

TIDINGS

SEPTEMBER 2021

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From the Heart of the Superintendent

Glenn R. Beaver



*Glenn & Betty Beaver
Superintendent*

Initials

Have you noticed that we are living in a world of **INITIALS**? With the increase of text messages to the shorthand of many other forms of communication, it seems that **INITIALS** are a whole new way of connecting. For example, **BTW**, (**By The Way**), **YW**, (**You're Welcome**); **K**, (**Okay**) and the list seems to go on and on. Sometimes these are called acronyms and other times, initialism. But there is one initial that I want to highlight for us in this article, **IPE**, (**Initial Physical Evidence**)! One of the cornerstones of our Pentecostal heritage is the scriptural teaching of the initial physical evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Ghost, that being speaking in other tongues.

It is important that when we consider **IPE** we keep in mind the first word in this phrase, **initial**. This is just the beginning, not an end, in and of itself. Too often individuals get caught up in the **other tongues** that there is little or no progress from there. The scripture is clear in numerous places in giving us the pattern by which we know, without any doubt, that we have been baptized in the Holy Ghost. Acts 2:1-4, on the Day of Pentecost, states, "When the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly

there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." They **began** to speak with other tongues. Then these believers in the early church moved on from there. It is recorded in Acts 10:46, "For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God." This is the occasion of Peter being directed by the Spirit to preach to the house of Cornelius and this verse gives the results of the Lord's working. Acts 19:6 says, "When Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spoke with tongues, and prophesied." On this occasion, some 23 years after Acts 2, the results of the baptism in the Holy Ghost was identical.

The **IPE** has not changed with the passing of time. However, after a person experiences the **BHG**, (**Baptism in the Holy Ghost**), it is vitally important for these individuals to continue to grow in the power of the Holy Spirit's presence which is now part of their everyday walk with the Lord. A few things which need our attention after the **BHG** is power for **EW**, (**Effective Witnessing**), **MFS**, (**Manifesting the Fruit of the Spirit**), and **OGS**, (**Operating in the Gifts of the Spirit**).

Let us consider **EW**, (**Effective Witnessing**). A powerful example of this is recorded in Acts as Peter preached to the crowd which had witnessed the out pouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. Three thousand people committed their souls to Christ that day. Another example is Acts 4, the record of Peter and John being arrested for preaching the resurrection of Jesus and their witness was so effective that five thousand

men were saved not to mention the women and children who were not counted as the Jewish custom. May we see a resurgence of **EW** in our world today!

Consider **MFS**, (**Manifesting the Fruit of the Spirit**). In Galatians 5:22-23, Paul gives a list of some of the fruits which are to be manifested through the life of the individual who is baptized in the Holy Ghost, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance." John 15:5 records the words of Jesus about producing fruit, "He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing." There must be enough fruitful evidence in our lives to convict us of having been with Jesus.

Then consider **OGS**, (**Operating in the Gifts of the Spirit**). A good example of Spirit baptized believers operating in the gifts of the Spirit is Acts 3. Peter and John were on their way to a prayer meeting and the operation of the gift of healing was manifest through these two followers of Christ. The **OGS** is still needed in the body of Christ to correctly express the love of Christ to a lost world.

Encourage others to lean into the presence of Jesus and receive the **BHG** with the **IPE** and be empowered to **EW**, **MFS** and **OGS**!

IPE is just the beginning of our walk in the presence of the Holy Spirit!

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance



District Secretary/Treasurer



*Billy & Betty
Nickell*

Keeping Your Guard: Keeping Your Life (Genesis 3; 2 Corinthians 2:10-11)

