

## OTHER BOOKS WRITTEN BY PASTOR CHRIS JORDAN:

### BOOKS:

1. Supernatural: Contending for Signs and Wonders Today
2. The Beausejour Pulpit
3. The Visitation (2012)
4. The Voyagers: Mutiny on the Fellowship (fiction, 2012)

### MINI-BOOKLETS:

1. Church, It's Time to Grow Up!
2. Faith in Focus: The Newspaper Columns 2011
3. Foursquare Foundations: Our Statement of Faith
4. Fullness of Joy and Rivers of Pleasure
5. Hunger and the Need for Revival
6. Origins #1: Creation
7. Origins #2: The Fall
8. Origins #3: Dinosaurs in the Bible
9. Proverbs: Wisdom for Daily Living 31 Day Devotional
10. Redigging the Wells of Prayer
11. The Blessed Life
12. Unlocking the Mysteries of Revelation
13. With Jesus in the School of Prayer

### BOOK REVIEWS:

1. A Review of Love Wins by Rob Bell
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3. A Review of Angels and Demons by Dan Brown

### BIBLE READING SCHEDULE:

1. The Five Minute Challenge: Bible Reading Schedule

## FAITH BUILDING MINI-BOOKS

# REDIGGING THE WELLS OF PRAYER



**PASTOR CHRIS JORDAN**



### About the Author

Chris grew up in a little house on the Canadian prairies in Rouleau, Saskatchewan. Although he first became a Christian in August of 1989, it wasn't until September of 1990 that he radically committed his life to Jesus Christ. For the next year, Chris attended *Solid Rock Ministries* in Regina, a powerful little church pastored by Erwin Dyck and Dave Koop. In January of

1992, Chris attended *Christ for the Nations Bible College* in Surrey, BC. After only a year and a half of Bible College, he started interning at *Victory Christian Centre*, where he served as the youth pastor for four years. Two of those years were also spent as a prayer minister working for *KCM Ministries*. In March of 1995, Chris married his best friend, Liza Woods.

In January of 1997, Chris enrolled in *Pacific Life Bible College* (PLBC), and came on staff at Bible Fellowship Church. For the next ten years, he served that local church as youth pastor and Christian Education Director. During that time, Chris was the chapel speaker for the primary students at *Regent Christian Academy* (RCA). He also taught several Bible classes at RCA, and filled in as a substitute teacher for many other subjects as well. In May of 1999, Chris graduated from PLBC with a Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Leadership. After graduation, Chris taught Bible Research and Hermeneutics as an adjunct professor at Pacific Life for the next eight years. In September of 2006, Chris and Liza pioneered the *Revolution Master's Commission* discipleship program at Bible Fellowship.

Two months later, Chris received the call from the Lord to pastor *Beausejour Community Church*. Because he had just started the RMC program at Bible Fellowship, he felt he needed to complete the first year of this discipleship school before moving to Beausejour. So in January of 2007, Chris was installed as the lead pastor of BCC and started travelling back and forth between BC and Manitoba. In July of 2007, Chris and Liza moved to Beausejour with their four children: Caleb, Tori, Austin & Hannah.

Pastor Chris has a passion to teach and preach God's Word. He published his first book, "Supernatural: Contending for Signs and Wonders Today" in June 2010. He is currently working on a book on the life of Jesus called "The Visitation" and a youth fantasy fiction novel called "The Voyagers: Mutiny on the Fellowship."

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By Chris Jordan

**Hunger and the Need for Revival:** God's desire is that this latter day's church would be greater in glory than the early church. It's time to contend for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our midst today and pray for revival.

**Redigging the Wells of Prayer:** If we want to see the same power – signs, wonders, healings and miracles – as the church in Acts, then we must have the same priority of prayer as they did.

**With Jesus in the School of Prayer:** Jesus wants to teach us how to pray. When we spend time with Jesus in the secret place, prayer becomes an exciting adventure.

**Church, It's Time to Grow Up!** God has given us an amazing gift in the Bible. When we feed upon His Word, we will grow spiritually and become more like Jesus.

**Fullness of Joy and Rivers of Pleasure:** There's something missing in the church today. It's called JOY. God wants us to experience fullness of joy, and rivers of pleasure.

