

THE
MARVELS
OF HIS
MERCY

- SERIES 1 -

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INTRODUCTION

Overview of God's Mercy

The marvelous mercy of God is profound. God, who is characterized by great mercy, became man and manifested Himself in the flesh. The Apostolic Pentecostal message is fundamentally a message of mercy, as demonstrated in Acts 2:38. The extraordinary mercy of God is vividly illustrated throughout the Old Testament, particularly in the writings of David in the Book of Psalms, where he speaks of God's unfathomable mercy.

To understand mercy, we can look at its Hebrew etymology and insights from biblical sages. The Apostolic Pentecostal Church teaches and preaches from a hermeneutical perspective, bridging the Old and New Testaments, revealing Jesus as Jehovah of the Old Testament who embodies divine mercy and intervention.

Ephesians 2:4 states that God is rich in mercy. The depth of His mercy surpasses that of rubies, diamonds, silver, or gold—it truly is a treasure. God, who is abundant in mercy, offers the gift of the Holy Ghost and fire, evidenced through speaking in tongues. The grace of God is evident in the baptism of the Holy Ghost, accompanied by evidence of speaking in tongues and baptism in Jesus' name, as emphasized in Ephesians 2:4-9.

The Apostle discusses the gift of the Holy Ghost and fire, as indicated in the Greek interpretation and foundations laid in Acts 19:1-6: "Have you received the gift of the Holy Ghost since you believed?"

It is essential to clarify that the Holy Ghost is not received merely by believing, contrary to the teachings of some denominational churches. The notion that one can receive the Holy Ghost simply by saying a sinner's prayer or accepting Jesus as a personal Savior is not thoroughly substantiated in the Bible.

The true gift of God's mercy and grace entails repentance, baptism in Jesus' name for the remission of sins, and receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues—a sign of sonship, representing the mantle of the Lord Jesus Christ and the birthright of a firstborn son or daughter. Relevant scriptures to this concept include John 1:12-13, John 3:3-8, John 4:10-13, John 7:37-39, John 14:16-17, and Acts 2:1-39.

The richness of God's nature is to show mercy, as demonstrated through countless stories in the Bible. In the Epistles of Paul, the message of mercy is clearly articulated, particularly for those who identify as Apostolic Pentecostal and have experienced the richness of God's grace. Romans 5:5 expounds on how the mercy of God is manifested through the Holy Ghost because of the wealth of His love and grace.

In conclusion, I aim to compile a commentary booklet on the marvels of His great mercy, capturing both the divine mercy of God in the Old Testament and the New Testament Gospels, culminating in the revelation that Jesus is God manifested in the flesh. We will also highlight the significance of the Apostolic Pentecostal message of mercy as presented through scripture.

Defining *Mercy*

In the Hebrew Bible, the word often translated as “marvelous” is “אַלְפֵּינִי” (nifla) or “בִּיהֲרַמִּי” (marhiv), which can convey meanings of wonder, awe, or something extraordinary.

1. Nifla (אַלְפֵּינִי): This term signifies something that is astonishing or marvelous. It is used in various passages to describe the works of God that inspire wonder and admiration.

2. Marhiv (בִּיהֲרַמִּי): This term conveys the idea of something impressive or magnificent, often pointing to acts of God or extraordinary events.

Biblical References:

- Psalms 118:23: “This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.” (אַלְפֵּינִי — nifla)

- Isaiah 25:1: “O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.” (בִּיהֲרַמִּי — marhiv in certain translations)

The English translations typically use “marvelous,” “wonderful,” or “amazing” depending on the context of the passage. Scholars note that these terms underscore God’s commitment to His creation. Sages throughout history have viewed mercy as an essential aspect of God’s governance of the world, emphasizing that mercy and justice harmonize in divine leadership.

God's Manifestation of *Mercy*

From the moment of Creation, God's mercy is evident. The very act of creating humanity in His image reflects His desire for relationship and fellowship, even when man faltered. God, who is rich in mercy, demonstrated His nature through many illustrations throughout the Bible.

The History of Israel: A Tapestry of Mercy

- The Exodus and Divine Deliverance: God's miraculous deliverance of Israel from Egypt is a primary example of His mercy, showcasing His willingness to forgive and redeem.
- David's Writings in Psalms: Reflect on David's prayers and songs celebrating God's mercy in providing forgiveness despite failure. Psalm 51 illustrates how sincere contrition can lead to restored favor and mercy
- The Prophetic Calls to Repentance: Prophets like Jeremiah and Hosea conveyed God's mercy, calling Israel to repentance with encouragement, emphasizing that God desires mercy over judgment.
- Mercy shown to the Israelites: God's continual forgiveness and guidance throughout their history.
- The story of Jonah and Nineveh: God's mercy toward a repentant city.

