

A RETURN TO ACTS. A CALL TO COURAGE.
A MESSAGE THE CHURCH CAN NO LONGER IGNORE.

A SMALL PIECE OF CHEESE

RECLAIMING THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE
FROM DENOMINATIONAL SILENCE

*“Repent, and be baptized
every one of you in the
name of Jesus Christ for
the remission of sins,
and ye shall receive the
gift of the Holy Ghost.”*

ACTS 2:38

BAPTISM IN THE
HOLY GHOST AND FIRE
WITH THE EVIDENCE OF
SPEAKING IN TONGUES



FEAR
SILENCE
REPUTATION
BOARDS
SYSTEMS



TRUTH TOO PLAIN TO BE IGNORED.
POWER TOO REAL TO BE SILENCED.

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*Reclaiming the Apostles' Doctrine
from Denominational Silence*

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Preface

My beloved Prophet, I love you. I present to you a humble offering—a small piece of cheese—unwanted by others though it may be; yet within it lies the plain truth I must speak. How perilous is our calling as fivefold ministers that we are not even permitted the comfort of a simple morsel—cheese and crackers—without consequence. This, too, is a solemn truth from God.

My booklet is that humble morsel: an earnest, clear challenge to the systems that have muffled the preaching and teaching of the apostles' doctrine. It is written for ministers who have been made timid by denominational machinery, for congregations who hunger for apostolic truth, and for any soul longing to see the Church return to the simplicity and power of Acts.

Contents

1. The Silence That Speaks
2. The Apostles' Doctrine: Acts 2:38, the Oneness of God, and the Baptism in the Holy Ghost and Fire with the evidence of speaking in tongues
3. From Pentecost to Parties: How Denominations Rose

4. Systems That Strangle Revelation
 5. Ministers in the Closet: Fear, Reputation, and Boards
 6. Institutional Decline: A Word on the Catholic Church and Modern Ecclesial Systems
 7. Reclaiming Apostolic Ground: Theology and Practice
 8. Practical Steps for Ministers and Churches
- Conclusion: Courage, Communion, and a Closing Prayer
- Appendix: A Brief Apostolic Statement for Churches

The Silence That Speaks

Denominationalism did not start as a conspiracy; it began often as conviction, cultural difference, or sincere disagreement. But over decades—and centuries—what began as diversity hardened into league and label. The result is not merely a multiplicity of names; it is a structure that often rewards conformity and punishes prophetic disturbance. Where apostolic preaching should have liberty—the proclamation of repentance, water baptism in the name of Jesus for the remission of sins, and the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire with evidence speaking in tongues—too many preachers are taught to measure their words against constitutions, boards, reputations and the fear of

ecclesiastical discipline. Thus the Church that should be advancing in revelation has been kept, in many quarters, silent and safe.

The Apostles' Doctrine:

Acts 2:38, the Oneness of God, and the Baptism in the Holy Ghost and Fire with the Evidence of Speaking in Tongues

Acts 2:38 is not merely a verse to be explained; for those committed to the apostolic pattern it is a hinge of the Gospel: “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” This apostolic message ties together repentance, water baptism in the name of Jesus for remission of sins, and the subsequent to repentance endowment of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues . The New Testament witnesses repeatedly that the Spirit’s coming is accompanied by power and evidence— of speaking in tongues is the chosen evidence of the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire with the evidence of speaking in tongues, boldness, and the initial utterance of tongues as supernatural praise and the sign to the world (see Acts 2:1–4; 10:44–46; 19:1–6). John the Baptist foretold it as “baptism with the Holy Ghost and with fire” (Matthew 3:11), and the Book of Acts shows that the apostles preached and practiced exactly this economy.

Peter was not innovating but proclaiming what Jesus had given him to preach: the birth of the New Testament Apostolic-Pentecostal Church centered on the name of Jesus, the power of the Spirit, and the public, costly response of repentance and baptism. For those who hold to the oneness revelation, this pattern clarifies the oneness of God revealed in Jesus and the centrality of His name in the forgiveness and life of the new covenant people.

From Pentecost to Parties: How Denominations Rose

History matters. As the Church grew, cultural pressures, political entanglements, theological disputes, and human ambition pressed congregations into camps. Political alignments and national churches reified certain theologies; theological educational systems formalized curricula; boards, bylaws, ordination protocols and institutional funding created economies that favored continuity. What began as family resemblances became rigid identities. The cost of this institutionalization is not only fragmentation but the creation of mechanisms that discourage radical, apostolic preaching that challenges comfortable parish life.

Systems That Strangle Revelation

Denominational systems are not inherently evil, but they have predictable tendencies:

- Protection of reputation over proclamation: leaders taught to avoid controversy to keep donors, positions, and respectability.
- Bureaucratic gatekeeping: statements of faith and boards that decide who may speak, teach, or be ordained.
- Homogenization of doctrine: training institutions that privilege certain theological frameworks and filter out others.
- Fear of discipline: church polity that includes removal, censure, or defrocking for those who diverge.

These tendencies create an environment where ministers with apostolic revelation either quiet their conviction or risk loss. The system rewards safety; it often penalizes prophetic disturbance.