**The Blessed Life:** God's desire is that we would experience the blessed life – where we would be happy, supremely blessed; and spiritually prosperous – with life-joy and satisfaction in God's favour and salvation.

**Origins #1: Creation:** Is there more scientific evidence that supports the Biblical account of creation or the theory of evolution? The Origins series considers this question and more.

**Origins #2: The Fall:** If God is good, and He created everything, and the original creation was very good, then why is there death and suffering in the world?

**Origins #3: Dinosaurs in the Bible:** If God made the dinosaurs with all other land animals and human beings on day six of creation, are there dinosaurs mentioned in the Bible?

**Unlocking the Mysteries of Revelation:** The Revelation of Jesus Christ is one of the most interesting books of the Bible. This message will give you the keys to unlocking the mysteries of Revelation.

**Foursquare Foundations:** A look at our church's statement of faith.

**Faith in Focus: The Newspaper Columns 2011:** A collection of articles that were published in our local newspaper.

**Proverbs: Wisdom for Daily Living:** A 31 day devotional journey through the Book of Proverbs.

earth...” Why would they pray that to the Lord? God knows who He is. They were reminding themselves of who God was for their own benefit, and we need to do the same. When we pray, we need to rehearse all the times that God has answered our prayers in the past. We need to share testimonies and stories of what God is doing in our lives to stir up our faith. If God did it yesterday, He can do it again today.

We need to ask God to give us boldness to speak His Word. We’re living in an ungodly society. If Peter and John needed to pray for more boldness after having just performed a mighty miracle in the name of the Lord, how much more do we? As you go into your workplaces and schools, say, “Lord, give me boldness. I need a fresh outpouring of your Holy Spirit in my life.”

We need to ask God to perform signs and wonders. The church prayed that God would stretch out His hand to heal, and that signs and wonders would be done through the name of Jesus. We need to see signs and wonders in the church today. A sign has one purpose – to point towards something. When you’re coming back to town and you see the “Beausejour – one kilometer” sign, you don’t camp at the sign and say, “Oh wow, what a beautiful sign that is.” The purpose of the sign is to point you towards something else. When we see a healing or a miracle, the purpose is to point people to Jesus. It’s so that people can put their faith in Jesus. It’s not just for the sake of the supernatural experience. Miracles are also called wonders because when God moves in a miraculous way and He does something impossible in the natural realm, it causes people to wonder.

We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit anew. Our Scripture says that, “when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.” They had already been filled with the Holy Spirit in Acts chapter two, and a little while later, Peter was filled with the Spirit again. Here they were filled with the Spirit a third time. Human beings are like leaky containers. We get filled up with the Holy Spirit, but we need to be refilled every day. The Psalmist said, “I shall be anointed with fresh oil!” We need to cry out for a fresh anointing in our lives.

## RETURN TO YOUR FIRST LOVE

In Revelation 2:4, Jesus said, “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.” God is calling us to begin to redig the wells of prayer, to return to our first love, and do the first things first. In the midst of all of the busyness of the work of the ministry, let’s not neglect to spend time at the feet of Jesus, getting into the secret place. Let’s get alone until we’re not alone anymore, and allow God to fill us up with His power, boldness, love and compassion, to have the heart of Jesus to reach our generation. Father I thank you for a new and fresh outpouring of your Holy Spirit, in Jesus’ name, amen!

## REDIGGING THE WELLS OF PRAYER

If we want to see the same power – signs, wonders, healings and miracles – as the church in Acts, then we must have the same priority of prayer as they did.

### REDIGGING THE WELLS

“And Isaac dug again the wells of water which they had dug in the days of Abraham his father, for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham. He called them by the names which his father had called them.” (Genesis 26:18).

This Scripture is a prophetic trumpet call to the church today. Many of the stories in the Old Testament have a spiritual significance and implication to our lives today in the New Testament. This particular story tells us how Abraham had dug some wells to be a source of refreshing water for his people. His generation had enjoyed the life-giving water from those wells, but their enemies came along and filled those wells with dirt so that they couldn’t access the water. A generation later, Abraham’s son Isaac began to redig those wells. He recognized that there was a place of refreshing there, and he redug the wells from the days of his father. God is calling us to redig some of the wells of the early church.