In Paul's second letter to the church at Corinth he addresses a matter which needed the loving attention and expedient action of the church body. While it is not certain, it is believed by a number of commentators that Paul's admonishment concerns the man who he exposed in chapter five of his first letter. "It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife" (1 Corinthians 5:1 KJV). Paul then indicts the congregation for pridefully ignoring the blatant infraction and calls for them to excommunicate him. This was apparently done and the inference of his letters show the man repented and desired to be restored to the church. Paul's directive in 2 Corinthians 2 serves as another correction, calling for them to forgive and bring the offender back into fellowship. The apostle then gives insight to maintain spiritual victory. "When you forgive this man, I forgive him, too. And when I forgive whatever needs to be forgiven, I do so with Christ's authority for your benefit, so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes" (2 Corinthians 2:10-11 NLT). The Amplified says, "his wiles and intentions." God's Word is replete with accounts of men and women of God being *outsmarted* by the devil's *wiles* and *intentions* and no example is more graphic than the record of Eve in Genesis 3. The book of Genesis is often called the *seed-bed* of Scripture because a great many of the Bible doctrines are found in *seed form*, including Genesis 3. There we are introduced to the craftiness of the enemy, human nature's propensity to err to our own desire rather than walk in obedience to God's command, the devastating affect of sin, and mankind's universal tendency to conceal his wrong. We are further shown irrefutable evidence proving man didn't begin as a single cell and finally develop into an intelligent being over millions of years. Man did not start at the *bottom* of God's creative ladder and slowly make his way up; he started at the top, made in the likeness and image of God. David writes of this marvel in Psalm 8, speaking of God's highest creation, mankind. "Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor" (Psalm 8:5 NLT). The wording of the King James is, "thou hast made him a little lower than the angels" however, the Hebrew word that is translated *angels* is Elohiym, translated as "God" 2,346 times in the King James. How could it be for Adam and Eve to walk and talk with God, yet Eve be deceived and Adam commit high treason? The Bible's Author shows with crystal clarity the schemes used that day in the Garden of Eden and they are there as examples, according to 1 Corinthians 10:11, to instruct and keep us from hell's plot. What was the devil's strategy in Genesis 3 to destroy God's plan for our earthly parents? The five-fold assault used 6000-years ago has not changed yet it continues to seduce believers in the most advanced age of human history.

DISTRACT: We are given no introduction to this enemy of God and His creation until Genesis 3 where we read of his prowess. It seems that Eve had made her way to the center of the garden near the tree God had prohibited her and Adam to partake of when this first tool was pulled from his bag of tricks. Whether Eve was there out of curiosity or passing there by chance we do not know. What we do know is she was *distracted* by a serpent who spoke less than fifteen words initially, "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" Distractions come in various forms and fashions. Peter's was the wind and the waves of the raging sea. Lot's was the fertile plains of Sodom. Achan's was a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight and Samson's was a woman of Philistine descent. Interestingly, the dictionary defines *distract* as, "prevent someone from giving their full attention to something, divert from something." Equally insightful is the origin of the word that comes from the Latin which means, "draw apart." No one *suddenly* leaves their spouse and family, walks away from ministry and abandons their faith! Churches never split over-

night! The fracture always begins with a *distraction*. No wonder the writer of Hebrews pens, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:1a KJV).

DETAIN: The exchange between the serpent and Eve that began with a *distraction* grew to Eve being *detained*. "And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die" (Genesis 3:2-3 KJV). Satan knows if he can keep you or me as his audience long enough his chances to break our focus and dismantle our faith will significantly increase with each passing moment. Eve, it seems, was intrigued by the words of the serpent, taking her deeper and closer to the enemy's goal. I speculate most who read this article have subscribed to a magazine you never intended to purchase, bought a timeshare you said in advance you would not buy, volunteered for a project you had no intention of ever being involved with because you agreed to give your ear to their spill. Such is the story of the prophet of God in 1 Kings 13. After receiving a mandate from the Lord to deliver a message to King Jeroboam of the northern kingdom of Israel, he was instructed not to eat or drink until he returned home. His message was confirmed with the miraculous healing of the king's shriveled arm and the altar being torn in two. Impressed, the king invited him to his home to be rewarded, which he declined. While returning home he paused to rest under a tree and was found by a false prophet from Bethel who tracked him down with ill intention. After telling the man of God of an angel who appeared to him saying the true prophet could go home with him and have a meal, the messenger of God relented, only to be eaten by a lion after leaving the backslidden prophet's house. Emphasis cannot be overstated regarding the danger of being *distracted* and *detained*. This is why Paul wrote, "Neither give place to the devil" (Ephesians 4:27 KJV).

