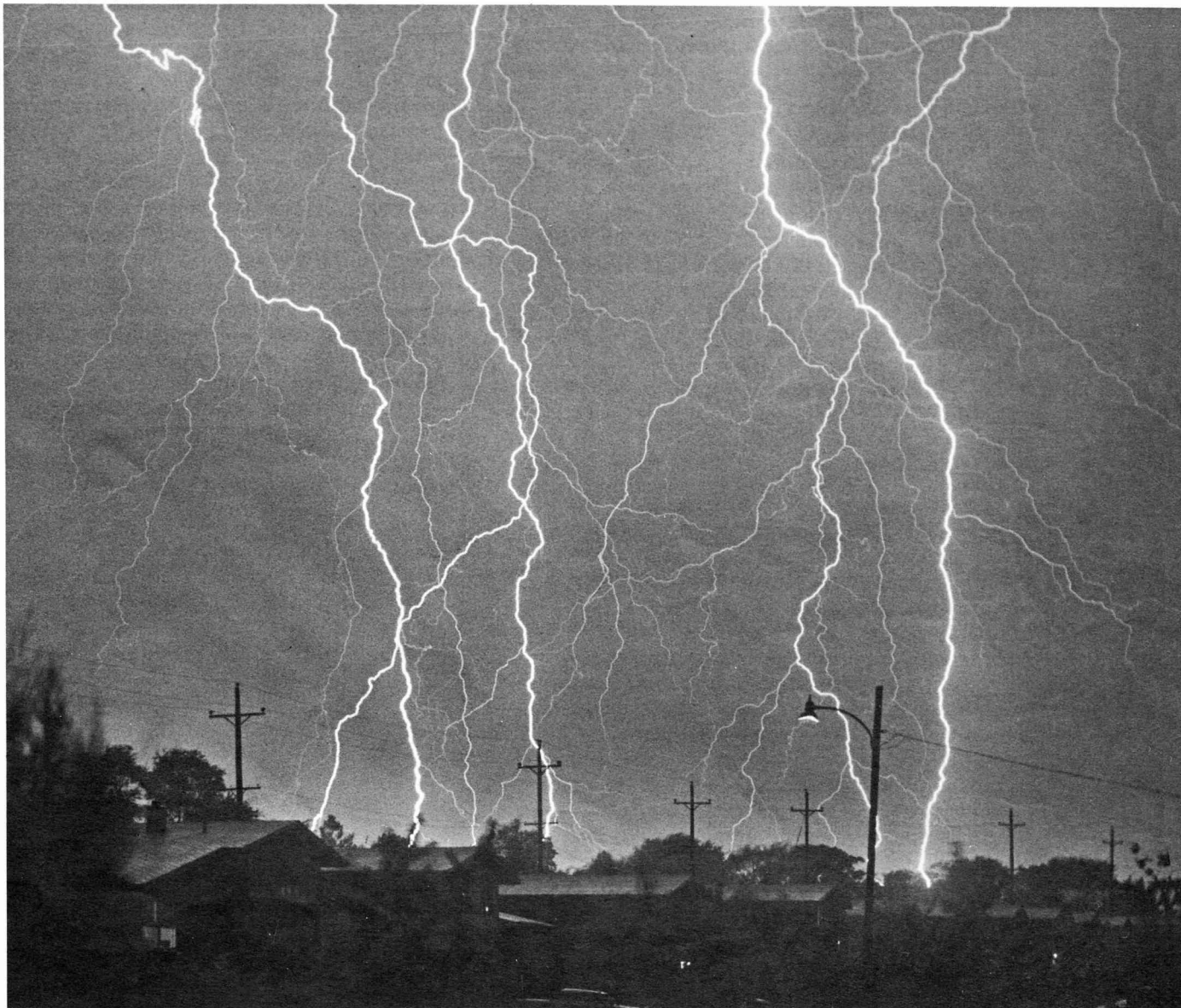




# *Ambassador College*

## **CORRESPONDENCE COURSE**

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**The POWER of God!**

**LESSON 20**

# What our STUDENTS SAY

## On Lesson 20

"I am on my 20th lesson of your study course, and I never realized how many ministers of the gospel knew so little about the Bible! I have learned more from your Bible study and booklets than I ever learned in my 58 years of going to church!"

— Fred E., Gastonia, North Carolina

• *We're glad to hear you're understanding the truth, Fred. Scores of ministers enrolled in this course have come to this same stark realization!*

## Adventure in Learning

"Quite a while back I sent for your Ambassador College Correspondence Course and was coming along fine with it. I enjoyed what I received so very much. I thought I knew my Bible, but soon found much eye-opening information I knew nothing about, and other parts became more understandable. It clarified many things for me, and to me became an adventure in learning. The farther along I got, the more anxious I was to find and learn more."

— Mrs. Dorothea E.,  
Costa Mesa, California

## Thoroughly Satisfying

"The one thing you have done is 'Put the Bible Together.' Ministers tend to preach on one verse at a time, without fully explaining why it should be that way; or they treat much of the Bible as myth or history not to be observed, or too many points are left unexplained.

"For example, suppose I were to present you with a glass of water. You would wonder what kind — rainwater, well-water, river-water, cistern-water, or maybe it came from a spring. Then you might ask if the water were stagnant, sterile, sulphur, iron, boiled, etc. Such is as some preachers' sermons — incomplete. But I find your articles thoroughly satisfying and to the point.

"I have enjoyed the course immensely so far, and after Test One, I am looking forward to continuing my studies. I want every booklet available surrounding the subject matter as it is being discussed. I have read my Bible a lot, but became discouraged because I could not understand so much of it. But with your help I find

(Please continue on page 16)

## AMBASSADOR COLLEGE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

### LESSON 20

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### EDITOR

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

### EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Garner Ted Armstrong

### MANAGING EDITOR

Richard H. Sedliacik

### Staff Writers

Lawson C. Briggs William F. Dankenbring

### Editorial Assistant

George L. Johnson

### Art Staff

Arthur Ferdig

William S. Schuler Basil Wolverton

### Circulation Manager

Edward C. Kleier

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New Zealand: P.O. Box 2709, Auckland 1

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## About Our Cover . . .

These spectacular lightning bolts are vivid manifestations of the *power* of God! Man stands in awe of the tremendous forces of nature. Yet few realize that the physical laws governing such phenomena were originally set in motion, and are kept operating, by the *dynamic* Spirit of God. God sits at the controls of the entire universe — He rules and sustains His entire creation by the *POWER* of the *Holy Spirit!*

H. Armstrong Roberts Photo

# THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ACTION!

**J**ESUS promised His disciples: "Ye shall receive POWER, after that the HOLY SPIRIT is come upon you" (Acts 1:8).

What did Jesus mean by this statement? Is this the *same power*—the *same spirit*—that resided in Christ and enabled Him to *obey* God perfectly? How does Jesus' promise also apply to Christians today? Here is the amazing truth!

## Power Not Inherent!

Practically no one today understands what the Holy Spirit of God really is. Many have *falsely* assumed and vaguely thought of it as something "mystic"—a conception of nothingness—a hovering, fluttering "ghost," a *third* person of a "trinity."

We hear a lot today about tapping our *own hidden resources*—our "inner consciousness"—the "dormant powers" within the mind. Modern religions are springing up claiming you possess by nature great powers *within yourself*.

But the TRUTH of the matter is that the Holy Spirit is something that was *NOT BORN IN YOU!* You were *not* born with this great power. It is something you must *receive* from God! (Acts 2:38.)