### WE NEED THE POWER OF GOD TODAY

If you’ve ever read the Book of Acts, you’ve probably noticed that there are a lot of differences between what they did back then and there, and what we’re seeing in the church today. In Acts, you see a powerful and a glorious church. People were saved, delivered and healed, and many lives were transformed and set free by the power and person of Jesus Christ. But in many churches today the power and the presence of God is missing. Why? What’s different about the church today? Some people would say, “The gifts of the Spirit have been done away with. We don’t need that in the church anymore today.” I would like to propose to you that we do need the gifts of the Spirit and the power of God in the church today. If anything, people are more broken, lives are more fractured, and life doesn’t make sense for people in the 21st Century. We need the reality of the power of God that can change people’s lives today!

### THE DAYS OF GREATER GLORY

A prophet in the Old Testament, Haggai, made this declaration: “The

glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,' says the Lord of hosts." (Haggai 2:9). Haggai said that in the last days, before Jesus returns to the earth a second time, the glory of the latter church will be greater than the former.

Jesus promised that our church today would be more glorious than it was in the book of Acts. I'm not totally sure what that will look like because we haven't seen it yet. Let's go back to the Bible, and redig the wells in the book of Acts, see what they did to get what they had, and contend for that. Let's redig those wells of revival.

#### A YOUTH GROUP HUNGRY FOR REVIVAL

For ten years, I was a youth pastor at Bible Fellowship Foursquare Church in Surrey, BC, and we contended there for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We wanted to see the reality of God touching and changing people's lives. We were so hungry and desperate to see a move of God that every Wednesday night before our youth meetings we would pray, "God, we want you to move. If you don't come tonight, then let's go home and shut the whole thing down." An amazing thing happened as we got hungry and desperate for more of God. We knew that the Lord said, "And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13), and if we would draw near to God, He would draw near to us (James 4:8), so we did that. We said, "God, we want to know you in a personal way."

The Holy Spirit moved in a group of teenagers who said, "If God is real, we want to know Him." There were times as the Holy Spirit was poured out in our midst where literally every person was laid out on the floor because of His manifested presence. Young people would run up to the front altar, convicted by the Holy Spirit and crying out, "We need to get right with God!" We started saying, "Lord, we want more!"

In November of 2003 I went to a youth conference in Portland, Oregon with one of our youth leaders and a few students from our youth group. There was a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit there. During a worship session one morning, I lay down on the floor and said, "God, I want more of you. Please come. Do something new in my life. Do something fresh in my life." During that time, I had a vision where the Lord opened my eyes to see into the spirit realm an angel of the Lord standing before me. This angel touched my ears and touched my eyes in this vision, and I heard the angel speak this Scripture to me: "Matthew Thirteen." I didn't know what was in this chapter of the Bible, so I opened up my Bible and read where Jesus said, "It has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven... blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear." (Matt. 13:11,16). I understood the significance of what the angel had done in that vision as the Lord began to open up my understanding to some of the mysteries of the kingdom of God.

can give the power of God.

The second part of this story takes place in Acts chapter four. Peter and John walked into the temple with this crippled man, a crowd gathered around, and Peter started preaching Jesus to them. He told them that they could encounter Jesus and their lives could be changed as well. Two thousand more people gave their lives to Jesus. The religious leaders got upset that they were stirring things up, so they threw Peter and John in prison and beat them up and said, "Stop preaching about Jesus!" Peter said, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." When we start contending for a supernatural breakthrough in our midst, persecution is going to come. People, and maybe even other churches, will persecute us.

#### A POWERFUL PRAYER TO PRAY:

"And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them... Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness." (Acts 4:23-24,29-31).

If you want to learn how to pray, study the prayers of the Bible. There are many prayers in the Bible that we can pray. When I pray for our church family, there is a list of prayers that I pray on a regular basis. These are great Scriptures to pray for yourself and your family: Ephesians 1:17-19; Ephesians 3:14-21; Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 1:9-11; Psalm 23; Psalm 91; Psalm 103 and Isaiah 57.

