

“[The Bereans] . . . searched the scriptures daily,

[to see] whether those things were so.” —Acts 17:11

The Only Antidote: The Power of the Spirit

T. A. McMahon

THESE ARE troubling times for every born-again Christian. The apostasy seems to be increasing exponentially. Biblical Christians are having greater difficulty finding churches that preach and teach the Scriptures. Extra-biblical content has captured the imaginations of growing numbers of Christians as they turn to religious bestsellers and “biblical” movies rather than to the written Word of God. Even with the rise of discernment ministries and “watchmen” blog sites, doctrinal confusion has increased, seemingly unabated.

The Bible warns that such conditions will take place and tells us that we are not to be surprised when they do. The Bible also gives us some of the reasons why this is occurring. Scripture declares prophetically: “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables” (2 Timothy 4:3-4). Again it says, “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils...” (1 Timothy 4:1-3).

Whether we’re in the *last* days, or even the last of the last days, it should be obvious to every biblical Christian that “sound doctrine” is scarcely being “endured.” In fact, it’s ironic that at a time in the Western world when access to the Bible has never been greater, biblical *illiteracy* among Christians abounds. Rare is the believer who can name the twelve Apostles; more critical, however, is the number of Christians who have difficulty *explaining* the simple gospel. The “slipping away” from the truth, of which Hebrews 2:1 warns, has become a steep slope for the church.

The Bible doesn’t downplay the struggles that accompany a believer’s life in Christ—some of these may be revealed as the bad fruits of one’s old nature, but others are the consequences of the world and Satan’s opposition to God’s Word. Jesus declared: “Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name’s sake, because they know not him that sent me...” (John 15:20-22). After Christ’s ascension and the martyrdom of Stephen, the church was scattered by great opposition to the gospel. The Apostle Paul, formerly a persecutor of Christians, was subsequently subjected to persecution after his conversion and throughout the rest of his life. Nevertheless, he wrote, “As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all

these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us” (Romans 8:36-37).

It may seem that continual trials in a believer’s life could have no such good end, but Peter gives further insights: “Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified” (1 Peter 4:12-14).

Few believers in the US have experienced the kinds of physical trials that Paul and Peter have described, yet there are trials of a different sort that are destructive spiritually even though they are not necessarily physical. There are the trials of one’s faith in the realm of religious seduction, e.g., being deceived by popular false teachers and unbiblical doctrines, being ostracized from one’s fellowship for not going along with a new teaching or practice that isn’t supported in Scripture, or for being a “thorn in the side” at a Bible study group for not compromising the truth of God’s Word. These are things that often create conflicts simply by one’s trying to be steadfast in the faith.

Then how can that steadfastness be maintained without causing conflict and division? It can’t, except in rare situations where there is a willingness to repent and to submit to the truth of God’s Word. Nowhere does Scripture promise that there won’t be opposition to God’s Word. Instead it makes available a condition of “exceeding joy” that takes place within the heart and enables the believer to “conquer” or handle the situation in a way that is pleasing to the Lord. How is that accomplished? First Peter 4:14 tells us: “...for the Spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you...”

The work of the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary in the life of a believer. That’s why Jesus said, “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...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 show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you” (John 16:7,13-14). Every true believer in Jesus is born of the Holy Spirit (John 3:5), sealed with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30), and enabled, empowered, and led by the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13, 8:14) in order to glorify God and to live one’s life in a way that is pleasing to Him. According to the Scriptures, this is the only way that a believer can be spiritually fruitful.

In the late 1960s, Dave Hunt edited a book by William Law titled *The Power of the Spirit*. In the 18th century, Law wrote *An Affectionate Address to the Clergy* (full title: *An Humble,*

FOR THE TIME WILL COME WHEN THEY
WILL NOT ENDURE SOUND DOCTRINE;
BUT AFTER THEIR OWN LUSTS SHALL
THEY HEAP TO THEMSELVES TEACHERS,
HAVING ITCHING EARS...

