

SO WHY WAS THIS BOOK WRITTEN?

This book is written for the Christian who is pressing on in the ways of the Holy Spirit. It will help clarify some of the boundaries, things to avoid, and what should be pressed toward. It will also help define Phariseeism. When attacked by Pharisees for pressing into the ways of the Holy Spirit, readers will be more readily able to understand their beliefs as well as the mindset of the attacker. They will be able to respond with biblical conviction knowing full well that they are neither New Age nor Pharisee but Christian. Even though there may be incessant attacks by Pharisees for being a member of the New Age movement, this book will equip with biblical and theological structures offering comfort and strengthening hearts.

FOREWORD

Mark and Patti Virkler have performed a great service to the Body of Christ with this book. It is both grievous and amazing that Christians have been so seemingly paranoid regarding issues associated with the New Age movement. While the Bible does indeed call us to be wise as serpents and not allow our thinking to go astray, it also tells us that greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world. Could it be that far too many Christians appear to have more faith in the ability of the enemy to pull them off course than they do in God to keep them secure?

It is this “paranoia” that has made many of the insights God has given the Virklers so controversial over the years. From their life-changing teachings, I have seen and heard a range of reactions. Two are, “among the most spiritually significant experiences of my life,” and “we cannot have this kind of teaching in our midst.” Believe it or not, both of these comments came from members of the same congregation.

It was a discussion of the mixed reaction to the Virkler’s teachings that inspired this book. Exasperated with the fearful reaction of some, I proposed to Mark that we desperately needed a book to help Christians see the New Age movement for what it really is. Satan successfully robs many in the Church from a great deal of helpful wisdom through the shopworn guilt by association ploy.

Because of some unique health challenges, my wife and I choose to eat “healthy.” Because this is not mainstream thinking

(just check out any grocery store), we frequently find ourselves in health food stores purchasing groceries alongside customers purchasing crystals, weird books, and healthy food. Often we are criticized by well meaning Christians for even entering such a store, let alone supporting its proprietor with our Christian money. But as John 17 so clearly teaches, we're sent to the world. Most Christians lack the understanding that the United States is now the third largest mission field in the world, measured by the number of unbelievers in the population (exceeded only by India and China). As Leonard Sweet writes in *SoulTsunami*, "Postmodern evangelism doesn't say to the world, 'Come to church.' Rather, it says to the Church, 'Go to the world.'" He goes on to write that we must not retreat from the church or withdraw from the world, but stay where we are and resist the pagan ways of living.

I have read a great deal of what I term "success" literature; books that are designed to help people succeed in life, according to their definition of success. I find it quite interesting that almost all the principles taught in these success books are found in Scripture. That being the case, one would expect Christians to be among the most successful people in the world. And while in a spiritual sense, they indeed may be, certainly in a physical sense Christians seem to be as mediocre, if not more so, than the rest of the world. In fact, in some Christian circles, physical and fiscal successes are signals for great suspicion. The greatest overcomers in the world are all too often not Christians. It's the non-Christians who are doing a better job of living by biblical principles learned from being open-minded to pragmatic teaching. Once again, even though the principles are in the Bible, the enemy has created an environment where many Christians run from those principles simply because they feel guilty of being used by the world.

These fearful ideas simply should not be. We, as disciples of Christ, need to learn to rest secure in the arms of our Lord, believing that He will protect us from the guiles of the enemy. We need to become so familiar with the real that as soon as we encounter the deceitful, red flags will go up instantly. This idea seems difficult for the Virklers' students to understand. We need

to be able to “eat the meat and spit out the bones.” There is much wisdom (and common sense) that the enemy has succeeded in robbing us of because of our overly suspicious minds.

I am excited to recommend *Are You Being Deceived?*. It contrasts the beauty of the real with the sometimes not so subtle ugliness of the deceitful. It not only looks at New Age thinking, but also looks at the deception inherent in those caught up in the opposite extreme, legalism or Pharaseeism. Satan is indeed a wry old buzzard, prowling around looking for victims to devour. I pray the Church will devour this book and that the truth will emerge, allowing Christians to be better equipped as salt and light to the world.