We need to pray together as a church. This story tells us "they raised their voice to God with *one accord*." This Greek word *homothumadon* helps us understand the uniqueness of the Christian community. It is a compound of two words meaning to "rush along" and "in unison". The image is almost musical; a number of notes are sounded which, while different, harmonize in pitch and tone. As the instruments of a great concert under the direction of a concertmaster, so the Holy Spirit blends together the lives of members of Christ's church. (Strong's Concordance). God's desire is that the church would be like a musical symphony, where each of us does the part that God has called us to play, and we become a beautiful sounding expression of Jesus to the earth. Let's seek the Lord together in prayer. Let's contend for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

When they prayed, they said, "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and

Here's a man who was born crippled, and for over forty years of his life he could not walk. All of a sudden he had an encounter with Jesus, and through the power in the name of Jesus, he was healed. He didn't just stand up and say, "Oh that's cool, I'm feeling much better now, thanks for that." No, he started jumping up and down and shouting, leaping and praising God. He was so excited about the difference that Jesus had made in his life. It's time for us to get happy about our salvation! You might say, "But God hasn't done anything for me. He never healed my physical body. He never delivered me from any kind of addictions." Are you saved? Have you been adopted into the family of God? Once you were on the road to hell, but now you're on the road to Heaven. Once you were a child of the devil, but now you're a child of God, and you're going to live forever with Him. That's something to get excited about! If we'd just get a little happier about our salvation, we'd see more people coming to Jesus. The joy of the Lord needs to be our strength, and we received this joy as we spend time in the presence of the Lord. That's why I love going to church on Sunday mornings, because when we worship God and come into His presence together, there is fullness of joy (Psalm 16:11).

Our Bible story says that when this miracle happened the crowds of people were greatly amazed. It's time for the church to amaze people again through the power of Jesus Christ working in and through our lives. When we see more miracles, signs and wonders happening in the church, the world will sit up and take notice.

We need to make prayer our priority. This miracle took place when Peter and John were on their way to a prayer meeting. It's time to get serious about praying!

We need to stir up our expectation for God to do something. This lame man "gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them." He didn't walk away and say, "No thanks, not interested." He said, "If you've got something for me, I want it!" He expected to receive. You'll get what you expect. If you come to church on Sunday morning and expect to sing some songs and learn some facts, that's all you're going to walk away with. Let's have an expectancy in our spirit that says, "I'm going to church to meet with God and receive everything that He has for me." We need to have an atmosphere of faith that says, "God, we believe that you're going to move, and we're going to see amazing things happen in the presence of the Lord." It will happen when we start expecting it.

When Peter prayed for the man, he said, "What I do have I give you... the name of Jesus." Peter knew that he had something. If he didn't know beyond a shadow of a doubt that the power of God was in his life, he wouldn't have grabbed this crippled man and stood him up on his feet. That would have been awkward. Peter knew that there was something inside of him that when he pulled that man to his feet, and that Jesus would heal him. Peter knew that Jesus had said, "Freely you have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:8), but we need to receive first. We need to get the power of God so we

## THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM

I started teaching the mysteries of the Kingdom to our youth group. "These signs will follow those who believe: they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover." Jesus said, "And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:7-8). As we started teaching these truths from the Bible, these teenagers said, "If that's what the Bible says, we're going to go and do it." We had a couple of leaders in our youth group, Geoff and Spencer, who even prayed for people to be raised from the dead!

I realize that some of you hearing these stories are saying, "You're making this all up." I'm telling you the truth: the power of Jesus Christ has not changed. If we're not seeing it in the church today, it's not because Jesus has changed. It's because we're not seeking or believing God for it.

The church is not yet all that it will be one day. I believe that as God stirs up our hearts to see the reality of the power of God in our midst that we're going to see miraculous things happen. We need to start redigging the wells of the church in the Book of Acts. It's time to return to our foundations.

## BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

Being a Christian is not just about being blessed, blessed, blessed. Thank God He blesses us, but we need to remember that we are blessed to be a blessing. Freely we have received so that we can freely give. We can't keep it a secret any longer. We have to share what we have with others.

