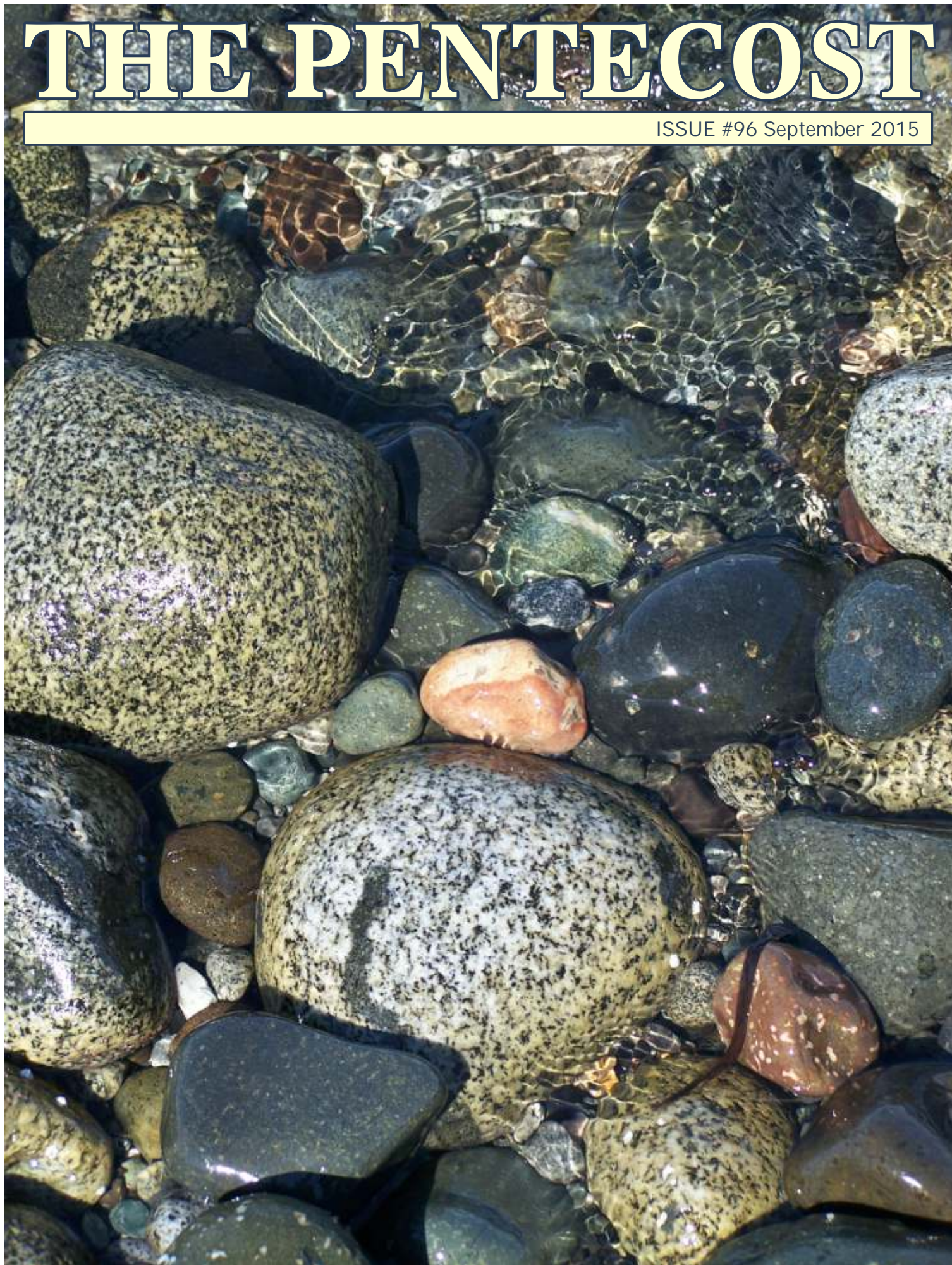


THE PENTECOST

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THE PENTECOST



Cover photo: Powell River, BC

Above photo: Reception Pass, WA

In this issue we will look at the world wide flood which happened in Noah's day. We will also discuss the Bible being God's book. We will look at Bible prophesy and ask what was Jesus Christ's view of the biblical books? We will also look at some accounts from the Azusa St. Revival. God bless you as you journey with us.

