

THE INSIDE RUNNING

I have experienced and seen the Holy Spirit do dramatic things. That has given me a firm conviction of the reality of God in my life. Even if I ran away from God, I could never deny the truths I have known.

I have got to the stage of life where I desperately need physical exercise. I walk most days on a loop that takes me up the street, down a steep path, through the bush to the coast, then back via another track. A spot overlooking the harbour has become the place where I pause and talk with God. Almost immediately the Holy Spirit gives me a download that is personal, reassuring and loving. This has become really important to me as I traverse life's valleys as well as the mountaintops.

My 11-year-old son Isaac has been with me a couple of times. When we stopped recently he said, "This is where you talk with God!" After we paused, I asked him if God had said anything to him. Without hesitation Isaac told me the message that he had just downloaded!

The first and last 200m of my walk are along the same stretch of road. On my way out, I'm looking uphill at a streetscape of houses and cars. On my way back I'm grateful that the last stretch is downhill! But I'm really appreciative that the view is out across the Manukau Harbour. It nourishes my soul.

Our walk with God and our view of the Holy Spirit is similar in a way – it's the direction we are looking in. When we are walking together with God in the power of the Holy Spirit our eyes can be lifted beyond our circumstances. It's a matter of perspective.



John

John

The Holy Spirit - Purpose & Power

April 2012

There's got to be purpose & power

By Steve Berger

Christ's final command is actually His strategic perspective for the Church. Over the last couple of weeks I have bumped into people and said, "Hey, tell me what Jesus' final command was – what was the last commandment that Jesus gave?" And people rush through their mind, I can see the Bible pages turning, you know, and somebody says, "Well was it love one another?" No, it wasn't love one another. And then they go through the rest of the gospels, and then they come to Matthew chapter 28. "There, that's it - go into all the world, preach the gospel and make disciples, THAT'S the last command of Jesus, right? It's the end of the gospels, what else could there be?" MORE! Way more!

And being assembled together with them, He [Jesus] commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptised with water, but you shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to

know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:4-8

You need to be filled with supernatural power before you can go and do supernatural work

Here's the deal: Jesus' final command wasn't in the gospels. Jesus' final command to His disciples was in the book of Acts, and I've got to tell you this tonight, the word is command and not suggestion. The word is command and not option. The word is command in the truest sense of the word. This is Jesus commanding His people. I want that to get in your heart. Jesus' final command is found in the book of Acts – it is not "go into all the world and preach the gospel," but it is in fact what makes our going and preaching the gospel effective.

Jesus' final command to His disciples was to wait in Jerusalem UNTIL the baptism of the Holy Spirit happened to them. They had to have the baptism of the Holy Spirit before they went to preach the gospel. He told them in Matthew 28 and Mark 16, go preach the gospel. But He said, "Before you do that WAIT, because something needs to happen to you before you can go and be effective. **You need to be filled with supernatural power before you can go and do supernatural work.**" Doesn't that make sense? And He commanded them, He didn't suggest. He didn't say, "This is an option". He didn't say, "You can go and do gospel work in human fleshly effort". No matter how good your marketing is, no matter how good your gifting might be, **if there is not anointing and authority on your gifting from Heaven, then it's not going to produce.** It might sound good, >

> but the end results are not going to be eternal...

But this is **SO** important. Jesus commanded them and said, "Guys, listen - before you go anywhere, get the power of the Holy Spirit on your life". And then shockingly, it's as if they don't even hear a thing... What they wanted and what they expected was a natural kingdom in order to bring physical comfort and peaceful patriotic life... "Is this when You are going to restore the Kingdom to Israel? Is this when the Romans are going to get kicked out of here?"

Do you see where their minds were? ...If we could just get our politics right, the people of God will flourish. **God's Kingdom is not bound by good politics or bad politics. God's power is for the people of God, for us to flourish - in comfort or crisis...**

He said, "I want to do something in you that is bigger than, and doesn't depend upon, your physical comfort. I want to do something and be bigger in your life, than you having a comfortable [retirement fund]. I want to be your peace in the middle of the storm. I want you to love Me when you lose your job. I want you to be able to praise Me and stand for Me when all hell has broken loose against you and you can still look at a lost, mad world and say, 'Jesus is enough!'" ■

See full article on this month's DVD ROM.