"Then Jesus taught, saying to them, 'Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations?'' (Mark 11:17). There are a lot of different things that happen in the church, including praise and worship and preaching. But Jesus did not say that His house would be a house of praise and worship or preaching, although those things are good and important. Jesus said first and foremost that His house would be called a house of prayer. If we want to see a supernatural breakthrough of the power of God into our midst, then we need to redig the wells of prayer. The church in the book of Acts was powerful and saw lives transformed because they prayed.

If you want to see where people's hunger and passion is for more of God in their lives, look at the prayer meeting. In most churches, the prayer meeting is the least attended meeting in the church. Prayer is not just a religious duty. God answers prayer, and prayer is an opportunity to connect with the power of God in our lives! We're not seeing more of the power of God in our midst because we're not praying for it. James 4:2 says, "You have not because you ask not." Ask and you will receive.

Look at the emphasis on prayer in the book of Acts. When Jesus said, "My house will be called a house of prayer" he meant that it would be a place

of prayer, blessing and ministry. The church is to be a place where we pray for people and see people touched and changed by the power of God.

1:14 “These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer.” Luke tells us they devoted themselves to prayer continually. Prayer was not a side issue to the early church.

1:24 “And they prayed...” for wisdom and direction from the Lord.

2:1-4 “And they were all with one accord... and they were all filled with the Spirit.” When the church came together in unity, God’s Holy Spirit fell. This was the birth of church on the day of Pentecost.

2:42 “They were continually devoting themselves to...teaching, fellowship...and prayer.” Four times in just the first two chapters of the book of Acts, we see the church praying. Let us pray!

I remember one weekend when we had seven people receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit at our Alpha Course. I enjoyed watching as everyone broke up into small groups and prayed for one another and saw the presence of God come upon people. They were weeping and shaking as the power of God came upon them. We saw the gifts of the Holy Spirit in operation as people shared prophetic words with one another. It was great seeing people praying and ministering to and blessing one another - that's what church is all about.

#### THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH IN ACTS

There are three things that were foundational keys to the original church in Acts – the blueprint that God gave us. This is what I want to see us contend for. Let’s make these a reality in our midst.

1. The Presence of God. In Matthew 28:20, when Jesus commissioned those first disciples, He said, “I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” This speaks of the reality of the manifested presence of God. The early believers expected the presence of Jesus through the Holy Spirit to be with them each time they gathered. If we ever come to a place where we’re just singing songs and hearing stories about what God did yesterday, then it’s time to get on our knees and cry out, “Revive us again!” Lord, don’t let us ever get to that place where it’s just ‘church as usual’. The revival preacher Leonard Ravenhill wrote, “There was a time when people came to church to meet with God. Now they come to sing songs about Him.” Whenever you go to church, have that expectancy to meet with God. Jesus said, “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:19). When we gather together with other believers, He is there with us. If He is the same yesterday, today and forever, then let’s believe that He can touch our hearts and renew and refresh us today.

2. The Power of God. The early believers expected the supernatural power of God to be expressed in their midst when they gathered. In Mark 16:15-20, when Jesus gave His disciples the great commission, He said to them, "Go

into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature... And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons...they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” We need to see this in the church. People are hurting and broken in the world today and we’ve got the answer. The answer is Jesus, who heals the broken-hearted, comforts those who mourn, and sets at liberty those who are in bondage. That’s why we run the Overcomers Outreach 12 step program out of our church. When people come to Jesus and they are addicted to drugs and alcohol and anger, they can be set free from that. You don’t have to be that way for the rest of your life – Jesus can set you free!

3. Participation by all. The early believers came to their gathering anticipating that each one would have something to contribute as the Holy Spirit led. In First Corinthians 14:26, Paul wrote: “How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.” We need to change the mentality that says, “I’m coming to church to be a spectator.” We all have something to give. What’s your gift? What has God gifted YOU to do? Are you using your gifts for His glory? Whatever your gift is, use it to build the kingdom of God and bless people. If you don’t know what your spiritual gifts are, find out! It’s not the pastor’s job to do the work of the ministry. Ephesians 4:12 says the job of the pastor is to “equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” Every member is a minister.

(Some of the concepts in this section were taken from *Church at its Simplest* by Tom Wymore at [www.churchplanting.ca](http://www.churchplanting.ca)).

#### A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE EARLY CHURCH

“Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them--walking, leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God. Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed.” (Acts 3:1-11).