DECEIVE: Someone has pointed out, "When a man wants to believe something, it doesn't take much to convince him." Genesis 3:4 states, "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die." After being *distracted* and *detained* it didn't take much to deceive Eve. She wanted to believe the serpent. Sadly, we too often see those who are changed by the people they had hoped to change. Charles Templeton was in the same graduating class as Billy Graham. It was evident both men had a promising future but most felt Templeton would be the man to touch the world for Christ. Success was swift for Templeton, who was known for his brilliance. Tens of thousands set under his impressive ministry until he was *distracted*, *detained* and *deceived* by the writings of Thomas Paine's **The Age of Reason, The Bible Explained at Last** by the French atheist Voltaire, and others. After turning to atheism Templeton said, "In a few hours, nearly everything I knew or believed about the Christian religion was challenged and in large part demolished."

DIRECT: While we do not know how long this lethal conversation lasted, we know Eve was now on a slippery slope being *redirected* to disaster. "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:5 KJV). The essence of his words to Eve said, "Take matters into your own hands! God has withheld His best from you and Adam! Have it your way!" Millenniums later in the wilderness of temptation he was up to his old tricks hoping to persuade Jesus to step from the arena of faith and obedience into the realm of self."

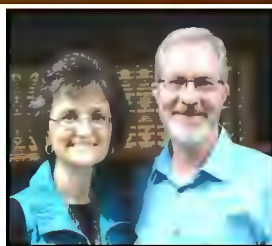
DESTROY: Jesus warns in John 10:10a, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy." After seeing the attractiveness of the tree and the forbidden fruit and believing it would make her wise, Eve partook and gave the same to Adam. Immediately their eyes were opened and the glory covering they had enjoyed disappeared, leaving them to sew fig leaves together to cover their nakedness, hide from God and be driven from paradise. The devil's schemes have not changed, but we are not ignorant to his wiles and intentions. **Keep Your Guard and Keep Your Life!**

Director of Church Ministries



Marriage: The Building Block Of Society

This past weekend, my wife and I experienced the joy of watching our youngest son get married. What made this time even more special was the fact that I was able to perform the wedding. This is something that I will cherish for the rest of my life. Marriage is one of the most important building blocks of society. The very first institution God established was marriage. In the opening pages of the Bible, God brought Adam and Eve together and stated, "For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). God intended the home to be the primary place of identity and love for the married couple and a place of security and instruction for their children. Jesus described the marriage covenant using these words, "What God has joined together let no one separate" (Mark 10:9). We are headed for trouble when we start viewing marriage as a contract rather than a covenant. In a contract, I protect my rights and I limit my responsibilities. Whereas, with a covenant, I lay down my rights and I pick up my responsibilities. I often tell couples that once they get married divorce should not even be in their vocabulary. Years ago, Ruth Graham was being interviewed and was asked the following question, "Did you ever think about divorcing Billy?" I loved her response. She said, "No, but I thought about killing him a couple of times." God's intent and ideal was for a man and woman to be remain married and to be only broken by death.



Tracy & Cara Lynn McWilliams

I realize that those setting out in marriage today will face challenges from a world that is increasingly hostile to the Biblical view of marriage. A Pew Research study stated that 40% of Americans think that marriage is becoming obsolete. In 2008, 41% of babies born in the U.S. were to unmarried women. Rather than seeing marriage as a divine institution, the world views it as merely as human innovation that can totally be disregarded, easily dissolved, or dramatically redefined. Consequently, the foundations are being destroyed, and the culture is coming unraveled. Research has proven just how important marriage is to a society. Statistics show that, on average, married couples have better physical health, more financial stability, and greater social mobility than unmarried people. Other reports find that the children of married couples experience higher academic performance, emotional maturity, and financial stability than children who don't have both parents in the home. One study found that divorce and unwed childbearing cost taxpayers over \$110 billion each year. But the real victims are the children. Children raised in single-parent homes are more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol, exhibit poor social behaviors and commit violent crimes. Marriage reduces the probability of child poverty by 80%. So, what can we do to strengthen marriages within the church? 1. Pastors need to continually preach on the importance of marriage and provide opportunities for marriage enrichment. 2. Christian couples need to model what a healthy marriage looks like. The world needs to see Christians not just enduring their marriage but actually enjoying their marriage. 3. We need to pray that marriages within the church would be strong and healthy. Marriage is a wonderful gift from God that is given to comfort the sorrows of life and to magnify life's joys. I recently heard of a couple who were celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Someone commented that 50 years was a long time to which the husband responded, "Yes, but that's not near as long as what it would have been without my wife." Let's continue to celebrate the wonderful gift of marriage.



