

Hosting the Presence

Bill Johnson

(Destiny Image)

Let the Spirit live inside you!

Are you hungry for an encounter with Jesus? Do you want to make an impact on the world?

In this power-packed book, Bill Johnson discusses how *you* can be a person who hosts the Presence of God. Though all believers obviously have the Spirit of God within them, there is *more* that enables you to be so full that you overflow His Spirit into your world. Take a journey and meet many great prophets and kings from the Old Testament who were known as people of the Presence—people who, in Johnson’s words, “God wanted to be with.” In this succinct and powerful book, Johnson encourages you toward a pursuit of the Presence of God above all else.

In this book, you will discover:

- How to pay attention to the Holy Spirit and respond to Him.
- How the Holy Spirit manifests Himself.
- Biblical figures who were hungry for more of God’s Spirit and learned to host Him.
- Stories of Presence-filled revivalists and personal encounters with the Presence!

Bill Johnson writes: “We are enabled to partner with the Kingdom of Heaven and see it released here on earth! The Presence of God within us will bring reformation to the world around us—encountering a loving God!”

Host more of Him today!

R.T. Kendall: Why Your Anointing Is So Offensive

Rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. —1 Peter 4:13

At the end of the day the anointing will have a stigma. It will offend. John Wesley was offended by George Whitefield's preaching because it was done in the fields instead of in a regular church building.

My congregation at Westminster Chapel was offended when I started our Pilot Light witnessing program on Saturday mornings. I had no idea of ever being a witness on the streets. I was always glad for somebody else to do that. It just wasn't my anointing—or so I thought!

But my thinking changed when I invited Arthur Blessitt to preach at Westminster Chapel in May 1982. The plan was for us to take pamphlets and questionnaires to nearby Page Street, knock on doors, and talk to people about the Lord. But we never made it. Arthur began witnessing to some youth who were standing in front of the chapel, and within a short time, several of them got saved.

Arthur said to me, "Dr. Kendall, I don't know where this Page Street is, but you don't need to leave the steps of your church. The whole world passes by here."

In that moment I had a vision. I saw a pilot light, like that in an oven, that stays lit day and night. I said to Arthur, "Why couldn't we have a ministry talking to passers-by right here outside the Chapel?" In that moment the Pilot Light

ministry was born.

I never looked back—but the cost was terrific. All I had preached for the previous five years suddenly came under attack. The invitations to preach, which averaged one every day, came to a halt. Ministerial friends distanced themselves from me. Members of the Chapel began resigning their memberships right and left.

Those were hard days. But I have never been sorry I walked in the light God was giving me then. If you ask me, it was my finest hour. And yet it wasn't easy to have some of my best supporters tiptoe away from me because my obedience embarrassed them. It is part of the stigma.

Excerpted from *The Anointing: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow*
(Charisma House, 2003).

Experiencing God's Presence

You will fill me with joy in your presence. —Psalm 16:11

Recognize the “Bruised Reed”

A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory. —Matthew 12:20

Charisma Online June 2012



Reconciliation in Action

Watch behind-the-scenes videos of *Charisma's* documentary on how the church is bringing hope and healing amid racial tension in Sanford, Fla. Visit reconciliation.charismamag.com.



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Can You Hear Me Now?

Los Angeles pastor Kenneth Ulmer teaches about how God speaks at godsvoice.charismamag.com.

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Lord, Make My Money Over

Get a money makeover from finance coach Dave Ramsey at money.charismamag.com.



IHOP-KC

Praying on the Job

Do you consider your workplace a harvest field? Visit work.charismamag.com to join IHOP-KC founder Mike Bickle in praying for those in the marketplace.

Feedback June 2012

Joyce Meyer: EXTENDED VERSION

Thank you for the wonderful article "Teaching Beyond Words" (by Vincent Newfield, April). I am a partner of Joyce Meyer Ministries and watch her show several times a day, but I did not know the vast extent of her Hand of Hope ministry. I minister to girls in the brothels in Nevada and Joyce has sent us books and CDs to give out. We appreciate her so much and pray she continues for many more years.

Roseann Jones, Nevada

Stop Manufacturing the Spirit!

J. Lee Grady's column, "Holy Ghost Smackdown!" (April) is an important message to charismatic church leaders who have gone overboard, cheapened the gospel, and miscommunicated who God is and how He operates. Leaders who try to manufacture or imitate true acts of the Spirit need to turn from this practice, and their followers need to confront them gently yet firmly.

Ernst Lutz, Rockville, Md.

Stretching the Truth?

As a 30-year subscriber to *Charisma*, I appreciate much of your fine reporting. But sometimes people report facts out of line with reality. In "Five Minutes With ... Marilyn Hickey" (April),

Hickey speaks of the revival in South Korea. I've been there several times and led a large delegation to Dr. David Cho's church in the 1980s. The South Korean church is strong, but their rapid growth has slowed considerably with their materialistic culture.

Allen J. Swanson, Gainesville, Ga.

Let's Clear Something Up

This is in response to Lucille Brown's Feedback letter "Don't Be Slack on Sin" (February). She was "very troubled" by Richie Hughes' article "Out, But Not Disqualified" (November). As one who grew up with the Hughes family I can assure you that Richie was not condoning the homosexual lifestyle, nor was he saying that God condones it. While it's true that God transforms us from a destructive lifestyle, sometimes that transformation isn't immediate. Richie was telling us that he loved his brother regardless, and that the church shouldn't have the same judgmental spirit you seem to possess. I say this with only love in my heart.

Darin Scott, Franklin, Tenn.

The Church's Response to Racism

The aftermath from the Trayvon Martin tragedy proves that a new form of racism—one that goes beyond black and white—still lies beneath the surface in America. With the issue more complex than ever, the church remains the only hope for

reconciliation.

When Billy Graham was asked several years ago what the greatest social problem in the world was, he answered in one word: *racism*.

It's as true today as then. Though we've seen remarkable progress in America as recent generations have wiped away institutional racism, new racial problems have emerged between not only blacks and whites, but also Hispanics and other minorities. Nothing displayed this more than the heated reaction to the tragic Feb. 26 killing of Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Fla., outside Orlando. The case unleashed a firestorm of controversy, media interest, and rallies in Sanford and across the country.

At the time of this writing, much remains unknown about the Martin case and the extent to which racism factored into the tragedy. Yet the aftermath of racially loaded accusations and even hate speech proves that, whether we want to admit it or not, racism is still a serious stronghold in America.

Doing Righteous Deeds but Disobeying God

And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment. ... For Thou hast hidden Thy face from us ... But now, O Lord, Thou art our Father, we are the clay, and Thou our potter; and all of us are the work of Thy hand. —Isaiah 64:6-8, NAS

Remedy for an Unhappy Marriage

Each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. –Ephesians 5:33

Do You Live by Feelings or the Word?

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. –Romans 8:14