Jerry Graham

INTRODUCTION

THE REAL AND TWO DEMONIC COUNTERFEITS

To detect counterfeits, one must first be taught to recognize the real. He must examine it inside and out so he knows its chief distinguishing features. The counterfeits will miss some of these features and thus be found out. This is how bank tellers are trained to recognize counterfeit bills: they get to know the true bill. So we will begin by examining the real which is Christianity. Then, we will look at two counterfeits, the New Age Movement and Phariseeism. Contrasts and comparisons will be included.

As we make these comparisons you will discover that of the two counterfeits, New Age is much closer to true Christianity than Phariseeism. Of course, neither counterfeit is right. Christianity is right, and both counterfeits are wrong.

Obviously, although some may stand up and declare proudly that they are “New Agers,” no one stands up and declares that he is a Pharisee. There are probably several reasons for that. One is that most people in the Church have not examined the traits of Phariseeism, so they are not even aware on a conscious level of exactly what Phariseeism is. Secondly, if one did discover that he were indeed a Pharisee, he probably would not want to declare that fact publicly. If he were truly seeking God, he would

repent of his Phariseeism and get over it. If he were just religious, and not really ready to lay his life down for God, then he would most likely become stiff-necked, resisting the identification with his father the devil, and would do everything in his power to kill the messenger of God who caused him to see that (Acts 7:51,52).

A true Pharisee questions authority (Matt. 21:23), seeks to kill and destroy (Matt. 12:14), and has a heathen heart (Acts 7:51). He is blind (Jn 12:37-40); judgmental (Matt. 7:1-6); easily offended (Matt. 13:53-58); disobedient (Matt. 23:2,3); condemnatory (Matt. 9:3); accusatory (Jn. 8:48; 10:20); proud, and deaf to the truth (Acts 7:51). And he is not inclined to repent when confronted with his sin.

According to Scripture, Pharisees carry the spirit of murder with them (Jn. 8:44). I have no desire to be murdered. So it seems wisest to simply present the truth to those who are seeking truth, without endangering my life by exposing my identity to those who killed the Son of God. I debated long and hard about whether I would list my name as the author; however, in final analysis, I have gone ahead and done so. I hope it is a wise decision. I am not interested in being murdered, so if you are a committed Pharisee then I would ask that you not take the time to read this book.

Satan's favorite tactic when he is designing what he considers a good counterfeit is to mix some truth in with some error. If there isn't at least an element of truth, few will receive it. So Satan mixes in truth to see if he can deceive many with a counterfeit.

One Extreme Is the Bible Without the Spirit - Phariseeism

As was the case in Jesus' day, Pharisees are Bible-thumpers. They are big on the Bible. They study it, memorize it, interpret it, and apply it to their lives as best they know how.

However, their traditions invalidate the Word of God, and negate the power of God in their midst (Mk. 7:13). Because they are not open to the Spirit or revelation knowledge, they come against those who walk in the Spirit, persecuting and seeking to

murder them (Acts 7; Gal. 3, 4). Paul is a perfect example of a Pharisee who was murdering Christians until God gave him a revelatory experience on the road to Damascus where he heard God's voice and saw a vision. From that point on his life was reversed - he came alongside the Spirit-filled Christians whom he had been trying to kill, and he came against the Pharisees, of whom he had been a chief.

Because Pharisees aren't open to the Holy Spirit, they didn't show up at the birth of Jesus. Shepherds who could see visions of angels singing recognized Jesus' birth (Lk. 2:8-16). Wise men who could discern the message of God in His creation (the stars) showed up (Matt. 2:1,2). Simeon, a righteous and devout man who had the Holy Spirit upon him, was led by the Spirit to the temple to prophesy over Jesus (Lk. 2:25-32). But no Bible-thumper recognized Jesus' birth; only those who were open to revelation knowledge and spiritual experiences.