— 2 Timothy 4:3-4

Affectionate, and Earnest Address to the Clergy). It was brought back into print in 1896 by one of Dave's favorite Christian authors, Andrew Murray. Murray retitled Law's book *The Power of the Spirit* and said of it: "I confess that in all my reading I have never found anyone who has so helped me in understanding the Scriptural truth of the work of the Holy Spirit...I beg of my brethren in the ministry to give it no cursory perusal. I am confident that a patient and prayerful study will bring a rich blessing."

Dave certainly concurred: "It is my conviction that Andrew Murray has not been unduly high in his praise of this volume by Law. And although, like Murray, I cannot agree with all of Law's teachings, I too believe all included herein to be soundly based upon Scripture." Dave further noted the relevance of Law's writing to the current issues stemming from the spiritual abuses of the Pentecostals and Charismatics and the criticism of conservative and fundamental Christians: "What William Law had to say is, I believe, a very important contribution to this present discussion. He would rebuke the pride, lack of love, and inconsistencies in both camps, and would seemingly take side with neither extreme. But he would unquestionably maintain a Scriptural basis for the present full display and vitality of New Testament Christianity. To the mainline denominational adherent he would press home the necessity of the sovereignty and power of the Holy Spirit for today; and upon the Pentecostal he would impress the fact that the power of the Spirit is bestowed primarily to enable one to witness and to live a holy life. And his very delineation of that life would bring conviction of sin and a sense of falling short to both fundamentalist and Pentecostal."

The following excerpts are from chapter one, "The Indwelling Spirit of God Essential to Salvation," of TBC's exclusive edition of *The Power of the Spirit*, edited for today's reader by Dave Hunt:

The Spirit of the triune God, breathed into Adam at his creation, was that alone which made him a holy creature in the image and likeness of God. A new birth of this Spirit of God in man is as necessary to make fallen man alive again unto God as it was to make Adam at first in the image and likeness of God. And a constant flow of this divine life by the Spirit is as necessary to man's continuance in his redeemed state as light and moisture are to the continued life of a plant. A religion that is not wholly built upon this supernatural ground but that stands to any degree upon human powers, reasonings, and conclusions has not so much as the shadow of truth in it. Such religion leaves man with mere empty form and images that can no more restore divine life to his soul than an idol of clay or wood could create another Adam.

True Christianity is nothing but the continual dependence upon God through Christ for all life, light, and virtue; and the false religion of Satan is to seek that goodness from any other source. So the true child of God acknowledges that "no man can receive anything except it be given him from above" (John 3:27). All goodness comes from God just as surely as all life comes from God....

Man's fall from his first state brought separation from God and thus from the life, light, and virtue that is in Him. Man's salvation can therefore only be effected by a reconciling of his spirit with the Spirit of the Creator. "Be ye reconciled to God" (2 Corinthians 5:20), wrote Paul. Nor can this reconciliation be accomplished by man's own efforts, but it must by its very nature be a gift from God. No angel or man could begin to show any love, faith, or desire toward God without a living seed of these divine affections being first formed within him by the Spirit of God. And as a tree or plant can grow and bear fruit only by the same power that first gave birth to the seed from which it sprang, so faith,

hope, and love toward God can grow and fructify only by the same power that created the first seed of them in the soul. Therefore, the continuous inspiration and working of the Holy Spirit in the spirit of man is no less essential to that salvation, which God has provided through Jesus Christ, than the new birth itself.

This divine life in man can never be in him but as a growth of life in and from God. Hence it is that resisting the Spirit, quenching the Spirit, grieving the Spirit, gives growth to every evil that reigns in a fallen creation and leaves men and churches an easy and inevitable prey to the world, the flesh, and the devil. Nothing but obedience to the Spirit, walking in the Spirit, trusting Him for continual inspiration can possibly keep men from being sinners or idolaters in all that they do. For everything in the life or religion of man that has not the Spirit of God for its source, direction, and end is but earthly, sensual, or devilish....

A lack of...complete submission to the will of God, and a failure to realize that our salvation can be worked out only by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit forming the very life of Christ within the redeemed heart, has placed the Christian church today in the same apostasy that characterized the Jewish nation. And it has occurred for one and the same reason. The Jews refused Him who was the substance and fulfilling of all that was taught in their Law and Prophets. The Christian church is in a fallen state for the same rejection of the Holy Spirit, who was given to be the power and fulfilling of all that was promised by the gospel. And just as the Pharisees' rejection of Christ was under a profession of faith in the Messianic Scriptures, so church leaders today reject the demonstration and power of the Holy Spirit in the name of sound doctrine.