Notable Characters Illustrating Mercy:

- Jonah's Reluctance: Jonah's narrative reveals how God's mercy extends even to those outside Israel, challenging perceptions of exclusivity in divine favor.
- Manasseh's Transformation: Manasseh's dramatic conversion story shows that no one is beyond the reach of God's mercy, emphasizing the power of repentance.

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The Apostolic Pentecostal Message of *Mercy*

The Apostolic Pentecostal message is clearly articulated in Acts 2:38, emphasizing repentance, baptism in Jesus' name, and receiving the Holy Ghost (with the evidence of speaking in tongues), manifesting God's mercy for believers. Peter's call to the only plan of salvation highlights how mercy is still active today. Mercy's role in the new covenant provides believers with direct access to God's throne.

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The Richness of God's *Mercy* in the New Testament

Ephesians 2:4-9 beautifully illustrates the unfathomable depth of God's great mercy. The gift of the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire serves as evidence of God's transformative power, empowering believers to live victorious lives. It is through God's grace we are

saved, not by our works! John 3:3-8 speaks to the renewing mercy of God that allows believers to become new creatures. We demonstrate His love through the ongoing evidence of the fruit of the spirit working in us.

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Biblical Insights

How Mercy is received through repentance and the Baptism in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues baptism in Jesus' name, not through mere belief.

The Essentiality of Repentance:

Repentance is an essential step in receiving God's mercy. Scriptures highlight that genuine sorrow for sin leads to forgiveness and restoration (2 Corinthians 7:10).

Water Baptism in Jesus' Name:

Acts 2:38 and Colossians 2:12 emphasize baptism in Jesus' name as a critical component of God's mercy and grace.

The Gift of the Holy Ghost with the Evidence of Speaking in Tongues:

This is more than just a belief, it's an experience! Being born again of the water and the spirit in Jesus Name is for the remission of sins. Receiving the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues is a divine encounter and not merely intellectual assent. Acts 19:1-6 illustrates that having a personal relationship with God is fundamental to receiving the fullness of His mercy.

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The Relationship Between *Mercy* and Grace

Here are just a few scriptural foundations for highlighting God's mercy and grace. Romans 5:5 emphasizes that God's love and grace are manifest through the Holy Ghost, demonstrating the inseparable connection between mercy and grace as core themes of salvation. In Ephesians 2:8-9, the relationship between grace and mercy is further clarified; grace is the unmerited favor bestowed upon us, while mercy involves being spared from deserved punishment. Understanding God's mercy motivates us to live mercifully towards others, representing the love of Jesus in our daily interactions.

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Exploring the *Mercy* of God Through Key Scriptures

A deep dive into selected scriptures showing God's mercy in action:

- John 1:12-13: Affirmation of believer's identity in The Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38)
- John 3:3-8: The transformative power of spiritual rebirth.
- John 4:10-13: The offer of eternal life through Jesus.
- John 7:37-39: Invitation for all to receive the Holy Ghost.
- John 14:16-17: Promise of guidance and comfort through the Spirit.

- Acts 2:1-39: The outpouring of the Holy Ghost at Pentecost.

Each of the Gospels highlights Jesus' compassion and mercy:

- Matthew 9:36 illustrates Jesus' compassion for the scattered sheep.
- Luke emphasizes the love shown to the lost, culminating in parables of grace.

The Use of Mercy in the Teachings of Jesus:

Jesus' teachings often focused on mercy, urging followers to forgive others (Matthew 6:14-15) and reminding them of mercy as a principle of the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 5:7).

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Stories of *Mercy* in the Bible

This section recounts significant stories illustrating God's mercy:

- The Prodigal Son: A story of repentance and restoration. This parable exemplifies God's unconditional love and mercy, illustrating the joy in heaven over one sinner who repents.
- The Good Samaritan: An illustration of loving mercy in action. This story transcends cultural boundaries, urging believers to extend mercy beyond their immediate communities.

- Jesus' Ministry: Encounters and miracles reflecting mercy from healing the blind to forgiving the adulterous woman, Jesus' interactions personified mercy in profound, life-giving ways.

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Concrete Examples of *Mercy* in Paul's Epistles

Exploration of specific texts from Paul's letters that highlight themes of mercy for believers.