Shawn Stevens

Today as we look around the world and watch the news, we see a significant increase in material disasters and fighting among people groups, yet there is a source of hope, refuge and peace that has been available to all mankind since time began, and His name is Jesus Christ. My prayer for you, reader, is that you will feel His presence and your hope be renewed in Him as you read. God bless.

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THE DAY THE WORLD WAS WASHED AWAY

There have been some great floods in our world. A year does not go by without the news reporting on some deluge around the world where communities get flooded, homes are destroyed and people are displaced. Imagine a flood so great that it swept away not just one community, not just one region but the whole surface of the planet. Such a flood occurred in history. It happened in the days of Noah. Why would such a flood occur? It was a judgement from God. Mankind had gone too far, had become too corrupt, had sinned to such an extent that God decided that it was time to start again. Let's read the account from the Bible:

11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

12 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

13 And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

14 Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

15 And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits.

16 A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it.

17 And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die.

18 But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.

19 And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female.

20 Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive.

21 And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them.

22 Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

Genesis 6:11-22

1 And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy

house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

2 Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female.

3 Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.

4 For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth.

5 And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him.

6 And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth.

7 And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood.

8 Of clean beasts, and of beasts that are not clean, and of fowls, and of every thing that creepeth upon the earth,

9 There went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah.

10 And it came to pass after seven days, that the waters of the flood were upon the earth.

11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

12 And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

13 In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark;

14 They, and every beast after his kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and every fowl after his kind, every bird of every sort.

15 And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life.

16 And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the Lord shut him in.

17 And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lift up above the earth.

18 And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters.

19 And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered.

20 Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered.

21 And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man:

22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.

23 And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed

from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.

24 And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.

Genesis 7, King James Version (KJV)

Dear reader, this righteous judgement was a result of sin. To find sin we don't have to look back to Noah's day, we only need to look at our own hearts. However, Jesus Christ has done something to save us from sin and judgement. What is it that He has done? In the last days before His crucifixion, the Bible records Jesus sharing a final supper with His disciples. As they gathered around a table, Jesus proceeded to break bread, hand it to them and say; "... Take, eat; this is my body." (Matthew 26:26). This broken bread symbolized His body which would soon be broken upon the cross. He next gave thanks and shared with them a cup of wine and said; "... Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (Matthew 26:27-28). The drink symbolized His precious blood. The bread and drink were to be a symbol to the disciples of what was about to happen shortly. Jesus and His disciples then went to a place called the Garden of Gethsemane. There, Jesus found a spot alone, where He prayed to His Father and reflected upon what He knew was about to happen to Him. The Bible says that He was exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death. Soon, armed soldiers came for Him. His disciples, it appeared, were prepared to fight. One of His disciples did act violently and, with a sword, cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest.

Jesus was then taken and tried by the Jewish leaders, Pontius Pilate and King Herod and, at the will of the crowds of people, a death sentence was passed upon Him. He was blindfolded, beaten, spit upon, mocked and even a crown of thorns was placed on His head. Despite the agony of His wounds, He was made to walk to a place called Golgotha, while carrying His cross for a part of that distance. Nails were driven into His hands and feet and His cross, with Him upon it, was erected for all to see. In His final hours, He granted eternal life to one of the two thieves who was also being crucified beside Him. He prayed to God, His Father, asking God to forgive even the executioners who were doing this to Him. His very words were; "... Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. ..." (Luke 23:34). Then He cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up His Spirit.

Dear reader, I wonder if you understand the cup from which Jesus Christ had to drink. For, remember, in the Garden of Gethsemane when His disciples, or at least Peter, would have fought for His freedom, He stopped them from doing any more than they did with these words; "... Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?" (John 18:11). The cup, which symbolizes the wrath of God, was made for us as a consequence for our many sins. Jesus drank it instead, to spare us from this fate. Remember, He could have prayed for twelve legions of angels to deliver

Him. However, that would have left you and me holding the cup, leaving us without hope before the judgement throne of God.

