

A Special Kind of Power

ALL WHO ARE UNITED TO CHRIST have the greatest source of power in the world on their side. We Christians know that, and yet we easily put it out of our minds. Take the apostles, for instance. Before Pentecost, they, like the rest of Israel, were seeking a kind of power and glory. In fact, the last question they asked the Lord before He ascended was, *Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?*

Now it is true that the apostles were looking for power from the proper source. Yet they failed to grasp the nature of what Jesus offered them. He planned on giving "Spirit power." He said to them, *You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.*

THAT POWER IN ACTION

That day of power came quickly. At a time when the apostles were together, a sound like a mighty wind filled the house and fiery tongues rested over their heads. Strangely, the apostles began to speak in languages different from those they had learned as children. Some of the people who heard them were amazed and perplexed; others made some nasty insinuations about their drinking habits.

This confusion was cleared up quickly, however. Peter began to preach about the promises of God and how He had kept them by sending His Son, Jesus the Christ. He spoke of how the Holy Spirit was being poured out upon them, and how all the people could have salvation if they would repent and be baptized. Through Peter's words the Spirit added three thousand people to the infant Church.

The Spirit's power was not confined to that one glorious day. It has been working wonders ever since. Some have failed to see it, for it is ordinarily an unobtrusive power. It does not usually appear with noise and fire as it did on that marvelous Day of Pentecost.

But look at the collective results of the Spirit at work. It founded and sustains the Church. That Body of Christ has outlived all world powers, and will stand when everything else has fallen. *That* is power!

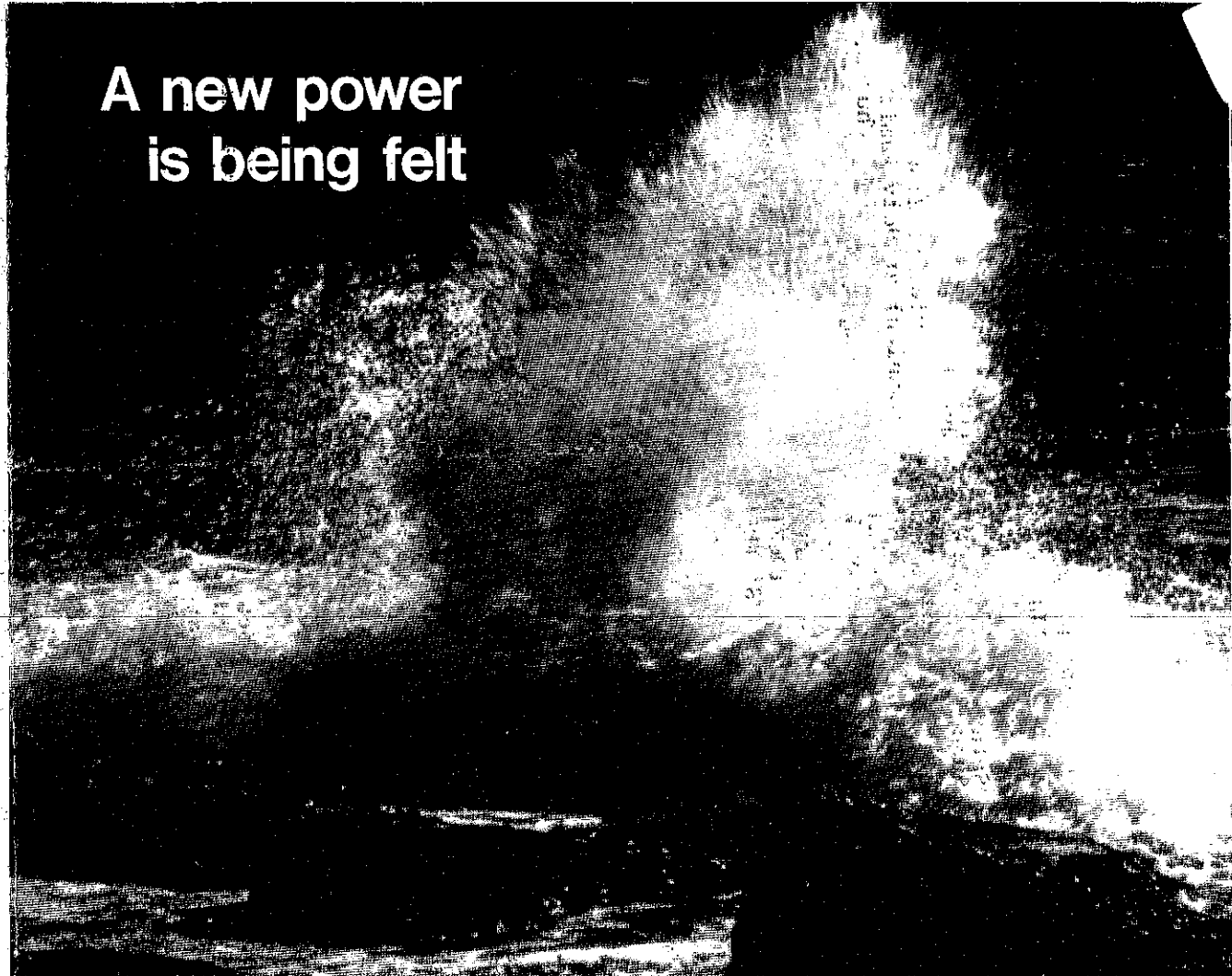
ABOUT THE COVER: *The new life of the Holy Spirit given to the apostles at Pentecost is symbolized by the power and force of nature.*

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A new power is being felt



The Day of Pentecost

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Suddenly from up in the sky there came a noise like a strong, driving wind which was heard all through the house where they were seated. Tongues as of fire appeared which parted and came to rest on each of them. All were filled with the Holy Spirit.