

# PENTECOST



## Power to Be His Witnesses

GARY HARGRAVE



## The Holy Spirit Comes to Make You His Witness

“But you will 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

When we talk about receiving the Holy Spirit, we speak in terms of receiving the multiple gifts and fruit of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4; Galatians 5:22-23). Yet, in all our ideas of what the Holy Spirit is for, we tend to leave out the main reason the Holy Spirit came, which is to enable us to be His witnesses. Have you ever felt, “Why don’t I have the power of the Holy Spirit? Why am I not moving in more gifts of the Spirit?” The reason is that you are focusing on what the Holy Spirit can do for you. And God does not give you the Holy Spirit for you. He gives you the Holy Spirit in order that you might be His witness. If we disconnect the Holy Spirit from being His witnesses, we begin to lose the other attributes of the Holy Spirit. David expressed this idea well in his psalm of repentance.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation  
And sustain me with a willing spirit.  
Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,  
And sinners will be converted to You.

PSALM 51:12-13



David realized that the joy had been lost. When he asked for that to be restored, he was clear that it was not for himself but for telling people about God. When you want more of the Holy Spirit in your life, remember that He comes to be the testimony and witness of Christ to the world. Yeshua (Jesus) said of the Holy Spirit, “When the Helper comes, ... He will testify about Me” (John 15:26). Therefore, being filled with the Spirit means that the Holy Spirit is in you to testify through you as a witness of Christ.



## We Are Led by the Spirit to Witness

**Y**ou might say, “I don’t want to be witnessing. This idea of going door to door and handing out tracts is a real turnoff for me.” Witnessing is more than our concept of leading people into an initial salvation experience. There are many people who have been saved who need the next steps in God. There are many people who need healing and deliverance. There are all kinds of things in God that people need. Therefore, being a witness involves witnessing to others everything God has done for you in Christ. That means you cannot excuse yourself from telling people about Christ just because you dislike some of the ways it has been done.

If you have received the Holy Spirit, then you are to be led by the Spirit. You are the ark of His presence. You carry the Holy Spirit wherever you go. Therefore, you should be finding out where the Spirit wants you to go and with whom the Spirit wants you to speak. Peter said, “We are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit” (Acts 5:32). The Holy Spirit is here to witness. He is here to witness to you and through you to those who need to hear. You cannot say you want to be filled with the Spirit and put the brakes on talking to people. The Scriptures tell us not to quench the Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19). If the Holy Spirit is a witness and you are not witnessing, then tell me you are not quenching the Spirit. The Holy Spirit in you is driven to talk to people.



## The Spirit Is Poured Out to Be a Witness

**W**e love this idea of having power when the Holy Spirit comes. We like having the gifts of the Spirit. But what is our motivation for using these gifts? “Well, I want the word of knowledge and the word of wisdom so I can stand on the platform in church and read people like a book. I want people to see what great miracles I perform when I lay hands on someone.” If you really want to move in miracles, it will not happen because you come to church and pray for people who are sick. It will happen because you allow the Holy Spirit in you to have His testimony. And I can almost guarantee that it will not be in a church setting. It will be when you are in a crowded place at work, and your boss is standing twenty feet from you, and the Holy Spirit gives you a word for a coworker. That is where you decide, “Do I quench the Holy Spirit or not?”

I absolutely believe that another outpouring of God’s Spirit is coming to the earth. The latter rain experience prophesied by Joel is still to come (Joel 2:23). But that will not happen for our personal benefit. It will happen because the earth needs the testimony of Christ, the world needs to hear about the things of God. When the Holy Spirit was poured out on the disciples, the people in Jerusalem who were from different countries and spoke different languages said, “We each hear them proclaiming the wondrous works of God in our own language” (see Acts 2:8-11). The disciples were not just exercising themselves in tongues. I strongly believe in praying in tongues, but the point is not how special it is that I can speak in tongues. The point is expressing what the Holy Spirit wants to say.





## Eyewitnesses of His Resurrection

The apostles were driven to be His witnesses, even to the point of being martyrs, which in the Greek is from the same root word as “witnesses.” They gave their lives as a witness. And what were they witnesses of? They were eyewitnesses of the resurrection of Christ. A witness in court provides a firsthand testimony of an event or a person. Thirdhand testimony is not accepted. A judge or jury will not care if you testify, “He said that she said that they said.” Yet when it comes to witnessing about Christ, we say, “I read the Bible and the disciples saw Jesus resurrected.” There is no power in a thirdhand testimony. There is no power in telling people, “I know the Bible says this, and I know my parents had that experience” or, “Someone I know had this happen for them.”

It must be your truth that you witness to. You do not want to have a belief in what Christ did. You want to experience it yourself. You must experience the resurrection firsthand. In reality, the experience we call initial salvation is the experience of His resurrection because His resurrection is what provided for our salvation. The problem is that too many people have a salvation experience that is based on a type of mental agreement. They hear about Christ and at some point, they say, “Okay, I believe that happened.” That is a good place to start, but the Lord wants us to have a deeper experience.