Steve Berger is senior pastor to 4,000 people at Grace Chapel, Nashville. He is an author, teacher, sports fan and duck hunter. Steve points to Acts 4:13, "God uses the foolish to confound the wise. I feel like that's me," Steve said. "I feel like I'm the uneducated and the untrained guy... but I've been with Jesus. My qualification is my calling, not my education."



What's on the DVD



FEATURED SPEAKER:

Brian France – "Christ's Final Command"

Brian has served in the RAF Regiment, been ordained a Methodist minister and had the greatest experience of his life – encountering the Holy Spirit. In this message he unpacks Christ's mandate of waiting for Him to fill us and the importance of that to our personal ministry. 25 min 16

DRAMA: To Be or Not to Be? 4 min

BONUS FEATURES:

- **My Story** - Brian France 14 min 40
- **My Story** - Dave Robinson 2 min
- **PK Music** - Open the Eyes of My Heart 4 min 14
- **Break Free 2012 Men's Event promo** 1 min 12
- **Refreshed & Released Pastors' Conference promo** 1 min 30
- **Sexual Healing** Rap by Jefferson Bethke 4 min 47
- **Involving Young Men in Church** - David Murrow interviews Mark Driscoll and asks why his church, Mars Hill, has been so successful with young men. 7 min
- **Building Your Men's Ministry** - Introduction to a new Webinar and how this short course will benefit your church. 18 min

HUMOUR CLIPS: Arabs street skating; dog advertises itself at pound; coffin in elevator; how to use an iPad 4 min 07

BETTER WORK STORIES: Two workers climb a 1,768ft radio tower. If you are not scared of heights you may be after seeing this! 7 min 32

DVD ROM

Access these using Windows Explorer on a PC

ARTICLES: Pat Morley – The Two Testaments; Derek Prince – Two Wonderful Results; Asher Intrater – Oil & the Oil Press; Ian Buckley – Good Leaders are Good

Listeners, Improving Your Hearing; Steve Berger – There's Got to Be Anointing... Power... Purpose; Jeff Bethke – Sexual Healing, words from video; Derek Prince – Rejection to Acceptance Pt 1 & Pt 2. (Thanks to *Derek Prince Ministries* for supplying a hard copy of Pt1 of this article with this issue of *WiseChoices*.)

RESOURCES: A Godly Home – PK Canada devotional on marriage • PK Men's Small Group Weekly Studies April/May • *Game On* 2011 Comments – Wellington and Christchurch • Book: Receiving the Gifts of the Holy Spirit – Bill Subritzky • Week One – Claude King, booklet for new Christians • *Break Free* 2012 Advance Brochure • Coaching Brochure • Study Questions and PowerPoint – Brian France • Bible Website Links • Bible Reading Plans • PK Ministry

MP3s: Including • Derek Prince – Holy Spirit is a Person 53 min • USA Steve Berger – There's Got to Be Anointing... Power... Purpose 44 min • PKNZ Classics: Graeme Lauridsen "High Octane Fuel" Fuel 07 38 min, Geoff Wiklund LNMB "Courage Under Fire" *Leave No Man Behind* 08 33 min, Graham Cruickshank "Reconciliation" *The Challenge* 03 36 min • Brian France – Christ's Final Command 25 min 16 • David Murrow – Interview with Mark Driscoll 7 min • PK Music – Open the Eyes of My Heart 4 min 14 • My Story – Brian France 14 min 40



"... So that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord." Acts 3:19

Geoff Wiklund has a heart to see the wounded healed and to spark encouragement in pastors. This will be a time to grow together and come to a great place in God.

Auckland 27-28 June. Limited to 40 places. \$40 per person. Open to men and women pastors.

PROMISE #1

A Promise Keeper honours Jesus Christ through worship, prayer and obedience to God's Word in the power of the Holy Spirit.

NEXT ISSUE: FREEDOM THROUGH FORGIVENESS

Promise Keepers has created a powerful interactive course to equip you with the knowledge and skills you need to successfully promote and run a power-filled, dynamic Men's Ministry.

Watch the "How to Build Your Ministry with Men" intro video on this month's DVD, then get more details from the PK website. Cost is \$99 per church. Starts 17 April.



PK Men's Events 2012 - Book Early!

- ♦ Christchurch 24-25 Aug 2012
- ♦ Wellington 14-15 Sep 2012 0800 PROMISE (77 66 47)
- ♦ Auckland 5-6 Oct 2012

