



BORN OF
WATER
— AND —
SPIRIT

The Power of Your Personal Testimony

John 3:5 "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit..."

By Elder Keith Joel Walker



BORN OF WATER & SPIRIT

*The Power of Your
Personal Testimony*

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An Apostolic Pentecostal Guide to Salvation, Baptism in water in Jesus Name, Baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire with the evidence of speaking in tongues, and Testimony

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Chapter 1 — Introduction: Why Testimonies Matter

Scripture focus: Acts 2:32; 1 Peter 3:15

Explanation

Testimonies are the living echo of God’s work in human lives. In the book of Acts, eyewitness testimony catalyzed revival and conversion. The apostolic church testified to the risen Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit; heaven confirmed those testimonies with miracles. In an age of skepticism, your testimony is not merely a story — it is gospel power in narrative form. It honors Jesus, strengthens the church, and draws the lost.

Application

- Begin collecting testimonies in your congregation.
- Encourage written testimonies for publication and evangelism.
- Use testimonies to teach believers how God meets needs today.

Reflection questions

- When did God first move in your life?
- Who needs to hear how Jesus changed you?

Chapter 2 — Doctrine: Born of Water and Spirit

Scripture focus: John 3:3–8; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3–4

Explanation

Jesus taught Nicodemus that spiritual life requires being “born of water and of the Spirit.” Apostolic Pentecostal understanding connects the “water” with repentance and water baptism (Acts 2:38), and the “Spirit” with the baptism in the Holy Ghost (Acts 1:4–8; Acts 2:1–4). Water baptism in Jesus’ name is seen as the ordained means of identification with Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection and a necessary step toward full New Testament salvation.

Key points

- Water baptism is an act of obedience and identification with Christ (Romans 6).
- Repentance precedes baptism (Acts 2:38).
- The Spirit’s work completes the new birth.

Application

- Teach new converts the meaning of baptism.
- Provide baptisms in Jesus’ name as a regular part of outreach and discipleship.

Chapter 3 — The Promise of Power: Baptism in the Holy Ghost

Scripture focus: Acts 1:4–8; Luke 24:49

Explanation

Jesus promised the Father's gift — power from on high — that would enable believers to be witnesses. The baptism in the Holy Ghost is empowerment for bold testimony, evangelism, spiritual gifts, healings, and deliverance, and it equips the church to continue Jesus' ministry. This is not an optional extra but an intended blessing for the church.

Practical ministry outcomes

- Bold proclamation of the gospel
- Supernatural ministry: healing, deliverance, words of knowledge, prophecy
- Deepened intimacy and guidance by the Spirit

Application

- Teach and pray expectantly for the infilling of the Spirit.
- Provide instruction about spiritual gifts and how to steward them.

Chapter 4 — The Initial Evidence: Speaking in Tongues in the Book of Acts

Scripture focus: Acts 2:1–4; Acts 10:44–48; Acts 19:1–7

Explanation

In the book of Acts, the coming of the Holy Spirit

is repeatedly accompanied by speaking in tongues: on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2), in Cornelius' household (Acts 10), and at Ephesus (Acts 19). Apostolic Pentecostal teaching holds that speaking in tongues is the initial, physical evidence that a believer has been baptized in the Holy Ghost.

Pastoral guidance

- Teach new believers that tongues are a God-given sign and an instrument for prayer and spiritual edification (1 Corinthians 14:2,4).
- Encourage practice in safe, reverent contexts so people can receive and use this gift.

Application

- Hold regular prayer meetings with space for seeking the Spirit and for praying in tongues.
- Provide simple instruction and testimonies from those who received the gift.

Chapter 5 — Jesus' Personal Miracles: Gospel Testimonies Explained

Scripture focus: Matthew 8; Mark 5; Luke 7; John 9; John 11

Explanation

The Gospels are full of personal encounters — lepers cleansed, blind eyes opened, demons cast out, the dead raised. Each miracle created a testimony

that testified to Jesus' messianic authority. These testimonies did three things: they revealed Jesus' compassion, validated His authority, and moved people toward faith.