The Holy Spirit's coming was no less to fulfill the gospel than Christ's coming was the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. As all types and figures in the Law were but empty shadows without the coming of Christ, so the New Testament is but dead letter without the Holy Spirit in redeemed men as the living power of a full salvation. This is clear from these words, "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 go away; I will send him to you" (John 16:7). Without the cross and resurrection, Christ could not have "gone away." These antecedent events made possible His ascension, for it was "by his own blood that he entered into the presence of God for us" (Hebrews 9:12, 24). Thus the coming of the Holy Spirit, being the fruit of Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, is essential to the fulfillment of the salvation Christ procured.

Where the Holy Spirit is not honored as the one through whom the whole life and power of gospel salvation is to be effected, it is no wonder that Christians have no more of the reality of the gospel than the Jews had of the purity of the Law. It could not be otherwise than that the same lusts and vices that prospered among apostate Jews should break forth with as much strength in fallen Christendom. For the New Testament without the coming of the Holy Spirit in power over self, sin, and the devil is no better a help to heaven than the Old Testament without the coming of the Messiah. Need any more be said to demonstrate the truth that the one thing absolutely essential to man's salvation is the Spirit of God living and working in the spirit of man? And though we still cling to a religion that does not acknowledge this, it is a full proof that we are not yet in that redeemed state in our communion with God that is intended by the gospel.

TBC

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Submit your own questions to: PO Box 7019 • Bend, OR 97708

or e-mail: editorial@theberean.org

QUESTION: I'm questioning the premise of [your TBC Notes 5/15] "NBC's *A.D.: The Bible Continues*...[to be contaminated by Hollywood]." We all know that whenever anything is produced for TV or movies, it will be dramatized. That's just a fact, and how it works. So...when people say things like [you did], are they basically saying that no TV show or movie should ever be made about Jesus or the Bible? It seems to me that's the conclusion we'd have to come to, if [as you said] we cannot add anything at all that our imaginations come up with or that [might] have happened....When we...read the Bible or study it as a group, don't we often come up with what...may have happened "between the lines"?...We might paraphrase certain things.... Aren't there some things that we simply have to conclude from what makes sense or could have happened in context?...The Bible doesn't give us every detail of what happened and what was said or thought by various people.... Are we supposed to...never think any further or deeper into things, never make any speculations or suppositions?... Should stories from the Bible never be portrayed on film?

RESPONSE: Before I respond to your questions specifically, let's consider something very basic. We need to start with one's view of the Bible based upon its claims. It claims to be God's words, not man's. The words were given by God through the Holy Spirit and written down by the prophets of God (2 Peter 1:20-21; Luke 1:68-70). The objective of the reader is to understand what the Author of the Bible (God) is communicating. If man adds to the Scriptures his own thoughts or what he imagines, he has corrupted the Bible (whether intentionally or not). Mixing Scripture with man's thoughts further exacerbates the problem of our understanding what God has supernaturally communicated through His Holy Spirit.

It is impossible to translate the Bible as a theatrical motion picture without adding to the Scriptures, which is forbidden according to Proverbs 30:6 and Revelation 22:18-19. All movies, biblical or otherwise, begin with a screenplay that is created by one or more persons. The screenplay includes story continuity, character establishment and development, dialogue, production value, dramatic scenes, action sequences, descriptions of various locations, and much more. Having been a Hollywood screenwriter, I can assure you that entertaining an audience takes precedence over biblical accuracy or truth. Viewing just one or two of the episodes of *A.D.: The Bible Continues* proves my point. In what verse or verses do we find Caiaphas's wife (referred to as Leah on screen)? What about the father-daughter relationship between Peter and Maya—or perhaps you weren't aware that Peter had a daughter and her name was Maya? If you're familiar with the Bible, did it surprise you that Pilate escaped assassination...or that an attempt was even made? Or that Pilate and his wife were having marital problems? Or that he took it upon himself to execute one of the soldiers who guarded the burial tomb of Jesus? Pilate is a central figure in *A.D.* (which is about the book of Acts) and yet he appears nowhere in the Book of Acts. Mary, the mother of Jesus is referred to only once in the Book of Acts. It says simply that she prayed with the disciples (Acts 1:14). Yet she has many lines of dialogue in *A.D.*, thanks to the screenwriters.

