving power of God to businessmen in each local community. Tens of thousands of lost souls have been saved through this outreach.

Demos Shakarian has been used by God to help spearhead the charismatic movement around the world, and is the author of the best-selling book, "The Happiest People On Earth," plus many other powerful ministry booklets.



Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International