In this way, Pharisees miss the moving of God in their own generation. They are fixed on the laws of God from generations ago, and are adamantly opposed to any direct encounter with God themselves. They have built a religious set of rules and principles telling about a God Who lived and moved and acted miraculously in days past. However, there is no direct interaction with Him today in their lives.

Obviously, this is not Christianity, because Christianity demands a direct encounter and a personal relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ. When I was a Pharisee myself, I actually held a theology declaring that I had a personal relationship with God and with Jesus. I had invited Jesus Christ into my heart as my Lord and Savior. However, I was instructed that I was not to expect any feelings, because feelings were soulish. I was not to expect His voice, because I now had the Bible. I was not to expect His vision, because there are no more dreams and visions today. Nor was I to expect His anointing with power, because the age of miracles had passed.

So I ask you, did I have a personal relationship with Jesus, or did I simply have a theology which said that I had a relationship with Jesus? What kind of a relationship is it when you can't hear

the person, see the person, feel the person, or sense the person? If you want a relationship like that, you can have it! Personally, I have concluded that it is most likely not a relationship at all. They are just words, saying there is a relationship.

The proof that the Pharisees really didn't have a personal relationship with God, or sense God's Spirit, was that their hearts were filled with murder.

For you are the children of your father the Devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning and has always hated the truth. There is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character for he is a liar and the father of lies (Jn. 8:44 NLT).

Bible-thumping Pharisees aren't just wrong. Jesus said they are demonic. They are of satan. They are sons of the devil! They are killers. There is no truth in them, even though they spend their lives studying the Bible! Amazing! This is heavy. Most of us would prefer to say, "Well, they might be overly rationalistic, but, thank God, they are not into the New Age cult." Well, you tell me, is having the devil as your father any better than being a New Ager? I seriously doubt it.

So, being a Bible-thumping, anti-Spirit Pharisee is not good, it is not neutral, and it is not better than being a New Ager. If you are a Pharisee, then Jesus says you are not a Christian, even though you may read and study your Bible until you are blue in the face.

The questions, as far as Jesus and the Bible are concerned, are, "Do you accept the Holy Spirit as an integral part of your life, more than just giving Him lip service?(Jn.14:16,17). Do you live in the Spirit and walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:25)? Do you hear His voice (Jn. 10:27)? Do you receive His dreams (Acts 2:17)? Do you see His visions (Acts 2:17)? Do you prophesy (Acts 2:17)? Do you operate in the power of God, (i.e., the gifts of the Holy Spirit - I Cor. 12:1-11)? Or is your religion a theology about a God Who used to do these things?" If it is, then the Bible says you are a Pharisee and you need to repent, for you are of your father, the devil. Like Paul, a day came in my life when I discovered that I was a Pharisee, and I repented.

If as you go through this book you do discern, as I did, that you are a pharisee, then I pray that you, too, would choose the path of repentance. I am not here to judge or condemn any man. Before his Maker he stands or falls. I am here to love, pray and intercede for mankind. As Paul, I, too, am a chief of sinners. May your heart be open to the Spirit of God.

As a final note: These Pharisees in their deception will come against true Christians who do believe that the Bible and the Holy Spirit should go hand in hand. Because these true Christians have embraced the Holy Spirit as being alive and active today, Pharisees seek to brand them as New Age. Look how the Pharisees of Jesus' day rejected Him!

You rejected this holy, righteous one and instead demanded the release of a murderer (Acts 3:14 NLT).

How's that for getting everything backward?

Another Extreme Is the Spirit Without the Bible - The New Age

The other cult we will examine in this book is the New Age movement. The New Age movement is at the opposite extreme of Phariseism, for while Pharisees embrace the Bible and reject the Spirit, New Age embraces the spirit world, but rejects the Bible as being the inerrant Word of God.

So New Agers are out there exploring the world of the spirit without the Bible to act as a compass and help them see what is right and what is wrong. They, too, are headed for destruction unless they embrace the Bible as God's declaration of truth.