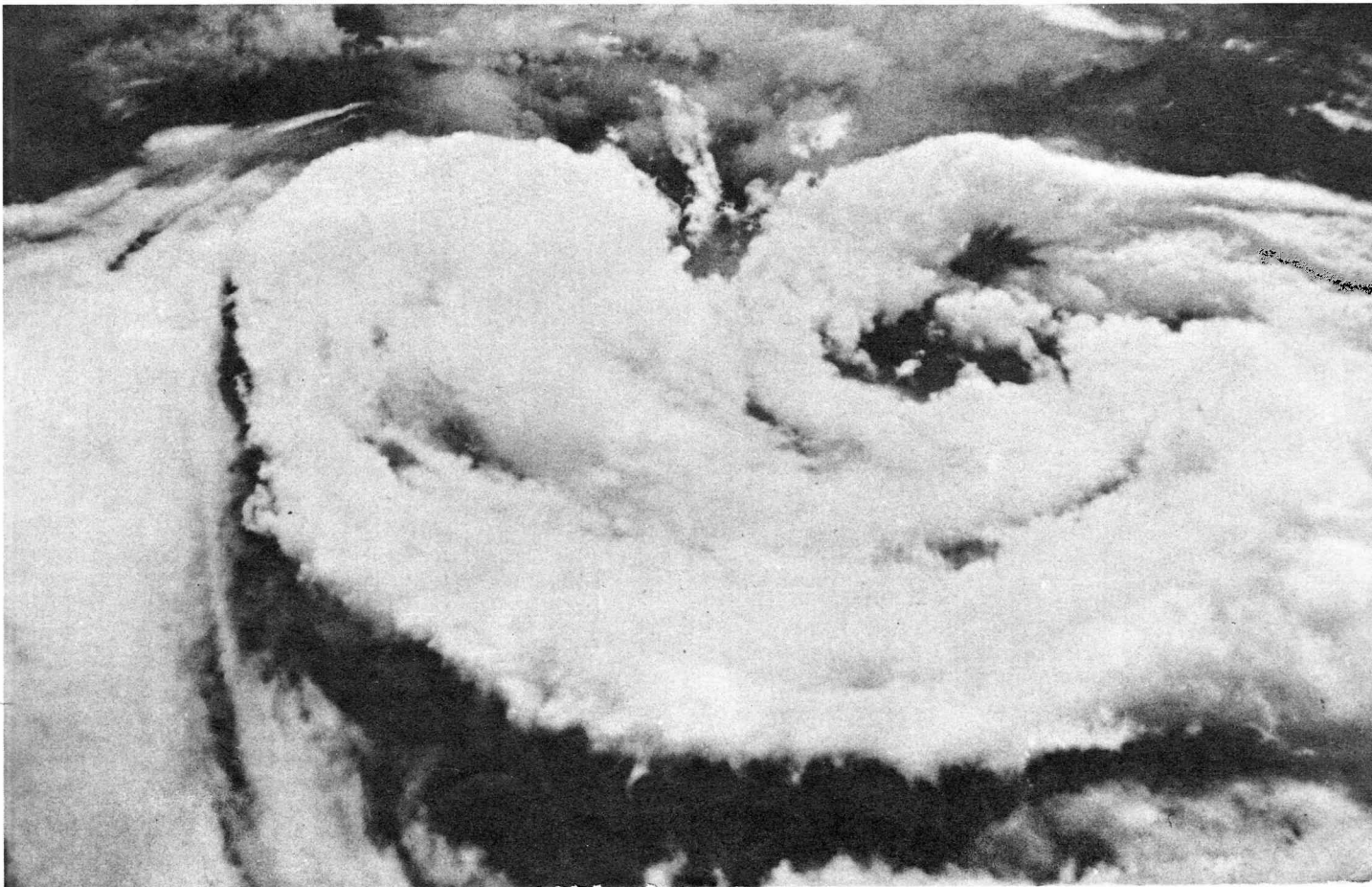
Most people don't realize that the HOLY SPIRIT is a TREMENDOUS SOURCE of dynamic, SUPERNATURAL POWER that can *become a part of our very minds*. It is the very *essence* of God Himself—His very life, His mind, His nature—and it *imparts power!* And *this* is the power we must have working within us before we can be *born* as God's Sons!

## Jesus Had the Power

Let's look at the example of Jesus Christ, whose life was completely FILLED with this supernatural power. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, He performed mighty miracles (Acts 2:22). He HEALED the SICK. He cast out demons, and He had discernment to know

**AWESOME POWER** — A camera's-eye view of a hurricane's eye, as taken from a jet plane. The average hurricane unleashes energy equivalent to TEN Hiroshima-type atomic bomb blasts — in just one second!

Wide World Photo



whether or not a person was demon possessed. He **STILLED** the **STORM** and turned water into wine.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus *kept* God's laws — the Ten Commandments — *perfectly!* (I Peter 2:21, 22.)

Jesus possessed tremendous power, but He said, "I can of *mine own self* do nothing!" (John 5:30.)

Few realize that His miracles and obedience were *not* done by any supernatural power of *His own*. They were done through the *power* of the *Father!* **JESUS EXPLAINED:** "The **FATHER** that dwelleth **IN ME**, *He* **DOETH THE WORKS!**" (John 14:10.) The Father dwelt in Him *through* the Holy Spirit!

### Power to Obey God's Law

Contrary to the common teaching among religious circles today, Jesus **DID NOT** do away with God's laws! Rather, He established and *magnified* them to *greater spiritual requirements* (Isaiah 42:21). He taught it is now a sin just to **HATE** a brother in one's **MIND!** (Matthew 5:21-22; I John 3:15.)

**CHRIST MAGNIFIED THE LAW** to its highest spiritual fulfillment and showed all the earth—by the life *He* lived—**HOW** it is to be fulfilled in its *perfect, spiritual intent!* Control of bodily actions is no longer enough. Now **THE MIND**, the **HEART**, must also become *pure* — **SINLESS** — just as Christ's was!

But the "no-law" deceiver will object, "No man can keep the commandments in their true spiritual intent. It is not *humanly* possible."

That's *right!* **IT ISN'T HUMANLY POSSIBLE!** Israel, under the Old Covenant, *proved* that carnal man, without the *power* of the Holy Spirit, could not keep God's law when even *less* of its fulfillment was required. They never even *approached* the fulfilling of the royal, *spiritual* law! And neither can we, *of ourselves*. We need the *miraculous power of the Holy Spirit of God!*

### Holy Spirit Now Available

Creation is *still* going on! God continues to work out His great *plan* for man — even at this very moment! He made man — His greatest masterpiece of *physical* creation — of the dust of the ground, in the *clay image* of Himself (Genesis 1:26; 2:7).

But He did not at that time put His *Spirit*—the Holy Spirit—within man. Yet, this is the *only power* which will enable man to keep the supreme *spiritual law* of *love*—the Ten Commandments! And since man was made of *matter* and is mortal—having only a temporary

physical life maintained by eating food, drinking water, breathing air, and the circulation of blood, wherein is the only "life" he possesses—God's Holy Spirit alone can impart *eternal life!*

Jesus Christ came to *herald* the glorious coming of the Holy Spirit. He said: "He that *believeth* on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly *shall flow* rivers of *living water!* But this spake He of the *Spirit*, which they that believe on Him *should receive*" (John 7:38-39).

Peter then clearly defined the way to *receive* this Spirit of power: "*Repent*, and be *baptized* ... and ye shall receive the *gift* of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

**The TIME IS NOW HERE!** The Holy Spirit can now begin to dwell in *you*. It is the *only power* strong enough to enable you—composed of *weak*, mortal flesh — to keep the commandments and unlock the treasure house of blessings that God desires to bestow upon you *in this life*, and ultimately impart *life for all eternity!*

But the vast majority of people are *blinded* to this truth. Instead, they are attempting to gain these tremendous blessings by their *own* power, even though all the years of human history reveal man's *utter failure!*

Just *how powerful* is the Holy Spirit we all must have in order to keep God's laws, and receive eternal life? Here is the astounding truth made *plain* — from your Bible! See here the **MIRACULOUS POWER** of the Holy Spirit *in action!*

But before you begin, remember that this is a **BIBLE STUDY** course. It is not just something for you to *read* through quickly. What we have written is intended to *help* you **STUDY** your **BIBLE** — to learn the Truth of God. The one textbook of this course is *your BIBLE!* Always have your Bible open before you when you sit down to study with a lesson.

You will find Bible study the most thrilling — the most interesting and **IMPORTANT** experience of your whole life — **IF** you apply yourself and really **STUDY!** Now we're ready to begin this exciting lesson.