"Artistic license" may be acceptable when a popular book is translated to the screen (though some might weep over what Hollywood

did to their favorite novel), but it's hardly nitpicking to object to seeing this being done to God's Word, though too few evangelical pastors and leaders seem to be as concerned as Paul was in Acts 20:28-32. Speculation, reading between the lines, and using one's imagination all involve the flesh of man and contribute nothing to our understanding of the Scriptures. At best, they involve a slipping away from God's truth (Hebrews 2:1); at worst, they lead to another Jesus and a false gospel.

You say, "We all know that the Bible doesn't give us every detail of what happened and what was said or thought by various people. We often try to come up with that on our own. Are we supposed to...never make any speculations or suppositions?" Speculations and suppositions are human guesses, so they can give us *no assurance* in our attempts to understand God's Word. There is little doubt that some passages of Scripture are more difficult than others to comprehend. But as we diligently read through the entire Bible we often find related verses that give further explanation. Scripture indeed interprets Scripture, and when we study God's Word with that truth in mind we can be confident that the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, rather than our own thoughts, is guiding us.

God has given His Word by His Holy Spirit to those who believe in Him. The Holy Spirit also enables believers to understand His Word. To the degree that we turn to our own ways in trying to understand Him, we have drifted away from Him by that same degree. The flesh profits nothing (John 6:63). Please consider again the excerpt of the poem by William Blane that I added to the special email we sent back in April. We have published it in full on page three of this edition. It was one that Dave Hunt repeated often:

They come from God if they be right,
If true they lead to Him;
But who would shun the noonday light
To grope in shadows dim?

And who would leave the Fountain Head
To drink the muddy stream,
Where men have mixed what God hath said
With every dreamer's dream?

QUESTION: What about *Veggie Tales*? I know that the *Veggie Tales* stories are based on Bible stories, but they take many liberties in the way they're portrayed in order to make them more "fun," interesting, and understandable for kids.

RESPONSE: Your question raises a number of other questions. At what point would you have your child take the Bible seriously? Does a talking cucumber and a precocious tomato encourage biblical understanding? Does the "fun" approach trivialize the redemptive work of Christ? How easy will it be for a child to transition from the "cute" entertainment characteristics of *Veggie Tales* to God's Word, which is devoid of "fun" but packed with temporal life-changing and eternal truth? These important principles can also be presented simply so that a child can understand (2 Timothy 3:15).

On the other hand, some of the "biblical principles" presented in *Veggie Tales* are really more reflective of popular teachings that are *contrary* to the Scriptures (e.g., "A Lesson in Self-Esteem"). Your responsibility for the spiritual growth of your child demands that you consider these things practically and prayerfully.

LETTERS

To connect with TBC, write: PO Box 7019 • Bend, OR 97708
or e-mail: editorial@theberean.org

TBC,

Unbelievable to me...that Dave Hunt and his wife passed away and [I've only] discovered this at the end of March 2015. He has been a remarkable resource in my life with his books and programs [to deepen] my understanding of God's Word. Dave Hunt is such a pearl, a treasure in a sea of lukewarm preaching....His messages, through the love of Jesus Christ, will stand the test of time. I will so miss him. EA (email)

To my...TBC friends-in-Christ,

Yes, we aspiring Bereans have a duty to confirm everything by carefully searching the Scriptures (Acts 17:11); yet, we are also biblically admonished to "swallow" any "milky" interpretation in order to allow complete digestion—even if bitter—of the actual "meat" of the Word (Hebrews 5:11-14). Pastor Mark Biltz has NOT departed from a textually exacting theology when explaining our Savior's Jewish roots (Luke 3:23-38) or His fulfillment of every jot and tittle of the Torah (Matthew 5:18), thereby lightening our "yoke" and pointing to the nearness of Yeshua's prophetic testimony, which is the very expression of His Spirit (Rev. 19:10). Pastor Biltz uses "Rembrandt brushwork" rather than "crayon scribbles" to draw our attention to the "meatier" meanings in the Bible, to its peace and spirit (not obligation) of worship, which he presents humbly, as a deeply sincere

and honest offering—certainly NOT as "a little leaven" or by "agenda," as was egregiously reported in an otherwise accurate TBC newsletter. JC (WA)