New Agers want more than the false idol of rationalism offered by the western world. They realize that life is much larger than that. They realize that there is a spirit world and they are hungry to explore it with every fiber of strength within them. So they will study ESP, try various meditation practices and seek out spiritual modalities for healing and for receiving knowledge. Many of them will make considerable progress in exploring the spiritual world.

Their problem is that they go in unprotected. They are seeking to connect with spiritual powers without discerning that there are both good and evil spiritual powers: God and satan, heaven and hell, right and wrong. They discover some of God and some of satan, and they have no good way to discern which is which, because they have discarded the Bible as an authoritative standard for discovering truth. Without an absolute truth, all “truth” becomes relative, and they enter into a quagmire of error and deception.

New Age followers, too, need to repent and return to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They need to recognize that Jesus Christ is Lord, that He is the Son of God Who died on a cross, and Whose shed blood offers them cleansing for their sins if they will but repent and receive Him as their Lord and Savior. They must also receive the Bible as the inspired Word of God.

It seems to me that the central issue is, “Who is Lord?” The Pharisee says his mind is ruler and in control. Therefore, whatever his mind interprets as being true from the Bible is accepted as truth. A New Ager says whatever his experience in the spirit world dictates to be true is true and is G/god.

The Christian rejects both of these false gods.

Christianity - Where the Bible and the Spirit Meet

The Christian believes that:

The Bible Is Important

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness (II Tim. 3:16).

The Spirit Is Important

“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).

The Bible is the historical record of people who had spiritual experiences with Almighty God. This historical record is to be our sounding board when we, too, have experiences with Almighty God.

We have dreams and compare them with biblical dreams. We see visions and we compare them with biblical visions. We hear God's voice and compare it with biblical examples of others who heard God's voice. We prophesy and compare it with others in the Bible who prophesied. We lay hands on the sick and they recover, and we compare our experiences with others in the Bible who laid hands on the sick.

So the Bible is not to replace our personal encounters with God through the Spirit. Rather, it is to serve as a sounding board for us, so that as we have similar spiritual experiences, we can compare them with those who have walked with God before us.

And when it comes to interpreting the Bible, the Christian does not turn to the false god of rationalism who says we are to use our minds and reason about God. No, the Bible never encourages us to reason on our own, but only to reason together with God, allowing our reasoning capacities to be moved upon by the Holy Spirit so that we have anointed reasoning (Is. 1:18).

An example of the Holy Spirit illuminating one's reasoning or understanding can be found in Luke 24:32.

And they said one to another, "Did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the scriptures?"

When Jesus explains Scripture to us it results in revelation in our hearts which can be experienced as a burning sensation (Lk. 24:27). This is surely much different than the pure analysis of rationalism.

David and Paul both prayed for and hungered for this spiritual revelation as they meditated on the Bible. Paul especially knew that without it, he would be nothing but a Pharisee. Note their prayers.

Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law (Ps. 119:18).

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints (Eph. 1:17,18).

A Pharisee would not pray this prayer, because there is no expectation of any direct interaction between the Pharisee and the Holy Spirit when the Bible is studied. A New Ager wouldn't pray this prayer because there is no belief that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, so it probably wouldn't be read with any intensity. However, the Christian will find this prayer on the lips every time the Bible is read, because the Christian knows that if the Holy Spirit doesn't make the Word come alive, it will just be religious principles and not true Christianity.

Our Plan of Attack

As we continue, we will first look at true Christianity, where the Bible and the Spirit flow together. We will then examine the New Age movement where spirit reigns and the Bible is discarded, and finally we will examine Phariseeism where the Bible reigns and the Spirit is discarded.

The Real CHRISTIANITY: *The Bible and the Spirit*

1st Counterfeit NEW AGE MOVEMENT: *The spirit without the Bible*

2nd Counterfeit PHARISEEISM: *The Bible without the Spirit*

1

CHRISTIANITY: THE BIBLE AND THE SPIRIT

Christianity embraces both the Bible and the Holy Spirit. Let's observe this through the New Testament.