## LESSON 20

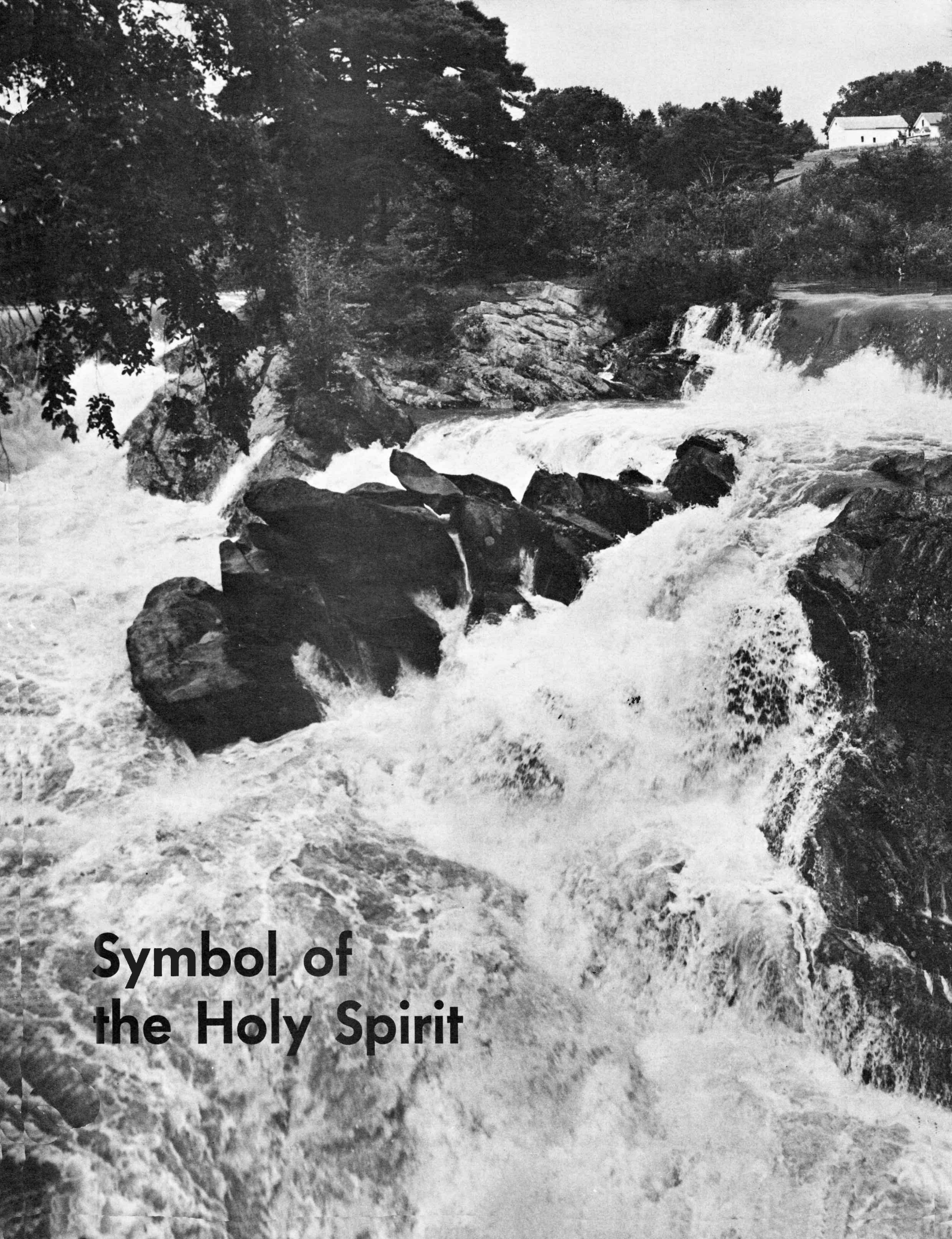
### Power of the Holy Spirit Demonstrated

1. Where does power reside? Psalms 62:11. Are all things possible with God? Mat. 19:26.

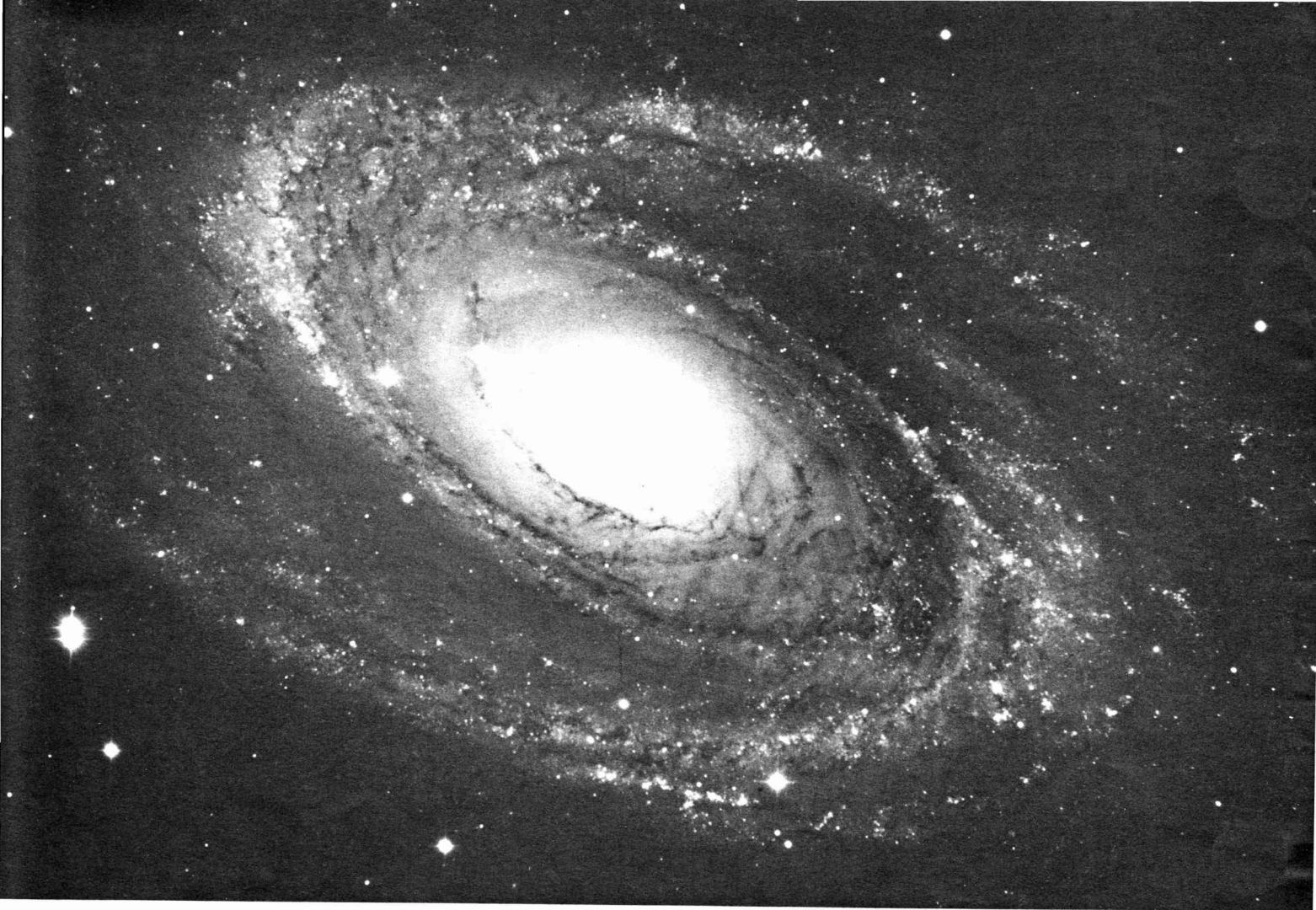
H. Armstrong Roberts Photo

Jesus compared the Holy Spirit to active, dynamic "rivers of living water" that He gives to those who thirst for it.





**Symbol of  
the Holy Spirit**



Mount Wilson and Palomar Observatories Photo

**GOD'S HANDIWORK** — This spiral galaxy contains billions of stars. God says He created the entire universe by the mighty **POWER** of His Spirit!

Then isn't God *all powerful*? Same verse.

**2.** Who created the heavens and the earth? Gen. 1:1. Did God do this by His *power*? Jer. 32:17.

COMMENT: GOD IS THE CREATOR! Here you are seeing the creative power of the Spirit of God in *action*! God the Father and God the Son are *composed of Spirit* (John 4:24). *This Spirit* is also the Spirit of *great power*!

**3.** Did the Spirit of God TRANSFORM the *creative energy* of God — a thing which *cannot* be seen — into the physical creation we can see around us? Heb. 11:3.

**4.** How did God utilize this power in His work of creation? Did He only have to command? Psalms 148:5 and 33:9. Also Gen. 1:2-3.

COMMENT: God "*spake*, and it was *done*." He is the One who said, "Let there be light" — and the Spirit of God moving upon the face of the waters *performed* the command, and "there was light" — *instantly*! The Holy Spirit is a miracle-working power. It overcomes obstacles. This is the Spirit of *power* we need within us!

Now read the entire brief 26th chapter of Job for more vivid illustrations of God's *infinite power*.

**5.** Did God also create *man* by His Spirit of *power*? Gen. 2:7; John 1:1-3.

**6.** Does God's Holy Spirit — His miraculous power — *permeate everything* — even the entire universe? Psalms 139:7-8. Is it also compared symbolically to *flowing water*? John 7:38-39.

COMMENT: It is obvious that the Holy Spirit could *not* be a separate being — the so-called "third person" of a "trinity"!

**7.** Does God *sustain* and *uphold* His creation by the power of the Holy Spirit? Neh. 9:6 and Heb. 1:3. Is He also *ruling* by this power? Psalms 66:7.

COMMENT: Here is further demonstration of the *power* of the Holy Spirit which we must have working *within us*. God sits at the controls of the entire universe — and He rules and sustains everything by the **POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!**



8. Is God's miraculous power revealed to us through His *physical* creation? Rom. 1:19-20. Also read rapidly Job, chapters 36:22 through to 42:6, to see how *great* God really is!

COMMENT: *All things are possible for God to perform!* (Luke 1:37.) Do you realize the full impact of that statement? Yes, God's INCOMPREHENSIBLE POWER — by which He created the universe with its *trillions of stars* and made man from the dust of the ground — is so GREAT, that absolutely *nothing* is impossible with Him! He has *absolute* power! And a *part* of that very SAME POWER CAN BE IN YOU!

### Spirit Rejected in Eden

1. Is "the mind of the *flesh*" — the carnal mind with which you and I were born — capable of obeying God's *spiritual* laws? Rom. 8:7-8. What does this *carnally motivated* mind produce? Verse 6. But what is the product of a *spirit-directed* mind? Same verse.