Ministers in the Closet: Fear, Reputation, and Boards

There is a pastoral tragedy here. A minister receives a revelation—perhaps a fresh understanding of Acts

2:38, the nature of baptism in Jesus' name, or the immediacy of the oneness of God—and instead of preaching it, he buries it for fear of losing his pulpit or reputation. He is afraid of being called before a board, of ecclesiastical censure, of being written off by his peers. The closet is a costly place: to hide truth is to deny souls the Gospel, to rob the Church of clarity, and to wound the conscience of the minister. Ministers who hide are often compassionate, sincere, and spiritually burdened; their silence is coerced by structures more than chosen from cowardice.

Institutional Decline:
A Word on the Catholic Church
and Modern Ecclesial Systems

Institutions age. The Catholic Church—massive, ancient, and complex—represents what can happen when human systems become self-sustaining. Critics who say the Church is “on a respirator” mean that some of its structures appear dependent on tradition more than spiritual renewal. Whether one speaks about Catholicism, mainline Protestantism, or denominational networks, the same dynamic can be observed: structures built to preserve identity can, if not renewed by the Spirit, ossify and lose missionary vigor. This is not an invitation to triumphalism or caricature. It is a sober observation:

when institutions substitute ritual and polity for repentance and empowerment by the Spirit, spiritual lethargy and decline follow. Our critique must always be evangelical—aiming at renewal, not simply condemnation.

Reclaiming Apostolic Ground: Theology and Practice

Reclaiming the apostles' doctrine requires both theological clarity and practical courage.

- **Return to Acts:** Teach and model repentance, water baptism in the name of Jesus for the remission of sins, and Spirit baptism—baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire with the evidence of speaking in tongues—as normative and present realities. The evidence of that Spirit-outpouring is seen in supernatural language and praise, often expressed as speaking in tongues, which the apostles treated as normal in the life of the newborn Church.
- **Recover oneness:** Proclaim the oneness of God revealed in Jesus without descending into polemics; demonstrate how this clarity deepens worship and mission.
- **Elevate encounter over conformity:** Make Scripture and Spirit the ultimate tests of truth rather than a human board or statement that quashes conscience.

- Encourage communal accountability, not control: Boards should shepherd and serve, not police prophetic witness.
- Renew ministerial training: Seminaries and Bible schools must allow space for apostolic praxis—imparting, testing, and releasing revelation, not merely evaluating it by institutional doctrine.

Practical Steps for Ministers and Churches

For ministers who feel trapped:

- Document your convictions: Write out what Acts 2:38 means to you and how it shapes ministry practice: repentance, baptism in Jesus' name for remission of sins, and the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire with tongues as evidence.
- Find faithful fellowship: Seek networks of like-hearted ministers who can encourage and hold you accountable spiritually.
- Begin transparent teaching: Introduce apostolic teachings gently and scripturally; let the Word and the Spirit build their case.
- Prepare for cost: If your convictions will likely conflict with boards, pray, counsel, and plan financially and pastorally.
- Reform from within where possible: Advocate for bylaws that protect preaching freedom and protect

conscience.

For congregations:

- Demand apostolic preaching: If your church wants revival, insist on preaching that calls for repentance, water baptism in the name of Jesus for remission of sins, and Spirit baptism evidenced by tongues and power for witness.
- Discern governance: Structure leadership to serve mission, not to perpetuate a brand.
- Release leaders when necessary: Churches that fear losing reputation more than saving souls will wither; be willing to risk reputation for truth.

Conclusion:

Courage, Communion, and a Closing Prayer

Denominationalism has its place, but it must never become a prison for truth. The apostles' doctrine—repentance, baptism in the name of Jesus for the remission of sins, and the receiving of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues—was costly and public. It changed lives without asking for institutional permission. If our ecclesial structures silence this preaching for fear of controversy or reputation, then the structures must be confronted and reformed by courage and love.

A short prayer:

Lord Jesus, revive us with the fire of Pentecost. Breathe upon Your Church; baptize us with the Holy Ghost and with fire; give us tongues of praise and words of power to witness Your name. Give us the courage to speak what is true, the humility to correct what is wrong, and the love to pursue unity not at the cost of truth but in its light. Break the chains of fear that keep Your servants in the closet. Let Your name be honored and Your Spirit fall again upon Your Church. Amen.

Appendix:

A Brief Apostolic Statement for Churches

- We affirm repentance as the beginning of Christian life.
- We baptize in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38) as the clear pattern of the early Church.
- We believe in the baptism in the Holy Ghost and with fire with the evidence of speaking in tongues ; the Holy Spirit is given and is evidenced in the Church by the gift of Holy Ghost and fire with the evidence of speaking tongues and then other Spirit manifestations (Acts 2; 10:44–46; 19:1–6).
- We hold that God is one, revealed in the person and

work of Jesus Christ, and we seek to live and worship in that unity.

Final Word

My booklet is a small piece of cheese—simple, perhaps overlooked—but offered in love and urgency. If the truth it contains troubles you, may that trouble lead to repentance and renewal. If it comforts you, may it embolden you to speak. The cost of silence is too great; the price of truth is eternal. Go in courage.

Written by Elder Keith Joel Walker