Friend, there is a battle for your soul. Jesus Christ wants it and so does the devil. The devil wants it to destroy and ruin it. Jesus wants it to save and redeem it. The battle rages on even as you ponder these things. Come to Jesus today and commit your life to Him. He is the only one who has died to save you and I from our sins. Friend if you have not done so already, call out to Him and ask Him to forgive your sins and your self rule. Sin has not been your friend, it has been the reason for anguish upon anguish. Have you had enough of its pain and misery? Jesus can wash your sins away. The people who died in Noah's flood had their communities, families and lives washed away. It is better to have your sins washed away than to have your life washed away. Do I think that souls today are in danger of having their lives washed away like what happened in Noah's time? It won't look exactly like Noah's flood, but dear reader there will be a day when this world is judged by God. Escape the worst of that day by making amends with Him now and by committing your life to follow Him. Others will likely follow your lead. I can't help but wonder if a man from Noah's community had decided to run into the ark, who else might have followed. Likely his wife would have followed him in. Likely his children would have followed him in. Sadly, Noah's family was the only human family that took shelter in the ark. Friend who is watching your life? Who will be influenced to run to God for forgiveness and life and joy. Friend we are born and shaped in iniquity. We need Jesus to set things right and change us on the inside. Jesus hung on a cross and as He died He cried "...It is finished:..." (John 19:30). What did this mean? It means that payment has been made for all of your sins and mine. Hallelujah! Friend, it is not enough to know this! You must have this applied and put your faith in Jesus Christ. You must repent and commit your life to following Him. This can be done in prayer. Call out to Him. You must call out to Him yourself, for yourself. Are you willing to bow at His feet and have it all forgiven, now? Friend, I am one of many that testifies that Jesus can change you completely. Friend, sin just leaves you feeling alone. Jesus felt alone as He hung on that cross yet He did not die for any sins of His own, He had none, He died for our sins, in our place. Friend, if you have never placed your heart and life at the feet of Jesus to have them washed clean in His blood and made new by His Spirit, then do so today. Call out to Him and make your surrender. Draw near to Him and He will draw near to you. God bless you.

Shawn Stevens

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The Bible - is it true?

Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it. Psalm 119.140

These words were said by King David around the tenth century B.C. From that time until now, there have been millions of people who claim to love the Bible. Is the Bible “very pure” and does it stand up to higher criticism? Has it been accurately passed on from early history to our day? Is it credible and, if so, just what does it have to say? We will look at prophetic evidence for the Bible as well as Jesus' treating of it.

We believe that the Bible is God's book for man. Its authorship is reliable and it has been passed on to us accurately from the time of its first writing. It has both archeological and prophetic credibility to support its claims. It has a message of good news for mankind.

We have defended the accuracy of the Bible and its careful transmission through time. But what is there that links it to God? How can we say that it is God's Word? We do say that it is God's Word and that there is reasonable evidence to prove it. The Old Testament contains history, poetry and prophecy. Now let's take a closer look at Bible prophecy, and specifically, prophecy concerning the Christ. John said, “If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.” (1 John 5.9).

The Old Testament, as we have said, contains many books of prophecy. These prophecies are about many things, such as, the fate of certain nations, events in Israel's future and of a coming Christ who would save the people. Jesus said, “... These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.” (Luke 24.44).

There are over three hundred specific prophecies, first written down over four hundred years before His birth, that have been fulfilled by Jesus Christ. Let's examine a few of them.

The prophecy that the Christ would come from the lineage of Jacob (see Numbers 24.17) was fulfilled in Luke 3.23,34. That He would be of the house of David (see Jeremiah 23.5) was fulfilled in Luke 3.23,31. That He would be born in Bethlehem (see Micah 5.2) was fulfilled in Matthew 2.1. That people would divide up His garments and cast lots for them (see Psalm 22.18) was fulfilled in John 19.23,24. That He would be violently killed (see Isaiah 53.5-12) was fulfilled in Matthew 27.26,35.

Josh McDowell compares these prophecies to an address. For a moment, think of your street address. It has seven pieces of information: your name, house number, street number or name, the city, the province or state, your postal code and the country that you live in. With these seven pieces of information someone could locate you from anywhere on the

earth. These seven things together single you and your family out from every other person on the face of the earth. In the same way, God wrote an address to identify His Son from everyone in history past, or history future, by recording hundreds of specific items of information that would be fulfilled in Jesus Christ.¹⁶

Professor Peter W. Stoner worked out the mathematical probabilities of whether or not a person could accidentally fulfill the prophecies of the Bible concerning the Christ. The results of his research showed that for any man to fulfill just eight of the three hundred prophecies worked out to a probability of 1 times 10 to the 17th power. That is 1 in every 100,000,000,000,000,000 times. This worked out to be the same probability as if, after covering the whole state of Texas with silver dollars, you were to take one silver dollar and mark it, and then a blindfolded man, on his first pick, would pick that checked silver dollar from all the others.¹⁷