2. Is God's Spirit a *sound* and *sensible*, *loving* mind? II Tim. 1:7.

COMMENT: A human mind *united with* and *guided by* the Holy Spirit of God leads to *peace, power and eternal life!* But the *carnal* mind, *without* God's Spirit, is *HOSTILE* toward God and cannot think clearly. Without it you are only "half there," so to speak.

To put it plainly, *we are not fully sound-minded* until we obtain *God's mind!* Until we receive it, we are totally motivated by our *inherently evil*, carnal minds (Jer. 17:9).

The *sound mind* which comes through the indwelling of God's Spirit means just what it implies. It is a truly *balanced* mind. The man possessing it is a *balanced man*—a *whole* man—united with and guided by the Supreme Mind of the universe!

3. Was the Holy Spirit of God available to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden? Gen. 2:9. But from what tree did they *choose* to eat? Gen. 2:17; 3:3, 6, 7. *Sin* seems pleasant—at *first!* Then Adam and Eve *CHOSE* *not* to follow God's way to salvation, and thereby *rejected* the Holy Spirit — didn't they?

4. What was Adam and Eve's GREAT PUNISHMENT for disobeying God? Gen. 3:17-19, 22-24.

COMMENT: If Adam and Eve had partaken of the tree in the Garden of Eden that represented God's *Holy Spirit* — the "tree of [eternal] life" — they would have received the *spiritual* mind of God, and ultimately eternal life, if they had *continued* to obey God. But Adam and Eve had to *desire* the Spirit of God and *surrender* themselves to God's will in order to receive His Holy Spirit of *eternal* life — exactly as all must

do *today* to receive it. *There has never been but this one way to salvation!* But Adam and Eve *chose* NOT to receive the Holy Spirit and eternal life *God's way!*

Instead, they followed after the way that pleased their *own carnal nature* — the *WAY* that leads only to death (Gen. 2:17). And because of this *sin*, God *WITHHELD* His Holy Spirit of love and eternal life from mankind (Gen. 3:24).

From the very minute mortal man *disobeyed* God, he was *CUT OFF* FROM ACCESS to the Spirit of God and the *gift* of eternal life! Ever since then, God has *ALLOWED* MAN TO GO HIS OWN WAY. God has set apart 6,000 years during which He has *allowed* mankind to "*burn its fingers*" — to learn that following the dictates of the *carnal mind* leads only to misery and death! And mankind, as a whole, *has continued choosing* the way of disobedience to God (Rom. 3:23). Without



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**CONSEQUENCES OF SIN** — Artist's conception of Adam and Eve being driven from the Garden of Eden and the tree of life, as punishment for disobeying their Creator.

the Holy Spirit, suffering and death have resulted!

But in His great mercy and love for mankind, God promised to make His Holy Spirit available to man once again!

### Spirit of Power Promised to Man!

1. Why was Israel of old *unable* to keep even the *letter* of God's law contained in the Old Covenant? Deut. 5:29.

COMMENT: Israel was a physical, *carnal* church! (Acts 7:38.) They *did not have the strength of character* — the "heart" — to be faithful in keeping their covenant vow because they *did not possess* God's Holy Spirit! It was *not available* to them since there was *no promise of receiving the Holy Spirit at that time!* (John 7:39.) From the time of Adam, God was letting man see the effects of living *without* the Holy Spirit!

Therefore, the *righteousness* under the *first* covenant *had* to be accomplished through human — *fleshly* — effort. But their *disobedience* *proves* they couldn't obey God's laws by *human power alone!*

2. How did God say He would make it *possible* for men to OBEY His laws? Ezek. 36:26-27.

3. Will the *Holy Spirit* ultimately be made available to *EVERYONE* who *chooses* to receive it? Joel 2:28-29.

4. Remember that the Holy Spirit is compared to *living waters* (John 7:38). Who, then, is the *fountain source* of the Holy Spirit of life and power? Jer. 17:13 and John 4:10, 14.

COMMENT: Jesus Christ is the *mediator* of a "better covenant" which contains "better promises" (Heb. 8:6). Among these precious promises is the *gift* of the Holy Spirit which is compared to *flowing water*.

5. Did God promise to give His Spirit of power to those who *sincerely desire* — "thirst" — for it? Isa. 44:3 and John 7:37-39.

COMMENT: The Scriptures plainly show that the Holy Spirit *can* be placed *within* man! For "out of his" — *man's* — "*belly* [his innermost being] *shall flow rivers* of living water."

6. When was the Holy Spirit to be made available to mankind? John 7:39 and 16:7. Doesn't this prove that the Holy Spirit (the "comforter") was not generally available to mankind *before* Christ's death and ascension to heaven?

7. Did Jesus specifically promise that the Holy Spirit would dwell in his disciples—His followers? John 14:17.

COMMENT: When God created man of the dust of the ground, He did not place an obedi-

ent nature within him. And when God offered Adam the *opportunity* of receiving the Holy Spirit and eternal life as a *gift*, man's *rebellious nature* went contrary to God and *CHOSE* the way that has brought only suffering and death!

But God, in His great mercy, *FORETOLD* of a time when He would *once again* — after man had experienced the *tragic consequences* of living without the Holy Spirit — offer His Spirit to mankind so all could obey the spiritual law, and reap the physical and *spiritual* blessings the world really desires. The *New Covenant* promises all this!

### Christ Received Great Power!

1. Did Christ — the "Word" — become *human flesh and blood*, with human nature? Heb. 2:9, 14; John 1:14 and Heb. 4:14, 15. Was He *miraculously begotten physically* by the Holy Spirit of power? Mat. 1:18-20.

COMMENT: Jesus miraculously became a *human being*. In His flesh was the *same human carnal nature* that you and I have. But Christ would have had *no* supernatural power except for *one* thing. He was also begotten *spiritually* by the Holy Spirit. By *this* begetting He derived His *spiritual power*.

Jesus' miraculous *PHYSICAL* begetting is a *type* illustrating our *SPIRITUAL* begetting by which the miracle-working power of the Holy Spirit will help *change* and strengthen us!

2. Did God the Father completely fill Jesus with His Spirit of power? John 3:34 and Col. 1:19. What did Christ do with this tremendous power? Acts 10:38.

3. What are a few of the many breathtaking, *divine miracles* Jesus performed by the *power* of God's Holy Spirit dwelling within Him? Read them for yourself *now!*

What did Christ *do* to water? John 2:1-11. How did Jesus, through the divine power of God, deal with a *demon-possessed* man? Mark 1:23-28. Was Jesus able to *cleanse* — COMPLETELY HEAL — a leper? Mark 1:40-42.

4. What did Christ do to the waves of a roaring sea? Mat. 8:23-27. In what way did Christ show mercy to two blind men? Mat. 9:27-31. What *miracle* did the *power* of the Holy Spirit perform through Jesus for the man with a withered hand? Mat. 12:9-13.

5. How were five thousand people *miraculously fed* by Jesus? Mat. 14:15-21. Was the *power of God* that Christ possessed so great that just a *touch* of His garment healed the sick? Mat. 14:34-36. What did Jesus even do to Lazarus by God's power? John 11:39-45.

COMMENT: These are only a *few* of Jesus' as-



tounding miracles recorded in the four gospels. God's *miracle-working* power was amply demonstrated through the *human* body of Jesus Christ. That *same* power of the Holy Spirit can work *in* and *through* you, too! This power is the *only* power which can CHANGE you from your present evil, carnal self into a *spiritual* character acceptable to God!

6. Did Jesus admit He was powerless to do anything by His *own strength*? John 5:30. Then *who* did all these marvelous works? John 14:10.

COMMENT: Jesus, *powerless* of His own human self, *was filled with the divine power of the Father!* The supernatural power of God the Father did the *work* of God through Christ's *human body*.

Jesus had *emptied* Himself of the divine glory and power He had *with* the Father from eternity! He became *flesh* — just like you and I. He plainly said He could of Himself — with His own *human* strength — DO NOTHING! *Neither can we!*

7. Did Jesus Christ set a *perfect example* for us in *all* things? Should we *imitate Him*? I Pet. 2:21. In what other way did Jesus set us an *example* that WE SHOULD FOLLOW in His steps? John 15:10. Read also Mat. 19:17.

8. Did Jesus keep and teach more than just the letter of the law? Isa. 42:21 and Mat. 5:27-28, 43-44.

COMMENT: Jesus revealed that God's law is a *spiritual* law. Today a person not only breaks the command against adultery by performing the physical act, but if he *just looks* and *lusts* after a woman in his own *heart* and *mind*, he has already committed adultery with her! This *mental act* disobeys the *spiritual intent* of God's great law of love as summed up in the *basic Ten Commandments*. The whole New Testament is an *expansion* of God's law to its great *spiritual intent* and *purpose*!

9. Was Jesus Christ able to keep the minutest spiritual intent of God's law *perfectly* — even though He was human? Heb. 4:14, 15; I Pet. 2:22.

COMMENT: Satan the Devil, through his *false ministers* (II Cor. 11:13-15), is *DECEIVING THE WORLD* into believing that *human beings* are not required to KEEP the *spiritual* Law of God.