Dear Tom,

You have given me a chance to be a Berean, and the more I [immerse] myself in the Word, it is truly beautiful [to see] how God reveals things to me at the perfect time. There have been so many questions in my spirit and mind, but [I am no longer amazed by] the answers and gifts I receive—not the material kind, but just like the birds who are taken care of—I now know without a doubt that I am always in His hands. WG (NY)

Dear Tom,

I have never taken the time to write a letter of thanks from our hearts for your help in keeping the body of Christ, of which we are a part, on the narrow path. A friend introduced me to *The Berean Call* over ten years ago, and my husband and I have looked forward to receiving it every month since. Never stop! Your research is invaluable to us all. We can never thank you enough. God bless you and the entire staff. May He keep you in this work. D&AH (FL)

QUOTABLE

O tell me not of worldly lore
And treasures of the earth!
To him who draws from Heaven's store
They can be little worth.

I sail a sea of Love divine,
Unfathomed and unbound;
I search a deep and wealthy mine
Where gems of Heaven are found.

The Spirit's breezes gently blow
That I may sail this sea;
His is the light to search and show
God's deep, deep things to me.

O Book of wondrous depths and heights,
Of wisdom ever new,
Which in ten thousand various lights
Brings Jesus into view;

Whatever truths in thee I trace
New aspects meet mine eye,
And of His glory and His grace
Page unto page doth cry!

Of Science and Philosophy
I've heard the spreading fame;

They're broad and deep, and urged, they say,
By many a pressing claim.

'Tis said Philosophy hath charms
Which prove celestial birth;
That Science, with distended arms,
Grasps heaven in grasping earth.

I know not; neither have I tried
Their claims to disallow;
A trusting heart is satisfied
With neither why nor how.

They come from God if they be right,
If true they lead to Him;
But who would shun the noonday light
To grope in shadows dim?

And who would leave the Fountain Head
To drink the muddy stream
Where men have mixed what God hath said
With every dreamer's dream?

How dim is every earthly light
When suns celestial glow!
No earthly visions lure the sight
Where God His face doth show.

'Tis sweet in prayer on God to call
While He my voice doth hear,
But sweeter when His sayings fall
Upon my opened ear!

For this I leave the paths of men
And shun my friends' abode;
No earthly claims can stay me when
My spirit pants for God!

O not for wealth, nor fame, nor power,
Nor love, nor truest friend,
Would I forego the sacred hour
Which with God's Word I spend!

I steal it from the hours of sleep
If leisure be not given,
For only this the soul can keep
In touch with God and Heav'n.

And thus to hearken unto Him
For one sweet, fleeting hour
Is balm to wearied heart and limb—
Restoring grace and power.

Dear Book of treasures all divine,
My precious, priceless store!
How rich I am since thou art mine!
How poor I was before!

—William Blane,
The Sacred Hour

T. A.'S SPEAKING SCHEDULE

July 19 **Candlelight Fellowship**
Coeur d'Alene, ID (208) 772-7755

Aug 28-30 **TBC Conference**
Bend, OR (800) 937-6638

STS 24/7 BROADCAST SCHEDULE

May 29 & Jun 5 **Greg Sheryl**
Jonathan Cahn:
Man of Mystery

Jun 12 & 19 **Tom Watson**
Ministry to Indigenous
Peoples

Jun 26 & Jul 3 **Keith Gibson**
Biblically Addressing LGBTQ

Listen to *Search the Scriptures 24/7* at -
www.theberean.org/radio
(Schedule is subject to change.)

TBC NEWS & NOTES

Due to the rapidly increasing persecution of believers around the world, we are sharing a special feature this month in place of our regular NewsWatch page and the TBC Notes section.

