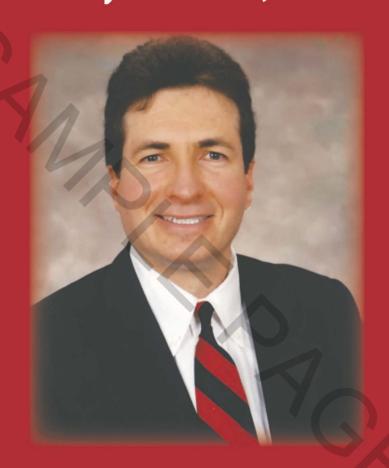
E. A. Johnston, Ph.D.



A POWER HIGHER

THE DOCTRINE
OF THE FULLNESS OF THE HOLY
SPIRIT

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THE DOCTRINE
OF THE FULLNESS OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT

BY

E. A. JOHNSTON

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BY

Dr. E. A. JOHNSTON

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- 14. "George Whitefield A Definitive Biography In Two Volumes" (American edition published by Revival Literature, Asheville; 2012).
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- 18. "A Noble Company Biographical Essays on Notable Particular Baptists in America Volume 11: Portrait of Rolfe Barnard" (Particular Baptist Press, Springfield; 2018).
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DEDICATION

The following chapters on the doctrine of the Fullness of the Holy Spirt are hereby dedicated to the memory of my homiletical mentor, colleague, and friend, Dr. Stephen F. Olford who taught me by his example that the anointing of the Holy Spirit is available to any serious Christian who desires and is willing to appropriate that power for ministry and service today





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INTRODUCTION

Is there a legitimate reason why most Christians in America are not persecuted for their faith? Could it be that they blend in too well with pagan society to where there is little noticeable difference? Is there a reason why the church in America, for the most part, lacks authority and power? The dissimilarities of the early church as depicted in the Book of Acts and the modern church today are startling. The early Christians had power and authority attending their witness and their worship for Christ and the Gospel. They were physically dragged from their homes and loved ones and beaten for their testimony in Christ Jesus. Those early believers who refused to say, "Caesar is Lord" and who boldly proclaimed, "Jesus is Lord" were tied to posts in Nero's Circus and doused with oil to be human torches to light the evening chariot races. Those earnest believers who refused to compromise with the pagan society around them were fed to wild beasts in the Colosseum and torn asunder for their testimony in Christ Jesus.

I first encountered the modern disbelief in the power of the Holy Spirit for our day, when I was taking my oral exam for my Ph.D., and I mentioned to one of the two seminary professors who were conducting my oral exam, that there was a vast difference between the Christianity of our day as compared to the early days of the church, as seen in the Book of Acts. And my seminary professor reprimanded me and said, "That was for then, and not for now." If the professor wants to live a powerless life for Christ, then it's up to him, but I hungered for MORE. I wanted to have the same power and authority that the early church possessed and I believe there is biblical evidence to back up the fact that the Holy Spirit did not go out of business once the early church was established.

If that "power higher" was reserved only for the Apostles and early church then how does one explain the mighty evangelistic ministry of a George Whitefield? How did Whitefield gather crowds at 5am to stand in the cold and rain for two hours to hear him preach the glorious Gospel of the Son of God? Why was George Whitefield persecuted so? Often while he preached in the open air he had pieces of dead cats thrown at him and he was pelted with stones. One time while preaching to a mob in Ireland he was stoned and almost killed. While on his second journey in America he was introduced to a minister from