- Romans 12:1-2: Believers are called to offer their bodies as living sacrifices, embodying the mercy God has bestowed upon them.
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-4: Paul emphasizes God as the source of all comfort who empowers believers to extend mercy to others.

The Significance of Mercy in the Early Church:

The early church modeled the merciful attitude of Christ, serving the marginalized and spreading the message of grace.

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Conclusion

In summary, God's mercy is a fundamental aspect of His nature, evident throughout Scripture. This booklet has explored the depths and breadth of His mercy and encouraged believers to both

experience and share this profound attribute of God.

The Eternal Nature of God’s Mercy:

The mercy of God is not only for the present age but extends into eternity. His grace provides hope and assurance of His love.

The Call to Embrace and Extend Mercy:

Believers are encouraged to experience God’s mercy fully and extend it to others, reflecting the character of Christ in their lives.

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Biblical References

A thorough list of all scripture cited throughout the booklet for study and reflection.

Recommended Further Reading:

- “The Message of Mercy” by Dr. Billy Wilson
- “Grace and Truth: The Apostolic Pentecostal Belief” by Bishop A. J. D. Odom
- “Rich in Mercy” by Pastor Jerry Jones

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This portion adds depth and richer context to the content by providing Biblical references, insights from scholars, and a focus on the essence of Apostolic Pentecostal doctrine regarding mercy. The

themes that interconnect throughout the booklet emphasize how believers can engage with God's mercy personally and communally.

Read and Obey Acts 2:38

About Elder Keith Joel Walker

In 1980 at the age of thirteen, I repented of my sins and was later filled with the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues in my bedroom on 100 W. Holland in Clovis, California. Soon after, I began to see the revelation that Jesus was the God of the Old and the New Testament and that water baptism was administered in Jesus Name. However, at age fifteen, I was credentialed with the Pentecostal Church of God, a Trinitarian-Pentecostal organization.

At the time, I would approach Pastor Aaron Wilson and his Associate Pastor about John 1:1-14 and John 14:7-9, where Jesus said “if you’ve seen me, you’ve seen the father” as well as Acts 2:38 and Romans 6:1-6 concerning Jesus Name baptism, but they would brush it off.

Several years later, in 1987, I visited a service at Truth Tabernacle in Fresno under Elder Vaughn Morton. In that service, Brother Keith Clark preached. Elder Vaughn Morton exhorted about the Oneness of God and the essentiality of being baptized in Jesus Name. That day, I saw the revelation, but I ran from it. The next day, a friend and I went to the Spanish Assemblies of God on Forth and Washington in Fresno. We told them that we received the revelation of Jesus Name baptism, according to Acts 2:38 and wanted to use their baptistry. Pastor Tommy Salazar smiled and said that he knew about baptism in Jesus Name and that his brother was affiliated with the Apostolic Assemblies denomination. He gave us his approval and said, “fill up the baptistry.” So that afternoon, my friend baptized me in Jesus name and I baptized him as well.

From 1988-1992, my wife and I pastored in Chowchilla. During this time, God would give me dreams about Elder Vaughn Morton baptizing people in Jesus Name. There were many mornings that I would wake up and see 2:38 on the clock as the Lord began to deal with me about the truth.

In 1993, my wife, Donna and I felt the call of God to start World Harvest Pentecostal Church in Fresno. The Lord continued to reveal the truth to me over the years. Between 1998-2007, I began to rebaptize those in my church in Jesus Name. I also taught the Oneness of God and holiness to my congregation and left the Assemblies of God, the Trinitarian-Pentecostal denomination I was affiliated with during that time.

In 2008, Elder Vaughn Morton came to visit me at World Harvest Pentecostal Church. He told me that he heard the sermons I was preaching on the new birth, according to Acts 2:38 and the Oneness of God. That afternoon, we went to Truth Tabernacle, where Elder Morton pastored and I asked him to rebaptize me in Jesus Name. He asked me to preach at his Sunday night service and wanted me to tell my testimony on how I came into the full revelation of the truth according to Acts 2:38, on the new birth and Deuteronomy 6:4, on the Oneness of God.

Since August 15, 1993, my wife and I have been pastoring in Fresno for 27 years. We have had the privilege of preaching the gospel in ten different nations. Over the years, we have seen many rebaptized, baptized in Jesus Name and filled with the Holy Ghost. We have also had the privilege of seeing many come to the Revelation of the Oneness at World Harvest Pentecostal Church and around the world.