Pray and Grieve

The suffering of our persecuted brothers and sisters for the cause of Christ ought to bring tears to our eyes and drive us to our knees in prayer for them. It is nearly impossible to get out of our minds some of the horrifying images that assault our senses day after day, knowing that others like these are increasingly being reenacted throughout the world. Regarding my own heart as well as the hearts of believers everywhere who are thus far personally unacquainted with such terror, I pray: "Lord, please convict us of our self-preoccupation and indifference, and help us to support these suffering ones as You enable us."

A few examples should suffice to remind us to stay on our knees in supplication for believers everywhere whose faith is being tested in almost unimaginable ways, and who, being found faithful unto death, will hear those sweet words, "Well done, good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of the Lord":

'I Need God to Help Me Forget' [Excerpt]

The chairman of Garissa University College's Christian Union [in Kenya], who survived the April 2 Al Shabab attack in which 148 students were killed [asks for prayer for the survivors].... Twenty-one-year-old Frederick Gitonga...explained how he had been up late the night before the attack, praying for one of the students under his care.... The next morning, that student was dead, along with the other 21 Christian Union (CU) members who had attended early morning prayers.... "My roommates ran out, leaving the door wide open," he explained. "I...hid under the bed [and] could hear the gunshots and screams of fellow students. I could [hear] them lying to women that they should come out since their religion does not allow them to kill women. When they did, they were all killed.... It's so painful to see people you know butchered like cows. They died for confessing Christ, but I put it to you... Who will stand up and say enough is enough?" (goo.gl/fz7S16)

Protestants in Mexico Told They Must Convert or Pay Heavy Fine to Return to Their Own Village [Excerpt]

Protestants who were expelled from their village in Chiapas, Mexico, for religious reasons in 2012 were told by the government they could return and their religious freedom would be protected; however, when they returned...they were told they would only be granted entrance if they converted or paid an extremely high fine. This, as well as attacks, beatings, barring Christian children from school and cutting off access to water and electricity, are just a few examples of the types of religious freedom violations they have experienced.... (goo.gl/0sua8p)

Persecution of Christians

Reached Historic Levels in 2014. Will 2015 Be Worse?

From imprisonment to torture to beheadings, more Christians worldwide live in fear for their lives than at any time in the modern era. That's the message from Open Doors USA, which released its annual World Watch List on Wednesday (Jan. 7). Christian persecution reached historic levels in 2014, with approximately 100 million Christians around the world facing possible dire consequences for merely practicing their religion.... If current trends persist, many believe 2015 could be even worse.

"In regions where Christians are being persecuted as central targets, the trends and issues we track are expanding," said David Curry, president of Open Doors, a nonprofit that aids persecuted

Christians in the most oppressive countries and ranks nations based on the severity of persecution.

North Korea tops Open Doors' list as the worst oppressor of Christians for the 13th consecutive year, but the list is dominated by African and Middle Eastern nations. Iraq, which experienced the mass displacement of Christians from its northern region, ranked third. Syria was listed fourth, due to the reign of ISIS in that war-torn region. Nigeria ranked 10th, due in part to the more than 1,000 Christians murdered or kidnapped by terrorist groups such as Boko Haram. Also included in the top 10 are Somalia, Afghanistan, Sudan, Iran, Pakistan and Eritrea.... The situation is reaching crisis levels: Christianity faces possible extinction in the Middle East and persecution is growing at alarming rates in Asia and Africa. Curry concluded: "The 2015 Watch List is a wake-up call to Western countries to protect religious freedoms around the world." (goo.gl/U15EXI)

As Dave Hunt wrote: "Christ was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and He told His disciples that they (and that would include us today) should not expect to be treated any better than He was. It was in obedience to His Father that He allowed Himself to be slain, because it was through death that He would 'destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil' (Heb 2:14). So Paul in the Roman epistle is declaring that the same fate will befall many Christians, but that just as our Lord triumphed in death and suffering, so we shall also. This Scripture does not teach that the Christian will be able through the power of God to escape suffering and death but that we will conquer through suffering and death. This was Paul's own experience. To Timothy he wrote: *But thou hast fully known my doctrine, [note the first thing he mentions, the foundation of all that follows] manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; [and many other places] what persecutions I endured; but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution (2 Tm 3:10-12).*"

T. A. McMAHON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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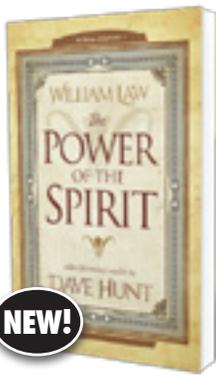
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NEW! THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT EXCLUSIVE TBC EDITION



NEW!