The American Scientific Affiliation had this to say concerning the evidence; “The manuscript for 'Science Speaks' has been reviewed by a committee of the American Scientific Affiliation members, and by the Executive Council of the same group and has been found, in general, to be dependable and accurate in regard to the scientific material presented. The mathematical analysis included, is based upon principals of probability which are thoroughly sound, and Professor Stoner has applied these principles in a proper and convincing way.”¹⁸

We have stated that Jesus fulfilled over three hundred prophecies. We listed a few of them and compared them to a person's address. We looked at the calculations of Professor Peter Stoner, that the probability of only eight of the three hundred Messianic prophecies being fulfilled in one man worked out to one times ten to the seventeenth power. We also read the American Scientific Affiliation's support of Professor Stoner's calculations. Remember, if we accept the “witness of men,” the “witness of God” is greater. God has witnessed to the inspiration of the Bible by speaking to the prophets in the Old Testament and fulfilling the prophecies in the New Testament in the life of Jesus Christ.

Shawn Stevens

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ANXIETY

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. (1 Peter 5.7 KJV).

Anxiety is something every man, woman and child can relate to. It is one of the unpleasant experiences of life that all of us face to some degree, daily. Anxiety has been the cause of more headaches, sleeplessness, and nervous breakdowns than can be recorded. Why is anxiety such a part of human mindsets? Many times it is because we are worrying so much about the future that we forget to live in the present. It is easy to lose perspective and create mountains out of molehills. Things, that in reality are insignificant, sometimes assume great importance in our minds. Other times, there are serious issues in our lives which are provoking us to anxiety.

It is right to bring our anxieties to Jesus. David, the Psalmist, brought his fears to the LORD. He wrote; "I sought the LORD, and He heard me, And delivered me from all my fears." (Psalm 34.4KJV).

Friend, I encourage you to do this very thing. Why let anxiety eat you up? The Scripture says; "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance." (Psalm 42.5KJV). This was David's counsel to his own soul. It is precisely what a believer should do with his own anxiety as well, respond in faith and hope in God.

How do I hope in God in the midst of fearful circumstances? First, be specific. What is causing your anxiety? It could be over your job, your friends or your family, etc. What is it? Describe how you feel. Is there guilt tied to your anxiety? If there is, then perhaps you are not acting rightly; perhaps you are hiding a sin or a sinful practice. This is sure to create anxiety and the only way to deal with this is to bring it to the LORD. Ask Him for forgiveness and commit to change your ways.

Friend, could it be that you are anxious about dying? Could it be that you have not given your life to Christ, put your faith in Him and been forgiven? If this is you, then you must deal with this. No amount of psychology or counseling will make up for not having Christ ruling your life. You must settle this fundamental issue. You and I and all of mankind have sinned against God, and He is a just Judge who will one day judge the world. Jesus Christ is the sinless Son of God and he came to this world to die for your sins, and for mine. He endured a cruel death. His back was whipped. His hands and His feet were nailed to a cross and He died. He was laid in a tomb but, in three days, He rose from the dead. Now the price for our sin has been paid and we can be forgiven and changed if we will come to Christ, repent and put our faith in Him.

Friend, if you have not yet given your life to Christ, do so now. Approach Him in prayer. Pray in faith, giving up control of

your life and future to the LORD. Commit to following Him.

Some may be reading who would say; "This is not my source of anxiety. I am a Christian already but I battle with fears." If this is you, then again I ask; Why are you fearful? Can you trace your anxiety to any one thing or to several things? The enemy (the devil) would like for us to be bound by fear. We combat this fear with God's holy Word. We do so by meditating on it, believing it, and even praying it back to the LORD. Brother or sister, meditate on some of these verses:

In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7 ASV)

But seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Be not therefore anxious for the morrow: for the morrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. (Matthew 6.33-34 ASV).

Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved. (Psalm 55.22KJV).

Here, we are given an alternative to fear and that is to cast our burden on the LORD. Here, we are instructed not to fear about tomorrow for tomorrow will fear about itself. How do we cast our burden of anxiety on the LORD? By prayer and petition and with thanksgiving we make our requests known to the LORD. The Philippian passage counsels us not to be anxious but, rather, to be prayerful and thankful. We choose between anxiety, which brings about stress, or supplication, which brings the peace of God which transcends all understanding. This is a promise to claim if we have presented our requests to God and determined not to be anxious. The Scriptures also say; "And we know that to them that love God all things work together for good, even to them that are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8.28ASV). This verse tells us that all things work together for our good, for those of us who love God and are called according to His purpose. If we believe this, what becomes of our fears? They vanish.