The Christian has a humble heart seeking after God

Blessed are the humble (Matt. 5:3); the repentant (Matt. 5:4); the gentle (Matt. 5:5); those who hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matt. 5:6); the merciful (Matt. 5:7); the pure in heart (Matt. 5:8); the peacemakers (Matt. 5:9); and those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness (Matt. 5:10).

The Christian must humble himself as a child in order to enter the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 18:3).

The Christian abides in the written and spoken words of Jesus

Abide in the words (*logos* - written word) of Jesus (Jn. 8:31).

Abide in Jesus and let His words (*rhema* - spoken words) abide in you. Then you can ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. This glorifies the Father and proves that you are His disciples (Jn. 15:7,8).

The Christian has faith that prayer connects him with the ever-present power of God and God's provision for his life

Believes that God is active in his life. He believes that he can ask and receive (Matt. 7:7,8).

Knows he may ask and he will receive, that his joy may be made full (Jn. 16:24).

Understands that two Christians may join together in the name of Jesus and agree on earth about anything that they may ask and it shall be done for them by the Father Who is in heaven (Matt. 18:18-20).

Maintains that if you have faith and do not doubt, you may say to this mountain, be taken up and cast into the sea, and it shall happen. And all things asked in prayer, believing, shall be received (Matt. 21:21,22).

The Christian maintains love for others

He abides in God's love and loves others (Jn. 15:10,12).

He handles his disputes first in private discussions between the offended parties, secondly with two or three witnesses, and finally, if not resolved, by bringing it before the church at large (Matt. 18:15-18).

He forgives his brothers from his heart (Matt. 19:35).

The Christian steers clear of the teaching of legalists and Pharisees

He is aware of the teachings of Pharisees (Matt. 16:6,12).

The Christian lives out of divine initiative by being sensitive to the flow of the Holy Spirit within him which grants God's voice and God's vision

When the Pharisees were trying to kill Jesus for breaking the Sabbath (Jn. 5:18), Jesus made it clear that He was living out of the leading of the Holy Spirit who was showing Him and telling Him what the Father was doing (Jn. 5:19,20,30; 8:26,28,38). His Spirit-led actions were putting

Him at direct odds with the Pharisees. Jesus said that those who hear His voice will live (Jn. 5:25) and that the Pharisees were willing to search the Scriptures for eternal life, but were unwilling to actually come to Jesus so that they would have life (Jn. 5:39,40). They were going to stop short of an actual relationship with Jesus, and simply live out of the Scriptures, not receiving Jesus' life.

The Christian lives out of the Spirit which flows from his innermost being as a river of living water (Jn. 7:37-39).

Note, for example:

An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, "Arise and go..." (Acts 8:26).

And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot." (Acts 8:29).

The Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away...But Philip found himself at Azotus... (Acts 8:39,40).

Paul's conversion was instigated by a bright light from heaven flashing around him and a voice speaking to him (Acts 9:3-6). This was followed by Ananias' receiving direction in a vision to go and lay hands on Paul for him to receive his sight. Ananias did, and Paul's sight returned (Acts 9:10-19).

Paul was directed by the Spirit as to where to go (Acts 16:6,7).

Paul was guided by a dream at night (Acts 16:9,10).

The Lord spoke encouragement to Paul in a night vision (Acts 18:9,10).

God encouraged Paul at night with a spoken message (Acts 23:11; 27:23,24).

The Christian relies upon the Holy Spirit when interpreting the Bible, preaching, and receiving revelation

The Pharisees wanted to know how Jesus could speak so powerfully, having never been educated (Jn. 7:15). Jesus' response was, "My teaching is not Mine, but His Who sent

me. And those who will do the will of God will know [i.e., have an inner witness in their spirits] whether the teaching is of God or not” (Jn. 7:16,17). Thus, the ability to discern truth and error is only available to those who are living right with God.

The first rule of biblical interpretation: The Holy Spirit bears witness within when you hear the truth - The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, Who proceeds from the Father, will cause a witness within your heart when you hear truth (Jn. 15:26,27)

The second rule of biblical interpretation: The Holy Spirit guides you into truth - The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, guides you into all the truth, disclosing things of the Father to you (Jn. 16:13-15).