Expanded list (select examples and lesson)

- The leper (Matthew 8:1–4): Jesus' touch restores dignity.
- Jairus' daughter & the woman with the issue of blood (Mark 5 / Matthew 9 / Luke 8): faith reaches across shame to meet Jesus and results in restoration.
- The Legion man (Mark 5:1–20): deliverance exposes spiritual bondage; testimony leads to wider proclamation.
- Blind man (John 9): healing brings controversy but ultimately illuminates spiritual blindness vs. sight.
- Lazarus raised (John 11): the greatest testimony to Jesus' authority over death.

Application for preaching

- Use Gospel testimonies as models: emphasize compassion, authority, faith response.
- Invite congregants to see how Jesus interacts with the marginalized — teach compassion-driven outreach.

Chapter 6 — Old Testament Testimonies: Foundations of Faith

Scripture focus: Exodus 14; 2 Kings 5; Daniel 3,6;

Jonah

Explanation

The Old Testament contains testimonies that shaped Israel's faith and foreshadowed New Testament revelation. Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Daniel, and others experienced God's miraculous interventions that later apostles cited as part of God's consistent character.

Selected examples and meaning

- Moses and the Exodus (Exodus 14): God delivers His people from bondage.
- Naaman healed of leprosy (2 Kings 5): a Gentile's testimony of faith and transformation.
- Daniel in the lions' den (Daniel 6): God preserves the faithful.
- Jonah's deliverance and the city's repentance (Jonah): God's mercy is wide.

Application

- Use OT testimonies to preach God's faithfulness across covenants.
- Teach that God who did wonders then still does wonders now.

Chapter 7 — The Shape of a Testimony: Before, Encounter, After

Scripture focus: Galatians 2:20; Acts 4:20

Explanation

A powerful testimony follows a clear shape:

- Before: the state of need (sin, sickness, addiction, defeat).
- Encounter: the divine meeting (prayer, touch, baptism, anointed word).
- After: the change and new life (healing, freedom, service).

Teaching points

- Be honest about the “before” — authenticity builds trust.
- Point every testimony to Jesus as the actor — never center self.
- Include details (time, place, scripture) to give credibility.

Application

- Teach testimony-writing and public-testimony etiquette.
- Create opportunities for testimonies that follow this shape.

Chapter 8 — Testimony in Evangelism and Discipleship

Scripture focus: Acts 4:20; 1 Thessalonians 1:8

Explanation

Witness-bearing is core to the apostolic mission. Testimonies ignite curiosity and open hearts. In discipleship, testimonies are tools for mentoring: they show sanctification in process.

Practical tools

- Testimony nights with brief, edited testimonies.
- Testimony cards or online forms to collect stories.
- Training small groups to tell their testimony succinctly (60–90 seconds).

Application

- Use testimonies in outreach: social media, tracts, radio, and one-on-one evangelism.
- Encourage follow-up conversations that lead to repentance and baptism.

Chapter 9 — Practical Steps: Repentance, Baptism, Receiving the Holy Ghost

Scripture focus: Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3–4; Acts 1:4–8

Step-by-step guide

1. Hear the Word and be convinced of sin (preaching/ Jesus' invitation).
2. Repent sincerely — turn from sin and reconcile where possible.
3. Confess Jesus as Lord and Savior (Romans 10:9–10).
4. Be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for

the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). Water baptism is administered as immersion and is a public declaration.

5. Seek the baptism of the Holy Ghost (ask and receive). Pray, lay hands, and wait in faith (Acts 8:14–17; Acts 19:1–7).

6. Expect the initial evidence — speaking in tongues — and be trained in its use (1 Corinthians 14).

Pastoral cautions

- Avoid pressure tactics; lead people into faith and understanding.
- Provide discipleship following baptism and Holy Ghost infilling.

Chapter 10 — How to Prepare and Share Your Testimony (Templates & Examples)

Scripture focus: Acts 26:1–29; 1 Peter 3:15

Template (60–90 seconds)

1. Name the “before” — briefly describe life before Christ.
2. The turning point — what happened (preaching, prayer, baptism, miracle)?
3. The outcome — how life changed.
4. The invitation — what should listeners do (repent, seek baptism, pray)? End with scripture or a short prayer.

Example testimony (short)

“Before I knew Jesus, I was bound by alcohol and fear. One night I heard the gospel, repented, and was baptized in Jesus’ name. I asked for the Holy Ghost and spoke in tongues. Now I’m free, my family has hope, and I serve in the church. If you need freedom, I’ll pray with you.”