Once again I quote; "I sought the LORD, and He heard me, And delivered me from all my fears." (Psalm 34.4 KJV). Let us come to Him, casting all our cares upon Him, for He cares for us. Fear and anxiety may come easily, but they are quickly dispelled when we are in a right relationship with God, and when we see all that that relationship really means, and when we give our fears and cares over to the LORD. God bless you.

Shawn Stevens

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Living And Speaking The Truth In The In The Church and In The World

Two of the great challenges for us as Christians living in these last days is the recovery of truth and the embracing of truth. Embracing truth means both living it out and declaring it. There are two great arenas for the living and declaring of truth to be done in, the Church and the World.

Embracing Truth In the Church

You would think that the embracing of truth in the Church should not need to be stated. However, the Church, that is, the modern Church, has become an arena where truth and error are up for grabs. Postmodern teaching has supplanted much Christian teaching and liberal positions on just about everything can be found taught from many pulpits. Today, many professing Christians practice anything and everything, from yoga to homosexuality, despite how God feels about rebellion. There is so much darkness and untruth practiced among professing Christians that we must ask, "What can be done?" What must be done is for us to return to God's Word, the Bible, and begin reading and following it. We need a revival of Bible truth. Friend, if we give up truth we will become like the religions that don't know God. We need to rediscover the truth that has been given to us, handed down to us from God, by way of prophets and apostles, through martyr's hands, and laid before us. Then, having discovered it, we need to delight in the truth. We cannot allow skepticism and unbelief to flash from the pulpit and spread among believers. It is not that we want to spread disunity. We are happiest when others are walking in truth and unity. However, when truth is subtracted from unity, what kind of fellowship do we have? What kind of unity do we have? Are we uniting with God or with men when we let go of truth? We need to stand for matters that are vital for our faith. It is ironic that at the same time one section of the Church world may be full of the freshly grown wheat of truth and another section may be full of thorns and briars of falsehood. What are we to do with the thorns and briars? Let us pull them out and replant wheat. Let us purge out the lies that weaken and pollute. Let us not tolerate the watering down of doctrine. Our leaders must accept the responsibility of holding God's Word high. There is only one direction of travel that we can accept, forward. This is no time to blend our truth with the world's philosophy. If early preachers of the truth had not taken their stand in history, would we have the truth today? Now it is time for us to stand for truth so that there is still truth passed on after us. The stakes are so high, so high. Now is the time to guard our life and doctrine. Let us allow God's word to be our plum-line and our measuring stick. We can't afford to lose the truth. All too often the threat is from within. Little compromises become larger

ones and, before long, our beliefs are changed by people on the inside of the Church who have not kept the standard high and who have not defended truth. If we are not careful, that folly spreads in the Church, to us, and we may become agents of error. Truth in the body of Christ is too precious to be lost. It brings stability and security. Many will be offended by truth, even in the Church world, but what is more offensive, piety or hypocrisy? Surely there is nothing more offensive than hypocrisy, so let us not take our values from television, the theatre or secular education. God is so much higher than all of these things. Many are sacrificing reverence for relevance, or so they think. However, truth is always relevant. Let us be careful in living it out and be forthright in its proclamation.

Living And Speaking The Truth In The World

The other arena to live and proclaim truth in is the "world." We are not of the world but we are in it and we can very definitely have an impact on our world by how we live our lives and by what we stand up for. In so many ways, skeptical daring has pushed out evangelical zeal. It is time to resist this push and raise high the banner of truth. We are to love truth and hate every false way. We read in Scripture: "Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way." (Psalm 119.104). When a strong sense of duty and conviction pervades public speech, truth is not so easily put down. Let's speak our conviction for truth in the public square and push the battle to the gates. Let the cause of truth be our goal, no matter how much men oppose us. Are we afraid of the educated and the influential in the secular world? Let it never be. Let us be zealous for God and His truth in society's sphere. This is not a time for fear; this is a time for faith, determination and bold opposition to evil. Truth does not just automatically become established in the earth; truth must be fought for. Is truth worth fighting for? I will answer that with another question: "Do we want our lives to be lived in vain?" The gospel makes men fear sin and it is the gospel that we need proclaimed. Society wants a philosophy which is inclusive and broad. However, we learn from Jesus that the way to destruction is broad. (See Matthew 7.13). It is time to reveal to the world the narrow road of truth that confronts error, sin and evil. Truth combats evil in its many philosophical and religious forms. The challenge is for the truth-loving Christian to take his stand and not to change. (See 1 Timothy 4.16). Christian, when society resists truth, don't change. Christian, when society says you are closed-minded, don't change. When society offers incentives to compromise, don't change. The unflinching declaration of truth will lead to some men becoming free. It is worth the stand. Keep your perspective. If the true God is your God, if Jesus is your Lord and if heaven is your home, what does it matter what others think of us? Run your race and don't take your hand from the plough.

Liberal theology in the 19th century put much of the Church on a long spiraling downgrade. Much of the 20th and 21st century Church has been sliding down a downgrade of her own, postmodernism. However, those brave souls who hear the voice of Jesus and choose to obey and follow Him are on a very different pathway. This one leads up. The upgrade is that heavenly pathway which is marked by truth and faith. Let us be the upward-climbing Christians who learn, live and declare truth in both the Church and the world. Let it be that we climb this pathway with all of the vigor and tenacity of the mountaineer who would scale Everest, yearning and stretching and persevering to the peak.

Shawn Stevens

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TESTIMONIES FROM THE AZUSA STREET REVIVAL

The Azusa Street Revival was a great revival which broke out in one of Los Angeles' poorer districts in 1906. From the revival streamed testimony after testimony of changed lives, lives changed by the power of God. Here are some of the testimonies recorded in print. I pray that God will use them to speak to you and me.

A Mr. Tom Anderson testified:

Beloved, I was saved about seventeen months ago from a wretched life. When I called on God, He heard my prayer and saved me instantly. What convinced me of the reality in salvation, was the peace that came into my heart.... And God has healed my body after being afflicted over six and a half years. When all physicians failed, the man Christ Jesus healed me.... But, beloved, God sent His transforming power through the blood of Jesus and burst all the shackles, and shook off the handcuffs of hell, and today I am a free man in Christ Jesus. Then He sanctified me wholly and gave me a clean heart. Then He baptized me with the Holy Ghost in January 22, at Azusa mission. Dear ones, all I live for is Christ. I sold out, body, soul, and spirit to Him. My desire is to point souls to the bleeding Lamb of Calvary that takes away the sin of the world. The Holy Ghost, the third person of the Trinity, speaks through me in the languages of the nations whenever He chooses to and He is now engaged in pulling the rope which rings the joybells of heaven in my heart. And there is a revival going on in my soul continuously, and the choir singing and praising God in the unknown tongues.¹

Tom Anderson was transformed from living a wretched life to living a life of peace. He was baptized with the Holy Ghost. As a result of his experience, a revival was birthed in his soul and he was filled with a desire to point people to Jesus Christ.

This testimony is similar to that of Mr. Burke who testified that at the revival, as he was praying:

I asked the Lord to put the Holy Ghost on me, and it came like the outpouring of water on the crown on my head and it went through my entire body to the very tips of my toes and fingers and my heart seemed to expand ten times larger. Then something rushed through me like I was under a faucet. It was the Holy Ghost and the next thing I knew, something began to get hold of my jawbones and tongue. I said, Lord whether I ever speak in tongues or not, I want the baptism with the Holy Ghost as they had it on the day of Pentecost. I went home and it seemed a music band of a thousand instruments was set up

*within me. The next morning it was singing in my soul. 'The power, the power, the Pentecostal power, is just the same today. I was singing in the yard and my wife was singing it in the kitchen. It has not stopped yet.'*⁴

So we see that the joy that Mr. Burke found was an inward joy, created by God. The Los Angeles Times tells the story of a Jewish rabbi named Gold, who apparently held positions in some of the largest synagogues in the United States. Gold visited the revival, was healed of an ailment, and became a convert.⁵ A Mr. Rosa testifies of coming to the Azusa Revival with much skepticism. After several days of attendance, he said that he obtained “a real hunger in my soul” and then, one evening, was struck by the power of God. He states further:

*I was under the power of God for about an hour and a half, and it was there that all pride, and self, and conceit disappeared, and I was really dead to the world, for I had Christ within in His fullness. I was baptized with the Holy Ghost and spoke in a new tongue. I praise God for the light, and now I am walking in it. The desire of my heart is to see every man and woman that preaches the gospel of Christ, baptized with the Holy Ghost...*⁶