People are falsely taught that Jesus came *without* the normal *human* nature of mortal flesh. They completely overlook the *supreme factor* in this whole material universe — the *power* of the *Holy Spirit* when placed within man! They would like to believe that through some "special process" of His own, Christ could keep the law of God *in our stead*! And, by this,

they like to conclude, "We *don't have to keep the spiritual law*"!

*Nothing could be further from the truth!*

The human Christ *kept* the spiritual law! SO CAN WE! How? By receiving the *same Spirit* He received!!

What Christ did *in our stead* was to DIE for us to pay the penalty of our *breaking* God's Law. And His *obedience* through the Spirit within Him, is an *example* to us that we also may be obedient through the indwelling *power* of God's Holy Spirit!

Yes, Jesus was tempted in *all points like we are*. He was composed of the *same* weak, carnal, *fleshly nature*. He was *tempted* through the lusts of His human nature, but He obeyed *all* of God's laws *perfectly* — for He was filled with the *POWER* of the *Holy Spirit*!

## The Mortal Christ Raised Immortal

1. Is Christ the Captain—the Leader—of our salvation? Heb. 2:10. Is He the Author of it too? Heb. 5:9.

2. Did Jesus become the first *human* to be *spiritually* begotten and born of God? Heb. 1:6 and Col. 1:18.

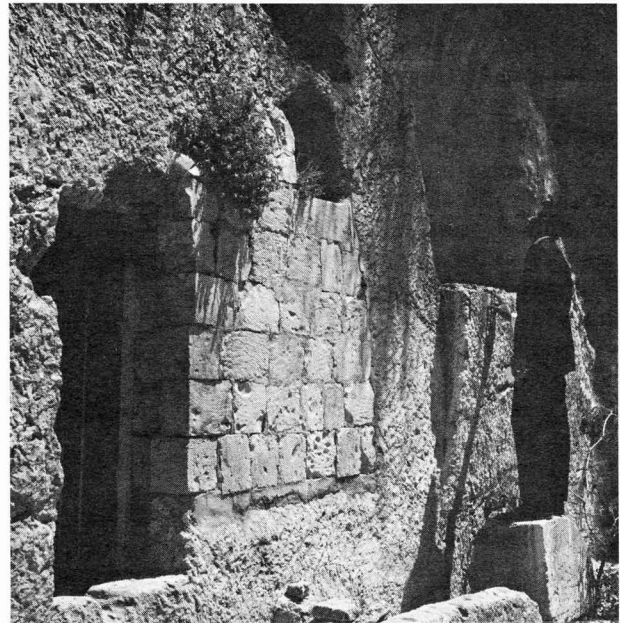
3. What was the only reason God the Father resurrected the *human* Jesus to immortality? Was it because Christ had the Holy Spirit within Him *before* His death that the Father raised Him? Rom. 8:9-11.

COMMENT: Rom. 8:10 tells us, "the *Spirit* is life because of *righteousness*" — that is, "the [Holy] Spirit is [eternal] life because of [*Spiritual*] *righteousness*." Christ, as we have seen, was begotten by the Father's Holy Spirit. Its power *dwelt* in Christ and helped to keep Him spiritually clean — *sinless* — until the end. That is why the Father raised the mortal human Christ to eternal life!

Christ is the Leader of our salvation — He set the *PATTERN* for the way we *must* follow. The indwelling of the *Holy Spirit* within us *now* is clearly as necessary as its presence was within Christ, if we are to expect the Father to raise *us* to immortality also! Without it we can have *no* hope of a *resurrection* to eternal life!

4. Did Christ live His life in the apostle Paul? Gal. 2:20. Since He did, wasn't Paul's hope of a resurrection to immortality certain, *as long as* Christ *continued* to dwell in him? II Tim. 4:7-8. Must all Christians also have the *mind* of Christ? Phil. 2:5.

COMMENT: Jesus Christ can also live His life within *you*. Here's how: It is through the *Holy Spirit* which can dwell in you as it did in Christ. Christ's mind — His perfect *Holy Spiritual atti-*



Ambassador College Photos

**JESUS' TOMB** — At left is an inside view of the "Garden Tomb" in which Jesus' body was laid. Iron fence guards against souvenir-conscious tourists. Right, Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong examines outside wall of sepulcher.

*tude of obedience*—will thus be *in you*. You will be "in Christ," and *Christ* will be "in you" through the *common* indwelling of *Christ's* and the *Father's* Holy Spirit within you (Rom. 8:9-11). The Father, Christ, and you *can thus be all of one Spirit*—all of *one mind*—the *holy mind*.

As long as the Spirit of God dwells in you, you will be acceptable to God and be *ready* to be *changed* to immortality by the *power* of the Holy Spirit at Christ's coming.

### First Arrival of the Holy Spirit

1. Did Jesus promise His disciples they would receive *power* from heaven after His resurrection? Luke 24:49. *Where* did He tell them to *wait* for this *promised power*? Same verse. Also Acts 1:4. Were they to be "baptized with"—that is, *receive*—the power of the *Holy Spirit* in Jerusalem? Verses 5 and 8.

2. What GREAT *DISPLAY OF POWER* did the Holy Spirit cause on this, its first arrival, as they were waiting at Jerusalem for its coming? Acts 2:2-4, 8, 11.

COMMENT: The Spirit of God came with a *sound* as a MIGHTY RUSHING WIND!! It also came with the *appearance* of divided—*equally distributed*—TONGUES OF FIRE! And on this occasion it *filled all 120* of the disciples and *spoke* through them in such a manner that *every man there from every nation* HEARD them in *his own language*! The MIRACLE was in the *hearing*, as well as in the *speaking*! *It was a spectacular*

*manifestation to all the earth of the arrival of the miraculous POWER of the Holy Spirit!*

3. What was the *name* of the day on which this great display of the Holy Spirit's power occurred? Acts 2:1.

COMMENT: The word "pentecost" is a *Greek* word meaning "fifty," or "fiftieth." The Holy Spirit came on *Pentecost*, fifty days after the Sunday immediately following Jesus' resurrection.

4. Had it been *foretold* by Christ that the apostles would have supernatural power after they received the Holy Spirit? Acts 1:8. What were they to *do* with this *power*? Same verse and Mark 16:15, 17. Notice especially verse 17.

COMMENT: The sudden, spectacular, awe-inspiring exhibit of divine power working within these men on the day of Pentecost, heralded to the whole world the *beginning* of the time when all who would thirst for the Holy Spirit *can* receive it!

It marked the *beginning* of the climaxing act of God's supreme creative work. It opened the era foretold by God long ago when He said to His ancient nation Israel, and through it to the *whole world*, "The days come . . . that I will make a *new covenant* with the House of Israel and with the House of Judah . . . I [not man, but God] will put My law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts" (Jer. 31:31, 33 and Heb. 8:8-10).

This mighty rushing of the Spirit down to our earth marked the *advent* of the POWER which God would use to *ENGRAVE HIS LAW WITH-*

IN THE HEARTS of those who surrender themselves to Him! It is the POWER of His *Holy Spirit* which He offers to place within *us*! That is *why* God made this such a spectacular and momentous event. It was of tremendous import to all mankind.

In this event we see God's notice to the world that He is ready, from that time forward, to *supernaturally strengthen* those who receive His Holy Spirit, so that Christ can *establish* the New Covenant with them at His second coming. At that time He will ask those who are thus strengthened to be His collective "wife" for all eternity in the Kingdom of God!

But the *world* is completely unaware of the great *import* of the miracles which occurred at the advent of the Holy Spirit! How dull can a dull-minded world be? It's time to *wake up*—it's *later* than most people think!

On that particular Day of Pentecost occurred an experience *UNIQUE* in all history — *never again* to be repeated! What happened on that day was a *fulfillment* of Joel's prophecy (Joel 2:28-29). As Peter explained, it was the *advent* of the *other Comforter* — the Holy Spirit — from *heaven*.

Yes, the Holy Spirit came with POWER on the Day of Pentecost, 31 A.D., and it *has been here ever since*! But for nearly 2,000 years now, most of the world has *rejected* this power — the *only* means by which men could receive the happiness and blessings they *crave* so desperately!

### Apostles Miraculously Strengthened!

The apostles were mortal human beings just as you and I. But they received the great *power* of the Holy Spirit. That is why the Holy Spirit was sent — to spiritually strengthen *people*.

Notice what other *manifestations of power* the apostles showed by reason of the Holy Spirit dwelling within and *working through* them.

1. How SPIRITUALLY WEAK were the apostles *before* they received the Holy Spirit? Did they even slumber the night before Christ was crucified? Mat. 26:40-45.

2. How *spiritually weak* was Peter *before* the Holy Spirit came into him on the day of Pentecost? Mat. 26:69-70. How many times did Peter *deny* he knew Christ, whom He actually knew so well? Verse 75. Was he *converted* then? Luke 22:32.

COMMENT: Peter was so weak spiritually *before* he received the Holy Spirit, that he even denied three times that he knew Jesus.

The other disciples were in the same condition. They didn't have the *spiritual*

*strength* of character to stay awake as Jesus prayed before being taken by the Roman soldiers. Then when the soldiers came, they *forsook* Jesus and *fled* in fear! (Mat. 26:56.)

3. But how did Peter become *after* the Holy Spirit came into him — *after* he was *converted*? Acts 2:14.

COMMENT: A *miraculous change* came over Peter! Peter spoke *boldly* to the multitudes gathered in Jerusalem. *Full of power*, he and the other 119 disciples preached Christ so *mightily* and *convincingly*, that 3,000 people repented of their sins and were baptized on that memorable day of Pentecost! (Acts 2:41.)

Peter's power, through the Spirit, became so *great* that even those in his *shadow* were healed! (Acts 5:15, 16.)

4. What was Peter's first miracle? Acts 3:2, 4-8. Did Peter and John take any *personal credit* for this miracle? Acts 3:12-13, 16. Or did Peter ascribe it to the healing power of the *Holy Spirit*? Verse 12.

5. Did all the other apostles also become strong and possess *great power* *after* they received the Holy Spirit? Acts 4:31, 33.

6. Did Philip perform miracles *similar* to those of Christ's? Acts 8:5-7. And Stephen also? Acts 6:8.

7. Did Paul also perform Christ's works — miracles similar to Christ's? Acts 14:3, 8-10. Read also Acts 28:3, 5.

COMMENT: Shortly AFTER the apostle Paul was MIRACULOUSLY struck down and converted by Jesus Christ (Acts 9:1-22), he began to be such a great *instrument* in God's hands, that he became one of the mightiest apostles of the New Testament! (Paul's name was originally Saul. Later it was changed to Paul.)

8. What are some of the *other* miracles the apostles performed by the *power* of God? Read Acts 5:12-16; 9:36-41 and 13:6-11.

COMMENT: The apostle Peter, Paul, and the other apostles, were performing the very "signs" and *wonders* Jesus said they would do *after* they received God's power!

The *demand* on Paul's time became so great that he was unable to visit all the sick who lived at a distance. God therefore honored a *special means*! Paul ANOINTED and PRAYED *over pieces of cloth* — handkerchiefs and aprons — and sent them to those requesting prayer for healing — and *they were healed*! (Acts 19:11-12.) By the pieces of cloth which were a reminder? No! But by the very *power of God*! That *same* power works in the *same* manner today through the TRUE ministers of God!

The apostles of the New Testament truly did perform the *works* of Christ! They did the very *work* of God the *Father* which His Holy Spirit *began* in and through the *person* of Jesus in the

human flesh. That work was then continued through the *collective* body of disciples which is the *body of Christ* — the *Church of God*!

That Church continues to *exist today*! It is composed of God-called and *Spirit-empowered* Christians performing this *same* work! The “fruits” being produced positively *identify* the true Church of God today!

9. During the time of God’s soon-coming punishment on this sinful world, will His “TWO WITNESSES” perform even *greater* miracles than Christ and the apostles did? John 14:12 and Rev. 11:3, 5-6.

## Second Phase of Man’s Creation

Man’s creation in Eden was complete only in the *physical* sense. He was created a perfect *physical* specimen — but *not* a perfect SPIRITUAL CREATION! He was created *without* the divine *spiritual power* within him.

But *exactly* what is this spiritual creation God desires to produce in man? Let’s be *sure* we understand!

1. What comparison is drawn in the Bible between God and mankind? Isa. 64:8.

2. Did Job realize that God was forming a *special creation* in his life? Job 14:14-15.

COMMENT: Notice especially the latter part of Job 14:15: “*Thou wilt have a desire to the WORK of thine hands.*” The “work” was *Job*! Job knew he was merely a piece of divine *workmanship* in the hands of the active Creator. Merely a piece of *PLIABLE CLAY IN THE HANDS OF THE MASTER POTTER*!

3. Are converted *Spirit-led* Christians being fashioned for a *specific* purpose? Isa. 43:7 and Eph. 2:10.

COMMENT: The word “*we*” in New Testament language refers to spirit-begotten *Christians*. We, then, are God’s *workmanship*. Yes, we are “created” — *now BEING CREATED* — “UNTO GOOD WORKS” — unto perfect *spiritual character* in OBEDIENCE to God.

So what God is actually creating in Spirit-directed humans is the *supreme masterpiece* of all His works of creation! He is in the process of creating millions—yes, *billions*—of what will become *perfect, spirit-born* Sons of God at the resurrection!

God is creating His supreme masterpiece by two distinct steps: Man, the *clay material creation* (Genesis 1), is only the *first* phase of what is to become God’s finished *spiritual* creation. For man, the *clay model*, has to be fashioned and molded by *experience and with the powerful help of God’s Holy Spirit*, into the finished *spiritual* masterpiece of all God’s creation!

But before the second phase of man’s creation—his spiritual growth—begins, God the Father must *first beget* us by placing His Holy Spirit *within* us. We are then *impregnated*, so to speak, by the “seed” or germ of eternal life. It is the *begetting* of the life of God within our minds! We then compare to a newly *begotten* babe in its mother’s womb that *begins to grow*!

4. What are we *called* when the Father begets us with His Spirit? I John 3:1 and Rom. 8:14-17.

COMMENT: We are called the (begotten) Sons of God.

5. Do we partake of the *nature* and *characteristics* of God when begotten? II Pet. 1:3-4.

6. What is the *basic* characteristic of God’s nature? I John 4:16. Is this the *same love* that will *enable* us to “fulfill”—to *obey*—God’s laws? Rom. 13:10 and 5:5.

COMMENT: The Holy Spirit of God imparts God’s love to us. God’s love makes possible our performance of *spiritual works*—acts—*pleasing* in God’s sight! Thus we fulfill God’s Law of *Love*! *If you* have God’s love, you will — BY THE POWER OF GOD, and *not* by your own human strength — KEEP ALL TEN OF HIS COMMANDMENTS! But you *must choose* to obey and then *continually strive* to do God’s will! This is *YOUR PART* in the strengthening of your *will* and *character*.

No one who *continues* to flagrantly break God’s Law of Love has received the Spirit of God or has the *power* of God working in him!

But if we have God’s Spirit in us, then God’s *nature*, which is *love*, will *radiate* from us in obedience and good works.

7. If we are begotten and grow by God’s Spirit, can we eventually *attain* to the VERY LIKENESS and STATURE—the very *composition*—of God? Psalms 17:15 and I John 3:2.

COMMENT: We are now only the *spiritually* begotten Sons of God. But we will be *like* Him when we are BORN of God’s Spirit!

## We Must Grow Spiritually

1. Must the lives of Spirit-begotten Christians be completely *changed* from their former *sinful way* of living? Rom. 12:2 and Eph. 4:23-24. Is this changing process producing the new “creation” in man? II Cor. 5:17.

COMMENT: YOUR WHOLE LIFE and your *attitude* of mind MUST BE COMPLETELY CHANGED—*CONVERTED*! This *transformation* (not just a *reformation*) is a *tremendous undertaking*. It requires a *miracle*! Such a change would be impossible to bring about or



account for, except it were by a *supernatural act* of Almighty God — your *begetting* by the Holy Spirit! The receiving and *indwelling* of the Holy Spirit is a *renewing of the mind*.

God stands pledged, upon your *real* and *thorough* repentance and faith in Christ (Acts 2:38), to begin the performance of this tremendous miracle by literally putting His Holy Spirit *within* you. But God CANNOT work this complete change in your life unless you are *willing* to *SURRENDER yourself to Him* and *submit* to the process!

2. Do begotten Christians need to *grow spiritually*? II Pet. 3:18. Are we then compared to little children growing up again? I Pet. 2:2 and Mat. 18:2-3.

3. After whom are we to *pattern* our lives as we grow spiritually? Eph. 4:15. And to what *end result*? Eph. 4:13. Will Christ live *in* and *through* us? Col. 1:27; Gal. 2:20 and I John 4:2, 4.

COMMENT: Your impregnation by the Holy Spirit—the very *Spirit* and *attitude* of God Almighty — will plant within you the *seed* of the *divine nature* of God. It will *develop His character* in you!

Upon receiving His Spirit, you will begin to *think* as God thinks, *see* things as God does, and you will begin to *act* as He acts. YOUR WHOLE ATTITUDE WILL BEGIN TO CHANGE. You'll be more like God every day because you will have the *mind* of Jesus Christ.

And if, in this life, we *grow spiritually* and our thinking and ways have been *changed* until we really do become new characters, *conformed* to God's will; then that clay model, *worked over*, fashioned, and shaped into the *rough* spiritual image of God, will suddenly be changed into the *finished*, perfected SPIRITUAL CREATION at the *resurrection*! We shall then be *born* of God — we shall then *be* Gods!

### Power for the Asking!

1. How *readily* will God give us His Holy Spirit of power today? Luke 11:10-13. But are there *prior conditions* to receiving it? Acts 2:38 and 5:32. These *conditions* are *extremely important to remember*!

COMMENT: If we repent, and are reconciled to God by the *death* of Christ, THEN God is more willing to give us His Spirit than we are willing to give bread to our children. But we must *want* to obey God and *give our strongest cooperation* to the Holy Spirit which will give us the spiritual strength *to obey* God!

2. Do begotten children of God have *direct access* to the Father in heaven? Eph. 2:13, 18 and Heb. 10:19-20.

3. Did Jesus instruct us *how* to establish this contact? Mat. 6:6.

COMMENT: Ever since the Holy Spirit—the *power* of God — arrived on Pentecost, 31 A.D., man has had the opportunity to come *directly* to the very THRONE OF THE FATHER *in prayer*, through Jesus Christ and the *Holy Spirit*! What a priceless privilege!

In the Old Testament times *no one* prayed to the Father. *No one* addressed God as "*Father*" then. And only an *extremely few* could then address the God who was to become the *Son*! But the Son, Jesus Christ, came to *declare* to *all* who the Father is (John 1:18) — to declare that all may now be begotten of Him and have *access* to Him through the Holy Spirit!

4. What are the *special advantages* of this close relationship with our Heavenly Father? Mat. 21:22 and Heb. 4:16. Why may we receive what we ask? I John 3:22.

5. Why was Jesus *always* heard and answered by the Father? Heb. 5:7.

COMMENT: Jesus was in *constant contact* with the Father. He received *answers* to His prayers and performed mighty miracles through the *power* of God's Spirit in Him! We may *also* establish this very *same contact* and receive answers today as Jesus did!

6. What are some of the *results*, or "*fruits*," that are made manifest in our lives if we possess God's Spirit? Gal. 5:22-23 and Rom. 15:13.

7. What *special* "*gifts*" are bestowed by God through the power of the Holy Spirit? I Cor. 12:1, 4-11.

COMMENT: Just imagine! These are some of the *additional* things God gives those who surrender their lives to Him and receive His Holy Spirit! God divides these special *gifts* among certain ones in His Church as *He* wills.

8. Which is the *greatest* attribute or characteristic God transmits to us by the Holy Spirit? Is it *love*—"charity"? I Cor. 13:13. Skim rapidly the whole chapter.

9. How *much* of God's Spirit can we receive in this life? Eph. 1:13-14 and II Cor. 5:5.

COMMENT: An "*earnest*" is a "*token or pledge* of what is to come"—according to *Webster's Dictionary*. Therefore, the "*earnest*" of God's Spirit is a *small part* of the Spirit and power with which one is imbued at first. But after this initial imbuement, we *grow* spiritually, and at Christ's return, we'll *become Spirit* — become *completely composed* of God's Spirit of power!

Paul received only a comparatively *small portion* of the Holy Spirit as compared to the *fulness* of the Spirit that Jesus received (John 3:34). Yet look at what it did through Paul! By the example of Paul's life we know that we also can be *greatly strengthened*.

The Spiritual *power* available through the Holy Spirit is the power needed for *self-mastery*, for accomplishment, success, abundant *joy*, *peace of mind* and the *happiness* we all desire!

Do you begin to grasp how much *better* a life man could live if he were *really in contact* with His Creator? And just think! *All this is available to YOU for the asking!*

### Spirit the Key to Glorious Immortality

Let's notice how having the Holy Spirit within us now is the *key* to receiving eternal life and glory.

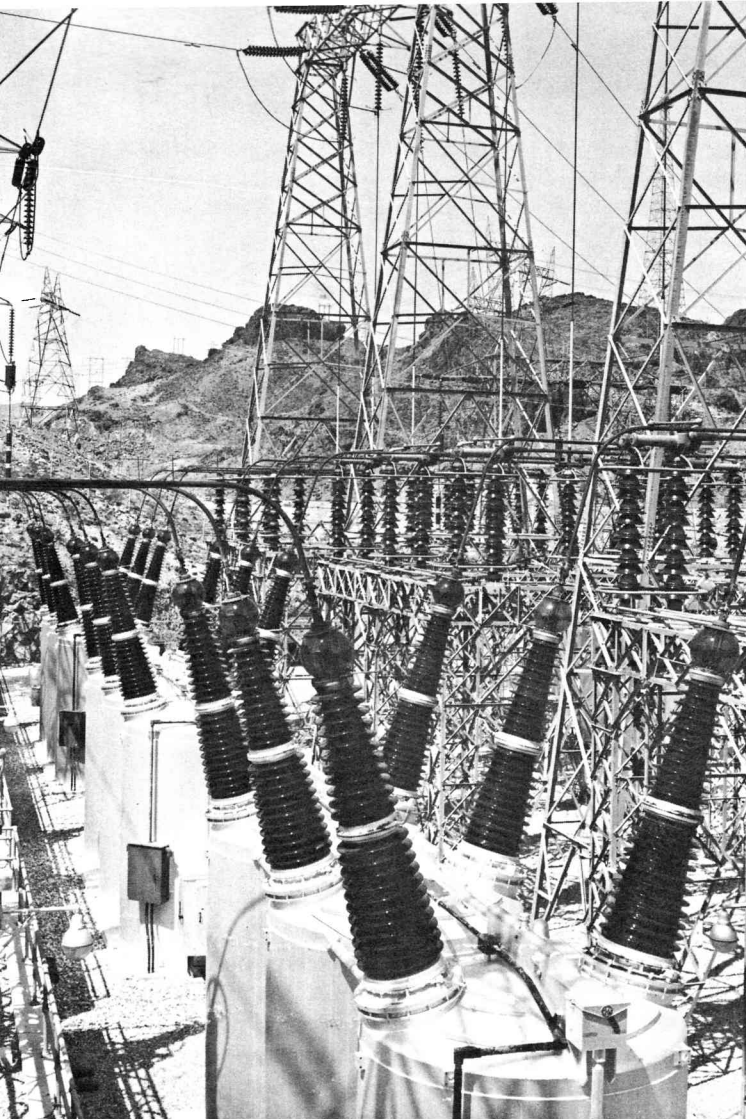
1. Did Jesus Christ *die*? I Cor. 15:3. Was He resurrected *from the dead*? Verse 4.

2. Did God the Father raise Christ from death? Eph. 1:17, 19-20.

COMMENT: Note that verse 17 tells us that it is God the Father and Christ who are being discussed. Verse 20 says, "He [the Father] raised Him [Christ] from the dead, and set Him [Christ] at His [the Father's] own right hand in the heavenly places." So it was *God the Father* who raised Christ from death to immortality by the *power* of the Holy Spirit.

3. Are there many *proofs* of Christ's resurrection from the dead? I Cor. 15:5-8.

4. Was Christ the *first* one of *many* to be resurrected to *eternal life*? Acts 26:23; Col. 1:18 and I Cor. 15:23.



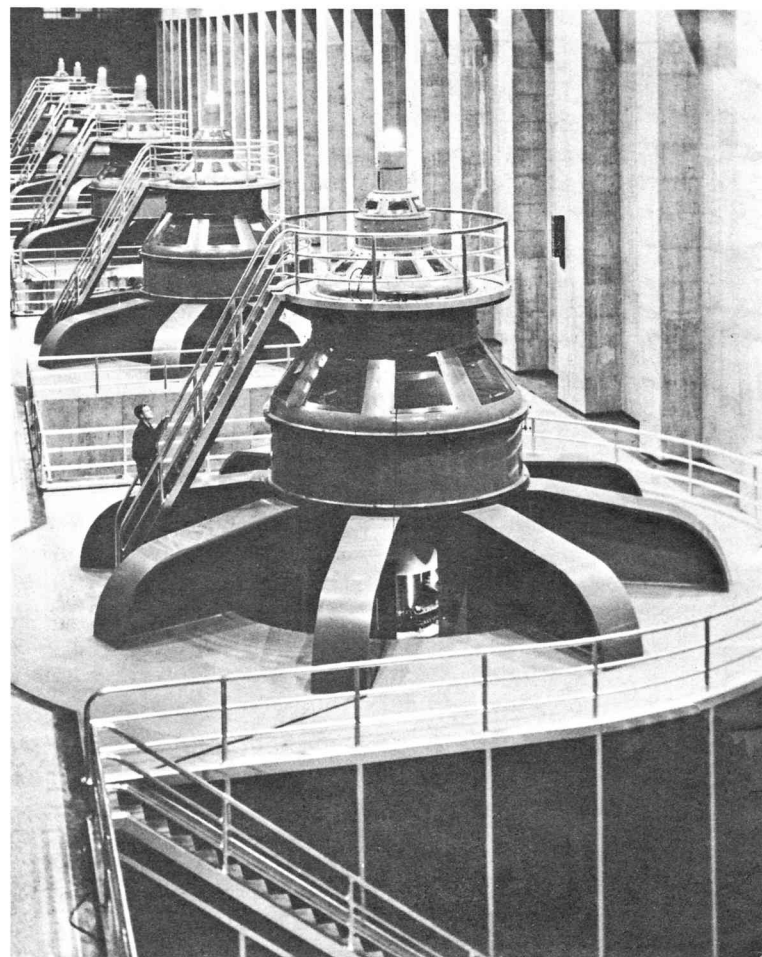
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**COMPLETE CIRCUIT** — Hydroelectric generators and transmission lines at Boulder Dam, Colorado. God's Holy Spirit flows out from Him and back again — much like the flow of electrical current in a complete circuit.