Longer testimony (for service)

- Include scripture that ministered to you.
- Share emotional impact and practical change (relationships, job, habits).
- End by pointing to Jesus and inviting steps.

Application

- Run workshops to practice testimonies.
- Create a testimony team for outreach and follow-up.

Chapter 11 — Parables, Metaphors, and Teaching Tools for Testimony

Scripture focus: Luke 15; Matthew 13

Explanation

Parables and metaphors translate testimony into memorable truth. Use these to teach doctrine and to help people identify their story archetype.

Examples and uses

- Prodigal — great for restoration testimonies.
- Sower — explains varied responses to testimony.
- Potter & clay — speaks of God’s formative work.
- Mustard seed — encourages those with small beginnings.

Application

- Use a parable that fits a testimony in sermons.
- Craft short, contemporary parables to explain conversion steps.

Chapter 12 — Worship, Prayer, and Communion with Power

Scripture focus: Acts 2:42–47; Psalm 22; John 4:23

Explanation

Power arises where worship and prayer meet faith. Prayerful waiting, sacrificial worship, and open-hearted expectation invite the Spirit. Communion should be celebrated with reverence and often serves as an occasion for testimony.

Practical elements

- Corporate times of worship that invite the Spirit.
- Testimonies placed strategically following divine encounters.
- Teach corporate prayer protocol when people receive the Holy Ghost publicly.

Application

- Schedule regular nights of worship for seeking the Spirit.
- Invite testimony sharing after altar times.

Chapter 13 — Church Practice: Baptismal Services, Prayer for the Holy Ghost, and Testimony Night
Scripture focus: Acts 2; Acts 8; Acts 19

Structure for service

- Opening worship and Word.
- Teaching on baptism and the Holy Ghost (short).
- Baptism in Jesus' name (immersions).
- Prayer ministry for Holy Ghost infilling (laying on of hands).
- Time for initial evidence and worship (tongues).
- Testimony time and follow-up small groups.

Training for leaders

- Train baptismal teams on administration and pastoral care.
- Train prayer ministers on how to lead seekers into receiving the Spirit and how to follow up in discipleship.

Chapter 14 — Appendix A: Scripture Index of Gospel & OT Testimonies
(Condensed list with references for preaching)

handouts)

- Matthew 8:1–4 — leper
- Matthew 8:5–13 — centurion’s servant
- Matthew 9:18–26 — Jairus’ daughter / woman healed
- Matthew 20:29–34 — Bartimaeus
- Mark 1:40–45 — leper
- Mark 5:1–20 — Legion restored
- Mark 5:21–43 — Jairus’ daughter and hemorrhaging woman
- Luke 7:1–10 — centurion’s servant
- Luke 7:11–17 — widow’s son raised at Nain
- John 9:1–41 — man born blind
- John 11:1–44 — Lazarus raised
- Exodus 14 — Red Sea deliverance
- 2 Kings 5 — Naaman healed of leprosy
- Daniel 3 — fiery furnace
- Daniel 6 — lions’ den

(Full expanded index can be produced as handout sheets.)

Chapter 15 — Appendix B: Prayers, Litanies, and Service Outlines

Sample prayer for repentance and salvation

- “Lord Jesus, I confess my sin. I repent and ask You to forgive me. I believe You died and rose again. I receive You as Lord and Savior. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Sample prayer for baptism in Jesus' name

- “In the name of Jesus Christ, I baptize you. May this water be a witness to your new life in Christ.”

Sample prayer for Holy Ghost infilling

- “Heavenly Father, in Jesus' name we ask for the promise of the Father. Baptize us with the Holy Ghost. Fill us with power to witness, to love, and to serve. Give us the gift of tongues as a sign and for our edification. In Jesus' name. Amen.”

Service outline (baptism + Holy Ghost)

- Worship (20–30 min)
- Word: short teaching on Acts 2 and Acts 2:38 (10–15 min)
- Baptismal candidates baptized in Jesus' name (time varies)
- Prayer for Holy Ghost infilling — laying on of hands; worship while people receive (20–40 min)
- Testimonies and closing worship (20–30 min)

Chapter 16 — Closing Charge & Blessing

Scripture focus: Acts 1:8; Hebrews 13:20–21