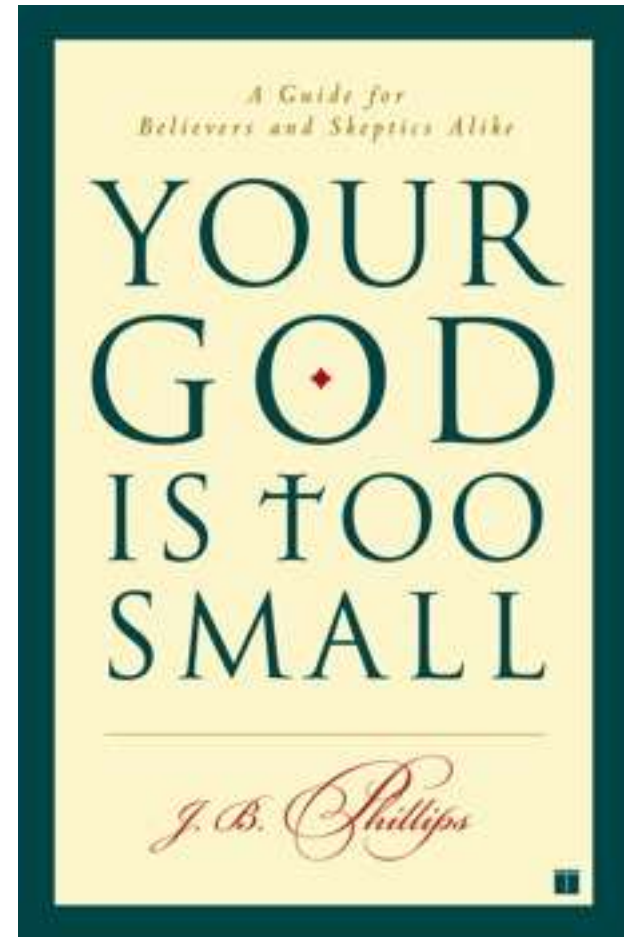
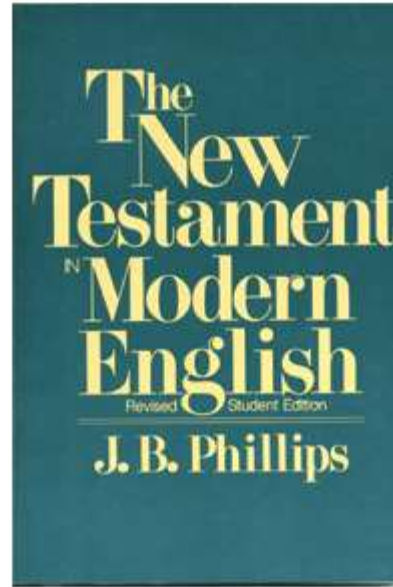


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**How Big is Your God,  
Really?**



**John Bertram  
Phillips**





## Previously In the Book of Acts

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- **8 but you will receive POWER when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;**
- **and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”**



Which Means ....

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The Holy Spirit will give  
you the ability to tell  
what *you have*  
*experienced* - with  
*miraculous* results!!!!



# Here is the Promise

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- <sup>37</sup> Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?”
- <sup>38</sup> Peter *said* to them, “**Repent**, and each of you **be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins**; and **you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**.”



# The First Sermon ...

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- Was about surrendering to the Power and Presence of the Holy Spirit – WHY
- Because Christianity is about Relationship, not religion
- It is about our weakness being swallowed up in His Power
- It is about miraculous, mind-blowing, life changing Power and Presence of God invading the world, changing lives and changing the world as a result



# And Then THAT Happened

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- <sup>40</sup> And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this **perverse** (*skolios*) generation!”
- <sup>41</sup> So then, those who had **received his word** were baptized; and that day there were added about **three thousand souls.**



# Now What?!?!

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- <sup>42</sup> They were continually devoting themselves to:
  - the apostles' teaching
  - and to fellowship,
  - to the breaking of bread
  - and [ao]to prayer.
- The ONLY NT Church Blueprint for life in the Body of Christ



# Walter Heidenreich



“You Americans have God in a Teaching Box. You always think you have to be learning something new – accumulating new knowledge about something, thinking that there is some new insight or idea out there that you have been missing, and if you could just find it and learn it, you would finally get what you need from God.

You are wrong. You don’t need to learn something new. You need to be obedient to and start practicing what you already know. Get God out of the Box and let him BE GOD in your life.”



# Church Life out of Balance?

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- Quick Check
  - the apostles' teaching
  - and to fellowship,
  - to the breaking of bread
  - and [ao]to prayer.
- Where are you/us/everyone weakest?
- Prayer –primary relationship connection
  - Petition – where we ask/tell God
  - Prophetic – Where we listen and obey God



# What Happened Next?

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- “Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and [aq]signs were taking place through the apostles.” Acts 2:43 – God Showed UP!!!!
- *Phobos* – run away in the face of a terrible threat
- Christians repurposed that word –
- They had a personal encounter with something or someone of immense and astonishing power, and for a second they felt like running away, but then they felt safe and loved, and it left them in a perpetual state of awe, amazement, anticipation, excitement, and gratitude



# Our God is TOO SMALL!!!

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- Does this account of church life describe your daily experience as a follower of Christ? AWE?
- When is the last time you even felt like that in church, or in any aspect of your Christian experience? Or EVER? WHY? WHAT HAPPENED?
- "Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,<sup>21</sup> to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations [n] forever and ever. Amen." Eph 3:20-21



# Our Mission, Our Message – You are

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- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY