



Swept Away by His Presence

by Ron Auch

STUDY GUIDE

CHAPTER 1 — “THE PROBLEM”

Why do churches of today fail to see God’s power?

What is the result if people lose their “vision”? (Prov. 29:18).

What is the Hebrew meaning of the word “perish”?

Personal reflection . . .

How does prayer make us more effective for God? Think about your own prayer life . . . is it your highest priority each day?

CHAPTER 2 — “THE POWER ENCOUNTER”

Describe Saul’s “power encounter.” What was the result?

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What was the real draw behind the Azusa Street Revival?

What was happening to the idea of “religion” during this period?

What was the significance of the Pentecostal movement . . . in other words, what set it apart from religious rituals?

What crucial element was missing from the first-generation Christians? (Deut. 4:9).

What did the second generation experience? Why?

How can we keep our children from falling into second-generation tendencies with God? What is our responsibility in that area?

Personal reflection . . .

The extent to which the power of the Holy Spirit is manifested is proportional to the extent that we pray. Do you spend enough time in prayer? Have you communicated your power encounter with God to your children?



CHAPTER 3 — “CISTERNS THAT HOLD NO WATER”

What are some parallels between Abram (Abraham) and the early believers who met at Azusa Street? See Genesis 17:1–5.

What “sacrifice” do we offer when we pray?

What is the significance of “well-digging” and “altar-building?”

What was the result of Isaac’s well-digging? Why?

Why is it so critical that we communicate our power encounter to the second generation? What happens when we assume our children understand?

Why was Jacob’s name changed?

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When our relationship with God is right, what happens to fear?

What is the meaning of the portion of Scripture in Jeremiah 2:13 which states, “They . . . have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water?”

Personal reflection . . .

When we do not pray, we no longer see the power of God. Instead of praying, we are trying to seek our own solutions in life. Commit yourself to a prayer life and know that you will experience the power of God and therefore be effective for Him.

CHAPTER 4 — “SOPHISTICATION: THE HOLY SPIRIT OF TODAY’S CHURCH”

What should a person look for in a pastor? Why?

What does Acts 8:18–21 teach us about “buying” the anointing of the Holy Spirit?

What kind of modern technology or sophistication was Paul using when he preached the gospel? How was he effective?



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What is the result of a Holy Spirit-sparked revival?

How can we glorify God?

What is the difference between efficiency and effectiveness?

Has God called the church to be a trendsetter?

What did Jesus mean when He said, “My house will be a house of prayer” (Luke 19:46).
What order should prayer be in our life?

In Luke 19:45–46, why didn’t the people know that the moneychangers were thieves?



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Why were Elisha’s instructions so unsettling to Naaman? (2 Kings 5:1–11).

What is missing when we do things right instead of doing right things?

Personal reflection . . .

We do not want to replace the Holy Spirit with technology or sophistication. Pray and begin a relationship with the Lord of your very own.

CHAPTER 5 — “REBUILDING THE ANCIENT BOUNDARIES”

What seems to be the general cycle of prayer that is still true for people today? How does this cycle affect the second generation? How does it affect the third generation? (Neh. 9:26–31).

How can we break this cycle?

How does Proverbs 22–28, regarding ancient boundaries, apply to today’s believer?



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How are boundaries established? Why? (John 16:7–10).

In what three areas does the Holy Spirit convict us?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

How do we get close to the Lord?

Why does today's church need solemn assembly?

Personal reflection . . .

Our purpose as Christians is not to figure out what is sinful and what is not. Our primary goal is not to see how much we can get away with or to see how close we can get to the world and still hang on to our salvation. Our number one purpose is to see how close we can get to God. If there is any area of your life that you are convicted about, pray, get closer to God. Don't ignore His spirit.

CHAPTER 6 — “COUNTERCULTURE”

What is the meaning of the words “ancient laws”?



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What was the new thing that Jesus brought to the religious leaders? (Acts 6:14).

What was the result when the culture of the Cross (true culture) replaced man-made customs and cultures?

What is the result of an anti-Cross culture? Why?

What are the main differences between liberals and conservatives?

Should we accept things based on current culture? Why or why not? (James 4:4).

How do we view Conservatives in lieu of submission? Why do the liberals get all the attention?



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What is worldliness?

What is true revival?

Personal reflection . . .

Pray for true revival in your life — one that will bring you to repentance and exalt God over yourself. Only then can you bear fruit.

CHAPTER 7 — “THE FALL OF THE SLIGHT TOWER”

What is the strong tower? What is the slight tower? Are they functional today? Why or why not?

What is the result if the Church does not act as a refuge?

What is the basic cause of a church split?



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How do we begin to think when we spend time with God?

What kind of example does Isaiah show in Isaiah 26:8–10? Why did he cry for judgment?

Why are some churches no longer a refuge for Christians? What can we do?

Personal reflection . . .

Can I do this and still glorify God? Is there any part of your life that takes you away from God? Pray that He will change your heart.

CHAPTER 8 — “COMING TO GOD IN TRUTH”

What point was Jesus trying to make regarding a place of worship? (John 4:21–26).

How do “true worshipers” worship God?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

What ways do pride and humility affect our relationship with God in regard to our sin?



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When Jesus said, “You . . . worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know” (John 4:22), what was he referring to?

If our heart is not right with God and we live a lie, how does it affect our worship of God?

Read 1 Samuel 15:12–34. What did Saul do to displease God? How did he justify his actions? If Saul had obeyed God would the sacrifice had still been necessary?

Personal reflection . . .

Can you think of a time when you may have put sacrifice before obedience? Ask for forgiveness. Ask God to help you to live in truth versus justifying your sin so that you may have true worship.

CHAPTER 9 — “YOUR CONCEPT OF GOD”

Meditate for a short time on these questions:

- 1) What is your concept of God?
- 2) What do you believe about God?

Your concept of God is very important and understanding where it comes from is even more important. Your faith in God is limited to your concept of God.

Why didn’t Elisha cry out, “Where is the Lord my God?”



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What is the problem with a hearsay concept?

Why do we need both the Word of God and prayer?

How do we gain our own revelation of God?

Personal reflection . . .

Begin today. Spend time getting to know God through prayer. Allow God to reveal himself to you. Develop a right concept of Him.

CHAPTER 10 — “GOD WORKING IN US”

What is the difference between God working through us and God working in us?

What does 1Corinthians 13 teach us about pursuing the gifts instead of the giver?



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Paul stated, “Though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing” (1 Cor. 13:2). How does that apply to our gifts?

What is the key to effectiveness in ministry?

How does prayer relate to the fear of God? (Prov. 16:6).

Personal reflection . . .

Do you concern yourself with what man sees or what God sees? Pray and repent so that your relationship with God can become real and intimate.

CHAPTER 11 — “DILIGENTLY SEEKING GOD”

What is the difference between seeking things from God and seeking God?

What is the result of seeking God through prayer? How does your relationship with Him change?



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What is a crisis pray-er? How can we avoid becoming one?

What does it mean to diligently seek God?

Why is worship an important part of seeking God? (John 4:23–24).

Personal reflection . . .

Psalms 139:23 says, “Search me O God and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.” Make that prayer a part of your daily communication with God, then God can transform you.

CHAPTER 12 — “THE SOLUTION”

Why is a sermon considered to be an extension of the preacher’s life?

How does the preacher’s prayer life affect the church?



CHAPTER 13 — “COMMUNICATING LIKE CHRIST”

What was meant by “authority” in Mark 1:22?

Why do we struggle with exercising authority?

Why did Jesus tell the religious leaders, “You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God”? (Matt. 22:29).

What is the result of self-denial and discipline in the form of prayer and studying God’s Word?

If we read the Word of God but do not pray, what happens to our authority? (Prov. 2:1–5).

Why don’t we see more miracles today?

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Through the discipline of prayer we gain _____

Through the practice of prayer we gain _____

The result (combination of both) is communication with _____

What is the best and only way to know God?

What does compassion create in us? (Ps. 51:10).

What is the difference between conviction and condemnation?

Does God say that we will never have feelings of condemnation? (Rom. 8:1).

What do the gifts of the spirit and the fruits of the spirit say about our character?



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How do we gain wisdom? (James 1:15).

Why does fearing the Lord become important to us? What does it mean to fear the Lord? (Prov. 2:2-5).

What is the end result of faithfulness?

Personal reflection . . .

We must pray so that wisdom will enter our heart, then the heart will teach the mouth to speak, then we will have compassion to speak God's word to a lost people.

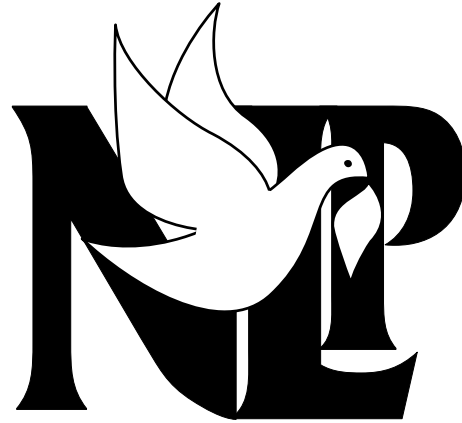
CHAPTER 14 — "THE PRAYING CHURCH"

What can hinder our faith?

How can you begin a format of daily prayer at your church?

Personal reflection . . .

Lead a prayer time at your church. Why not?



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