If you have and keep God’s commandments, you love God, and are loved by God, and God will abide with you and disclose Himself to you through the working of the Holy Spirit, Who will teach you all things (Jn. 14:21,23,26).

The third rule of biblical interpretation: You will only see what you can handle - God will only reveal to you what you are able to bear. There is more to say to you, but He will wait until you can bear it (Jn. 16:12).

The fourth rule of biblical interpretation: You cannot interpret the Bible on your own - Know that apart from Jesus you can do nothing, which includes interpret the Bible correctly (Jn. 15:5).

The fifth rule of biblical interpretation: Pray for God to open your heart - Pray that God opens your heart to respond to Him, and the hearts of those to whom you preach to respond to your preaching (Acts 16:14).

The Christian believes in and manifests a supernatural ministry

The Christian is commissioned to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons and to give freely (Matt. 10:8).

Jesus spoke words that are spirit and life; the flesh profits nothing (Jn. 6:63).

The Great Commission:

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:18-20).

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, and they will speak with new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it shall not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover” (Mk. 16:15-18).

“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance (Acts 2:4).

“And it shall be in the last days,” God says, “that I will pour forth of My Spirit upon all mankind; 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).

And everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles (Acts 2:43).

And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. And with a leap, he stood up and began to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God... “And on the basis of faith in

His name, it is the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.” (Acts 3:7,8,16).

And Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people (Acts 6:8).

And the multitudes with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs, which he was performing. For in the case of many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out of them shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was much rejoicing in that city (Acts 8:6-8).

Peter raised Tabitha from the dead (Acts 9:36-42).

Note the events involved in the salvation of Cornelius and his household: dialoguing with an angel in a vision (Acts 10:1-7); Peter’s receiving instruction in a trance vision; divine serendipity (happy chance encounter brought about by God - Acts 10:17,18); the Spirit speaking to Peter (Acts 10:19); a sermon which was interrupted by the Holy Spirit falling upon the hearers and their beginning to speak in tongues (Acts 10:34-46); and finally, water baptism (Acts 10:47,48).

Prophets foretold a worldwide famine, which came true (Acts 11:27,28).

An angel appeared and freed Peter from prison (Acts 12:6-11).

The word of the Lord came forth when prophets were in prayer and fasting at Antioch (Acts 13:1-4).

Saul made Elymas the magician blind for a period of time (Acts 13:8-12).

Signs and wonders were done at the hands of Paul (Acts 14:3).

Paul raised a lame man to his feet (Acts 14:8-10).

Paul got up and walked away after being stoned (Acts 14:19,20).

Paul cast a spirit of divination out of a slave-girl (Acts 16:16-18).

An earthquake opened the prison doors for Paul and Silas (Acts 16:25-33).

Paul prayed and laid hands on the Ephesian disciples and they received the Holy Spirit and began speaking in tongues (Acts 19:6).

God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out (Acts 19:11,12).

Paul raised the dead (Acts 20:9-12).

Agabus prophesied (Acts 21:10,11).

A viper bit Paul and no harm came to him (Acts 28:3-5).

The manifestation of the Holy Spirit can be experienced through His gifts (I Cor. 12:7-11).

Tongues, knowledge and prophecy will be done away with when the perfect comes - (most likely a reference to the return of Christ, as knowledge is surely with us yet today - I Cor. 13:8-10).

We should earnestly desire spiritual gifts, especially to prophesy (I Cor. 14:1).

Paul said, "I wish that you all spoke in tongues but even more that you would prophesy" (I Cor. 14:5).

When we assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification (I Cor. 14:26).

For we can all prophesy one by one (I Cor. 14:31).

The Christian understands the power God releases through His Church

The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies a footstool for thy feet." Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ - this Jesus Whom you crucified (Acts 2:34-36).

The Great Commission imparted the authority and the command to disciple all nations (Matt. 28:18-20).

Of the increase of His government there shall be no end - which means of the *decrease* of satan's government there shall be no end (Is. 9:7).