Hunter & Allie McWilliams

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Certified: Intro to Pentecostal Doctrine
Licensed: Eschatology
Ordained: Pastoral Ministry

October 16, 2021

Certified: Ministerial Ethics
Licensed: Theology of Missions
Registration deadline September 24

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Accepted Jesus: **273 Campers**
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TOTAL CAMPERS: **678**
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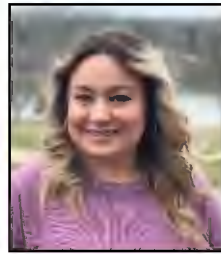
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Christina Sattesahn
Women of Purpose Director



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Phil McGechie
Men's Ministry
Director



Helping men be
who God wants
them to be in
the home,
church, and
marketplace.

I'm excited about the opportunity for the men in our district to become devoted followers of Christ and become who God desires them to be...in the home, church, and marketplace. There are links on our website to excellent studies and resources that will help the men in your church become the leaders God wants them to be. Check it out!

**wtmn.
com**



Discipleship Resources - These small group studies were created to allow men to grow in Christ through their Men's Groups at church or by personal study. I encourage you to check this resource out.



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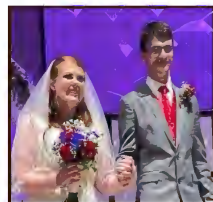
Upward in Worship • Inward in Discipleship • Outward in Evangelism

Around West Texas



We express our sympathy to the family of **Charlene Tidwell**. Charlene, the mother of **Paula Morris**, (wife of Joe Morris and Minister of Pastoral Care, Amarillo, First AG), stepped into the presence of the Lord on Monday, August 23, 2021. Please be in prayer for this family during their time of loss.

Hunter & Allison (Hodge) McWilliams were united in marriage on August 14, 2021. Allyson is the daughter of **Michal Hodge** and Hunter is the son of **Tracy & Cara Lynn McWilliams** who serve as the West Texas Director of Church Ministries. May the Lord bless this couple as they walk through life together.



John & Sue Murdoch,

(Lead Pastors, Christian Life, Lubbock), celebrated **50 years of marriage** on August 14, 2021. Their family and friends celebrated this milestone in their marriage with a reception held on May 29. **Congratulations!**



Prayer Requests: **Nelson & Regina Gonzalez**, Covid; **Steven & Mandy Pena family**, Covid; **Richard & Amber Knight**, Covid; **Kevin & Sarah Penner**, Covid; **Ann Slaton**, allergic reaction to shot in left eye caused blindness, doctor said recovery of sight will be a slow process, pray for complete healing; **Kari Brown**, pending surgery and following treatments for cancer; **Nick Rogers**, complete recovery from surgery on shoulder. **Becky Nenstiel**, cancer that is in her brain, bones, and with lesions on her spine and ribs; **Harry Thomassen**, bloodclots behind replaced knee; **Kay Griswald**, stint in heart; **Thomas Buxton**, cancer and chemotherapy; **Jean Eads**, (mother of Betty Beaver), health concerns; **Sharlotte Boyd**, early onset Alzheimers; **George Mullins**, stroke; **Regina Gonzalez**, Ankylosing Spondylitis (an autoimmune disease); **Cliff Houghton**, autoimmune disease, asthma; **Karen Houghton**, lymphedema; **Patsy Anderson**, (mother of Kevin Anderson), heart issues; **Sue Stevens**, (mother of Darla Anderson), Dementia; **Brenda Van Hoose**, Ankylosing Spondylitis (an autoimmune disease); **Rey Rodriquez**, Muscular Dystrophy; **Perry (Red) Shuffield**, healing & strength; **Rey Rodriquez**, Muscular Dystrophy; **Doris Barnard McCutchen**, health issues; **Myllinda Wood**, (sister of Tracy McWilliams), ALS.

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

1 Peter 2:24 KJV