The Power of the Spirit

Law—This special commemorative edition of *The Power of the Spirit* by William Law was compiled and edited by Dave Hunt nearly 50 years ago while he was living in Lausanne, Switzerland. Copyrighted by Christian Literature Crusade (now CLC Publications) in 1971, this exclusive TBC edition has been gently edited to restore some of Dave's original remarks which were lost in later editions. Readers will appreciate the introduction, which communicates Dave's gratitude for classic Christian literature—writings that powerfully impacted his faith and served as inspiration for his own persuasive way of thinking, writing, and speaking biblically. As Dave Hunt notes in the introduction, "Law's writings declare with an irresistible power and logic that Christianity is indeed founded upon unchangeable truth." One aspect of this irrevocable reality is the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church, as well as the lives of all believers. CLC Publications, 185 pp.

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As I have studied this Address to the Clergy (The Power of the Spirit), I have thought I learned to understand better than ever before what the relation is which the work of the Holy Spirit bears to the Father and the Son, as well as to the Church and the believer . . .

I cannot say how much I owe to this volume of Law. I ask the help of all who learn to value the book to bring it to the notice of those who preach the Gospel. I beg of my brethren in the ministry to give it no cursory perusal. I am confident that a patient and prayerful study will bring a rich blessing.

—ANDREW MURRAY

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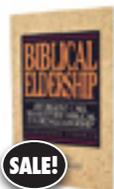


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IT'S NOT TOO LATE to sign up for the Berean Call conference in beautiful Bend, Oregon – August 28-30! We hope you will join us at The Riverhouse Convention Center for three days of teaching and fellowship. There is no cost to attend the meetings, but please register.



JIOVANNE DEL CRISTO is the youth pastor of Living Word Youth Ministries and co-founder of the Red Letters Dialogues, an independent organization that offers a Gospel-based outreach whose goal is to cut through the confusion of secular humanism that has entered the church and the world and threatens to destroy the faith of many. Jio is a graduate of Living Word Bible Academy.



DAVE JAMES is co-founder and executive director of the Alliance for Biblical Integrity and author of *The Harbinger: Fact or Fiction?* Dave served with Word of Life Fellowship for 21 years, including 16 years as founding director of the Word of Life Bible Institute in Hungary. He continues to teach and preach in many venues including the Word of Life Bible Institutes around the world.



T. A. McMAHON is president and executive director of The Berean Call. Tom is the co-author (with Dave Hunt) of *The Seduction of Christianity* and *America: The Sorcerer’s New Apprentice*, and author of *Showtime for the Sheep?* and *Temporal Delusion*. Holder of a master’s degree in communications, he has researched and written numerous documentaries and scripted several feature films.



JAY SEEGERT is co-founder and principal lecturer of the Creation Education Center. Although raised as a Christian, his interest in apologetics and creation science was first stirred while he was attending college and being taught by evolutionists and atheists. It was during this time that he wrote his first paper on creation science and gave his first lecture. Subsequently, he has written his book, *Let There Be Light*.



PAUL WILKINSON serves as associate minister at Hazel Grove Full Gospel Church in Stockport, England. Paul is an international conference speaker, writer, and contributor to Christian television, radio, and documentaries. He has studied and lectured at the International School of Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem and is the author of *Understanding Christian Zionism* (formerly *For Zion’s Sake*).

BBQ CHICKEN LUNCH!



Please join us on August 30 for a BBQ and open house at the offices of The Berean Call! Served just around the corner from the TBC offices, this optional lunch will be prepared by Bend’s award-winning Country Catering. Meal Includes: bbq chicken, beans, potato salad, garlic bread, watermelon, cookies, iced tea, or lemonade. Only \$9.50 a meal ticket!

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