It is beautiful to see that his experience was not an end in itself. In his experience, God broke down his pride and his love for worldly things, and he was aware of the presence of Christ within him. Another individual who testified of spiritual hunger, and subsequent transformation after his experience with the Holy Spirit, was the Reverend H. L. Blake. In his own words:

*I commenced to go down before the Lord, the hunger increased from day to day and was intensified so that I cried out from the depths of my soul, in the language of scripture, 'As the heart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God.' After about two weeks, earnestly seeking at the altar and in secret prayer, with other means as the Holy Spirit led, on Feb. 25, the Lord baptized me with the Holy Ghost and fire, and spoke through me in an unknown tongue as the Spirit gave utterance. ... Some may ask the question, What have you more than you had before you received your Pentecost [another term, here meaning, the baptism of the Holy Spirit]? I have far greater liberty and Divine unction on me in dealing with souls, and there has come into my life an overflow of love and joy with a deep settled peace planted in the depths of my soul, a something that is inexpressible and indescribable. To God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost be all the praise and glory forever.*⁷

Lucy Leatherman tells of her experience:

*... I praised and praised God and saw my Saviour in the heavens. And as I praised, I came closer and closer, and I was so small. By and by I swept into the wound in His side, and He was not only in me but I in Him, and there I found that rest that passeth all understanding, and He said to me, you are in the bosom of the Father. He said I was clothed upon and in the secret place of the Most High. But I said, Father, I want the gift of the Holy Ghost, and the heavens opened and I was overshadowed, and such power came upon me and went through me. He said, Praise Me, and when I did, angels came and ministered unto me. I was passive in His hands, and by the eye of faith I saw angel hands working on my vocal chords, and I realized they were loosing me. I began to praise Him in an unknown language.*³

Another minister testified of the Holy Spirit coming upon him. Immediately, he began speaking in tongues and we are further told:

*He is filled with divine love. His family were first afraid to see him speaking in tongues, thinking he had lost his mind, but when his wife and children felt the sympathy and divine love which the Holy Ghost puts in people's hearts, they said, 'Papa was never so sane in his life.'*⁸

The direct result of this minister's baptism in the Holy Spirit was of him being filled with divine love. This love shone through him and was felt by his family.

Countless people testified of being touched and changed by God in a dramatic way.

William J. Seymour announced that the Azusa Street Revival was standing for “...the restoration of the faith once delivered unto the saints – the old time religion, camp meetings, revivals, missions, street and prison work and Christian unity everywhere.”⁹ In another article of The Apostolic Faith, he said; “All along the ages men have been preaching a partial gospel. A part of the gospel remained when the world went into the dark ages.” The article continues; “Now, He is bringing back the Pentecostal baptism to the church.”¹⁰ The Azusa people referred to their revival as the “latter rain,” taken from Joel 2.23. They taught that the “early rain” had fallen on the Early Church and they were now experiencing the latter rain.

The Azusa Street Revival may have become well known but Pastor Seymour and the countless visitors who were touched by God's Spirit were not looking for fame; rather, they were intent upon one thing, meeting God. God not only met with them, but restored to them the New Testament experience of

the baptism of the Holy Spirit. At the Azusa Street Revival people were transformed. Among those men and women there were many who came into the meetings proud but left the meetings humble, testifying that they had been filled with the love of God. People who are filled with the love of God have love to give to others, and it becomes their joy and purpose to share their experience. The story of their experiences gives reason for hope in the hearts of those who long for revival in our present day.

Shawn Stevens

1 Tom Anderson, quoted in “Pentecostal Testimonies” The Apostolic Faith Vol. 1, No. 6, February – March 1907 (Los Angeles: The Apostolic Faith Mission), 8.

2 Florence Crawford, ed., “The Old-Time Pentecost” The Apostolic Faith Vol. 1, No. 1, September, 1906 (Los Angeles: The Apostolic Faith Movement), 1.

3 Lucy Leatherman, quoted in “Pentecostal Experience” The Apostolic Faith Vol. 1, No. 3, November, 1906 (Los Angeles: The Pacific Apostolic Faith Movement), 4.

4 Mr. Burke quoted in “The Holy Ghost from Heaven”, The Apostolic Faith Vol. 1 No. 3, November 1906 (Los Angeles: The Apostolic Faith Movement), 3.

5 “Weird Babel Of Tongues” The Los Angeles Times, April 18, 1906.