10. Do we receive all *at one time* enough of God's HOLY SPIRIT—His divine power—to last forever? II Cor. 4:16 and Phil. 1:19.

COMMENT: God does *not* put within us a sort of miracle-producing dynamo which *continually generates* this power. WE MUST BE CONTINUALLY RECEIVING THIS POWER! Remember, the Holy Spirit is compared to water—it *flows*. Jesus said the power of God shall *flow* out of our innermost being! (John 7:38.) God's power is *active* — *dynamic*! It is not static. It flows *into* us, and then *out of us* in performing God's will!

You cannot receive a *supply* of God's Spirit and then bottle it up within you. It *circulates* — like electricity in a complete circuit — from God, *into* you, and then *out from* you in *love*, *obedience*, *faith*, *joy*, *patience*, and then back to God! And it **MUST BE RENEWED IN US DAILY** — through contact with God **IN PRAYER!** *This is very important to remember!*



COMMENT: Christ is the “firstborn among MANY BRETHREN” (Rom. 8:29).

5. Does the Father promise Christians that He will also raise them to immortality — if His Holy Spirit is dwelling within them? Rom. 8:11 and I Cor. 6:14. “The Lord” here is Christ.

6. When and how quickly will our “change” come? I Cor. 15:51-52.

7. When changed at the resurrection, will we become as Jesus Christ is today? Phil. 3:20-21 and I John 3:2. What type of body was Jesus changed into at His resurrection? I Cor. 15:44-45.

COMMENT: We will also be given a body then like Christ has now! The outstanding difference between the body we now have and the one we will be given, is that while the one we now have is a *natural* or *mortal* body, the one we shall receive will be a *spiritual* body!

If we are *alive* at the time of the resurrection, our *mortal bodies* shall suddenly be changed. If we have *died*, we will be resurrected from the grave with a new, spiritual body!

8. Was Jesus, with His *spiritual* body, able to suddenly *appear and disappear*? Luke 24:36-37, 31. Did he *pass through* barriers or walls? John 20:19.

COMMENT: When we become Spirit, we’ll be able to perform these *same* miraculous feats! We will not be subject to *physical laws* then, for we will not be composed of matter, but of *Spirit* — the Spirit of *power*!

9. Will our spiritual bodies be capable of *traveling* through space at TREMENDOUS SPEED? John 20:17, 19, 27 and Mat. 28:9.

COMMENT: Notice that Christ had been able to travel to the Father in heaven and return to earth on the *same day*. Here again is the power of the Holy Spirit *in action*!

10. When necessary, will we be able to change into a body of *physical flesh* and bone so mortal eyes can see us? Luke 24:37-39.

COMMENT: A spirit is *composed* of spirit essence. It is not composed of *physical flesh*. Since man is in the *likeness* of God, both man and God have form and shape. But one is composed of flesh, while the other is composed of *spirit*!

11. Once made spirit, can we ever *die* again? Luke 20:35-36.

12. Was Jesus to be “*glorified*” again after His resurrection? John 17:4-5. How does Christ’s *glorified body* appear to those who are privileged to see Him as He is? Rev. 1:13-16.

COMMENT: As God, Christ had a glorious, resplendent, spiritual body before He took the human form. Now Christ is *glorified* again.

Christ’s *spirit body* is SO POWERFUL that it radiates light *as bright as the sun*!

13. Will God *glorify* His Spirit-begotten children at the resurrection by giving them this *same great power and glory*? Rom. 8:17 and Col. 3:4.

14. Did Jesus give his disciples a fleeting glimpse of this *future glorified condition* when He was “transfigured”? Mat. 17:1-2. Note that this was a *vision* they saw concerning the future (verse 9).

COMMENT: This ULTIMATE POWER we shall receive at the resurrection will be SO GREAT, IT WILL MAKE OUR SPIRIT BODIES SHINE AS THE SUN, and our raiment will be as *dazzling light*! All this can come later by having God’s Spirit working within us *now*!

15. What other scripture gives us a picture of our *glorified bodies*? Dan. 12:2-3. Wouldn’t you also like to *possess* such a body someday?

## SUMMARY

The astounding *truth* of the Bible is that God desires to place within mankind the great power of His Holy Spirit — as a *free gift*! By this power, man can keep God’s perfect, holy, *spiritual* laws.

This is how God is now fulfilling *His* part of the New Covenant with those He has spiritually begotten. He is *now engraving His Royal Law in the hearts and minds of true Christians THROUGH HIS SPIRIT*!

God is in the process of forming His *spiritual* creation in man — but only in those who have *yielded* to Him and have allowed His Spirit to enter and beget them as His spiritual sons! Yes, God is the Potter and we *are* the clay!

This life is the training ground. We are here for the express purpose of learning how to rightly direct the vast powers God will give us when *we are born* as His Sons — powers so *tremendous* the mind of man cannot now conceive!!

At the *resurrection* our spiritual creation will be *complete*. We will then have the *mind* of God *in full*! We’ll be *completely composed* of Holy Spirit, and BE THE VERY SONS OF GOD IN GOD’S KINGDOM! Christ will have *completed* His New Testament Covenant with us. We shall then be able to *obey* His laws *perfectly — forever*! (I John 3:9.)

Few grasp how *great and all-powerful* God *really is*, and His *loving kindness* in making it *possible for us to have His mind and great power*!

This knowledge has *now* reached you. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO *DO* ABOUT IT?

# What our STUDENTS SAY

(Continued from page 2)

it a joy — just like a jigsaw puzzle falling into place. I'm so thankful."

— F. T., Koshkonong, Missouri

## From East Germany

"I had the great pleasure today to receive Lesson 11 of the Correspondence Course. Many thanks for this precious present. I find the questions answered in this lesson which plagued me since my school years in Biology class. This excellent course is simple and clear, but thoroughly proves that the Bible is the Word of God, leaving no doubt. I am very thankful that I could receive this knowledge through you, because this enables me to answer the questions of our children truthfully about how God works. Through your literature, I received the foundation which enables me to rear my children in truth and in the belief of God. Thank you very much."

— Woman, East Germany

• *Have you sent in for our revealing free booklet, "The PLAIN TRUTH About Child Rearing"? It's a must for all parents who want to rear their children GOD'S WAY!*

## From West Germany

"I have already studied 16 lessons of your Correspondence Course and must admit, without exaggeration, that there cannot be anything better for the deep drinking in of the Holy Scriptures and for spiritual growth. For 40 years I have read the Bible, and yet often my mind was closed to understanding many things. I was like the eunuch from Ethiopia who said to Philip, 'How can I [understand], except some man should guide me?'

"Today that has changed. Through the study of the Correspondence Course my mind was opened to many things, and I am very thankful for it. It is a gift of our Father in heaven for which we owe Him many thanks. We always ask Him that He may bless you and His Work, and that He may add yet many people to His Church...."

— A. Z., Neustadt, West Germany

"The longer I study your Correspondence Course, the more gripping and interesting it becomes. Sometimes I am shocked at how one

could have read right over the truth for so long. In any case, I want to thank you for all your literature which has helped me very much."

— Man, West Germany

## From a Teen-ager

"I would like to thank you for sending me the Ambassador College Correspondence Course. God truly has revealed His knowledge only to you. Your course not only teaches me about the Bible, but it also informs me of world events. The photographs make the literature very revealing and interesting. It's really like a small magazine."

— Patricia W., Powder Springs, Georgia

## Relieved

"I just completed the first lesson of the Correspondence Course. There aren't enough words to express my gratitude. I think the only word that can describe my feeling is RELIEF! At last a source with which to really study the Bible and learn from the Bible, instead of just taking someone else's interpretation. All my life I've heard people say: 'The Bible can be interpreted many ways.' I can't say that I believed or disbelieved that statement. I just didn't think about it. To me it was just an impressive book that everyone seemed to have. Now that I have respect for the Bible and am reading it, I feel that no interpretation is needed. It is plainly written. I am really looking forward to my next lesson."

— W. G., Cincinnati, Ohio

## Getting an Insight

"We are sure learning what is actually in the Bible through the Correspondence Course. We had been so sure the ... were right, except when we would ask a question on the Book of Revelation. Our minister said, 'You may read it, but don't dwell on it because you will just worry when you can't understand it.' We are sure now the minister himself does not understand."

— Mrs. H. O. F., Ridgefield, Washington

• *It's rather obvious that he doesn't! Let's hope he'll enroll in this course someday and begin to understand.*

## Fills the "Gaps"

"I want so much to continue with this course. Since I have started this study, it seems to me as if I were working on a great puzzle — one of which I know the ultimate answer, but this study fills in the 'gaps' so necessary in our understanding of Bible prophecy."

— J. L., Newton, Kansas