## He Is a Personal God

I liken it to the story of the disciples seeing Yeshua walk on water across the Sea of Galilee. They were all amazed as they sat in their boat and watched this happen. But Peter decided to step out of the boat and walk with the Lord on the water. He was successful for a while until he looked at the strong winds and panicked. As he was sinking, he cried, “Lord, save me!” And Yeshua pulled him out of the water (Matthew 14:22-31). Peter experienced something different than the other disciples. The disciples in the boat observed God do something, but Peter had a salvation experience. The disciples believed that God did it, but Peter believed in the salvation that happened for him personally. Observing God do something or having a head knowledge about Yeshua from an educational or theological standpoint is far different than knowing personally that God saved you from death. I think sometimes we lose the idea that God wants to be a personal God. He is driven to be a personal God to you, and He is set to save you out of your troubles and problems beyond your initial salvation.

Think back on what has happened to you. There must have been problems in your life that you prayed about, and God came through for you. Perhaps there were times when you were close to being killed and the Lord saved you. Maybe the Lord delivered you from situations or difficulties in your life that could have destroyed you. You should not treat those experiences as small things. You need to remember them because God was intervening in your life to be your Savior. You should walk around with them in your conscious mind because otherwise you are trying to witness about something that someone else witnessed.

There is something very personal when the Holy Spirit comes. When He fills you, He fills you with the reality of the testimony of God and Christ Jesus, and you begin to be a firsthand eyewitness of that. Then God puts you through experiences that you could view as being negative or spiritual warfare or satan coming against you. The truth is that God allows it because He is making you a firsthand eyewitness to His salvation. We read in Psalm 118:17, “I will not die, but live, and tell of the works of the LORD.” The reason we are alive, the reason God delivers us, is so that we declare His works to the world. Do you want God to heal you? Do you want God to deliver you from something? Then ask yourself, “If God answers my prayer, what does He get out of it?” I know what He wants out of it. He wants us to be filled with the Holy Spirit and be His witnesses in all the earth. Everything that happens to us and for us should be an opportunity for Him to witness to the world what He did in our lives, all the way from our first initial salvation experiences to everything else we experience.



## Our Focus at Pentecost

**A**t Pentecost, we ask the Lord for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. But the way we get that is by truly being His witnesses because that is why the Holy Spirit comes. That is what He is doing in your life. He wants to witness to all the world. Yeshua said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few” (Matthew 9:37). We must be the workers who bring in the harvest. I am looking for us to change what is happening in the United States right now. But that will not happen because we complain about it or get involved in the arguments and divisions over sexual orientation or race or the economy. What people need is an experience with Christ. That is what will change things. It is easy to complain about all the loss of morality in the world. But is your testimony changing it? We do not need to focus on the negative things people are in. Yeshua came to die for those people. They may be in sin, but God has a plan for them, and they will not know of His plan unless you witness to them.

I encourage you to spend time with this. Let the Lord renew the joy of your salvation. Let the Lord remind you of every time He moved in your life. Then start thanking Him, and when you walk around bubbling over with thankfulness, you can share with someone how thankful you are for what God has done for you. That is when you will see the miracles and signs and wonders take place. It will happen when the Holy Spirit moves through you because the heart of the Father who sent Yeshua into the world is reaching out to some individual you happen to be near, and He is looking to touch the life of that person.



# ABOUT GARY HARGRAVE



GARY HARGRAVE has a passion for leading people into spiritual maturity. Gary effectively ministers the life-changing truth of God's Word through Bible teaching and prophetic revelation that emphasizes the Lordship of Christ.

Gary embraces the teachings and insights of the Hebrew Scriptures as the essential foundation of God's Kingdom and the roots of Christian faith.

By cultivating spiritual maturity in Christians, Gary is deeply committed to teaching and inspiring unity in the Body of Christ and between Christians and the Jewish people.

Throughout decades of ministry, Gary has worked closely with leaders in the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant communities to build relationships based on commonality and understanding. He frequently leads study tours to Israel and the lands of the Bible.

Gary is the host of a weekly podcast entitled *Growing In God*, and is the founder of Shiloh University, an accredited online Bible college and seminary.

Gary and his family reside in Hawaii.

**For other insightful resources by Gary Hargrave, including podcasts, books, articles, videos, and other educational materials, please visit: [www.HargraveMinistries.org](http://www.HargraveMinistries.org).**

## ABOUT HARGRAVE MINISTRIES

The calling of the Lord upon this ministry is to lead people into spiritual maturity by revealing biblical truth. **Our passion is to see the Kingdom of God manifest on earth** as the Body of Christ grows in unity, power and love.

Everything we do flows from the revelation of the Jewish roots of our Christian faith. It is our desire and privilege to bless the land and people of Israel. Our Israel outreach includes:

- **Feed the poor and break the cycle of poverty in Israel**
- **Support the orphans and widows of fallen Israeli soldiers**
- Provide physical and emotional care to **child victims of terrorism**
- **Build bridges between Christians and Jews with biblical study and research**
- Support archaeology and preservation of the **biblical City of David**
- Provide 24/7 **care for Holocaust survivors**
- **Help persecuted Jews around the world return to Israel and start new lives**
- Plant trees to **reforest Israel** and help create **"The Gospel Trail"** between Nazareth and Capernaum

Hargrave Ministries is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization supported through the generous contributions of ministry friends and partners. To learn more about the work of Hargrave Ministries or to partner in its outreach to Israel, please visit: [www.HargraveMinistries.org](http://www.HargraveMinistries.org)