6 Adolph Rosa, quoted in “A Portuguese Minister Receives His Pentecost” The Apostolic Faith Vol. 1, No. 2, October, 1906 (Los Angeles: The Apostolic Faith Movement), 1.

7 H. L. Blake, “A Minnesota Preacher's Testimony” The Apostolic Faith Vol. 1, No. 6, February – March 1907 (Los Angeles: The Apostolic Faith Mission), 5. (I have corrected the punctuations of Blake’s quotation of Psalm 42:1).

8 Florence Crawford, ed., The Apostolic Faith Vol. 1, No. 1, September 1906 (Los Angeles: The Apostolic Faith Movement), 2.

9 William Seymour, quoted in Cecil M. Robeck, The Azusa Street Mission And Revival (Nashville: Nelson Reference & Electronic, 2006), 120.

10 William Seymour, quoted in Cecil M. Robeck, The Azusa Street Mission And Revival (Nashville: Nelson Reference & Electronic, 2006), 122.

ALSO TAKEN FROM THE AZUSA STREET REVIVAL:

NEW-TONGUED MISSIONARIES FOR AFRICA

Our dear Brother and Sister Mead, who have spent twenty years in missionary work in Africa have received their Pentecost in Los Angeles, and as the Lord leads and opens the way they will be on their way to the dark continent again with the divine fitness for missionary work.

Bro. Mead's Testimony of Pentecost

We are asked by many dear ones about our Pentecost, etc. It is beautiful, simple and full of comfort. I went to the meetings when I first heard of the manifestations of the Spirit, speaking in tongues, healing of the body, etc. I was not surprised, for we had been praying and expecting something of this kind to arouse God's people to the reality of the Word of God, and the truth of God Emanuel. While seeking the closer walk with God in Africa, the Spirit seemed to fall on us, revealing Jesus so real to our souls; a burden seemed to be on my heart in writing and in conversation. I could but say, Jesus is real.

The first night at the meetings, my heart went out for the baptism. I went forward to be prayed for, and hands were laid on me, and prayer was made, that I might receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I continued praying and fasting, in hope and much comfort. One evening, in complete abnegation of self, it was revealed to me that the same power and persecutions that were in the beginning were now to be repeated for the perfecting of the Church. Would I choose it? My heart cried out, Oh, yes Lord, with [Y]our smile. And my soul was flooded with Divine love; and I commenced to speak as I would sing a new song. It was entirely different from the way Mrs. Mead received her baptism. I was as conscious as I am at this moment, but my heart was full of praises and thanksgiving. I seemed now to have a conception of the mighty efficacy of the blood of Christ, and His omnipresence in Spirit, as never before.

Many ask, "Do you think these tongues will be used in a foreign field?" As for myself I cannot say. My God is able, this I know. The Pentecost or baptism of Divine love, that would enable a missionary to say to the poor Africans, as the Spirit did through Peter and John, to the poor cripple at the gate of the Temple, "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." would mark a grand epoch in the history of foreign missions. I believe God is about to repeat many of the miracles and wonders wrought in the early history of the church. —S. J. Mead.

REFERENCE

The Apostolic Faith, Vol.1, No. 3. November, 1906. Los Angeles : The Pacific Apostolic Faith Movement.

BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY GHOST

When I first attended these Apostolic Faith meetings, I was very much puzzled because I tried to understand it with my head only, and was in doubt as to its being of God. But at the same time, the desire in my heart which had been there for years for something beyond sanctification, became more intense and gave me no rest till I enquired further into the teaching. The Spirit opened my eyes and understanding and helped me to see that this was the very thing for which I had been hungering. So when my own understanding and my notions got out of the way, God in His mercy baptized me with the Holy Ghost on the 15th of last September. No one had their hands on me at the time. I was meeting God alone and the Holy Ghost fell on me like balls of fire, and went through me from the crown of my head to the soles of my feet. The Spirit flooded my whole being and enlarged my heart till I was afraid the vessel might not hold the glory and power that seemed to rush into me like water poured out. Before I realized it, the Spirit got hold of my tongue and used it for the glory of God in speaking in an unknown tongue.

In regard to the languages given here, I can testify that they are real languages, because I have interpreted not less than five messages given by different persons, spoken in languages of British India, which languages I know personally, having lived in India.

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Reference

The Apostolic Faith, Vol.1. No.4, December, 1906. Los Angeles: Pacific Apostolic Faith Movement.



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