



Close Encounters of the Glorious Kind



Close Encounters of the Third Kind - 1977



The Promise of Close Encounters

- **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.”**



Glorious Close Encounters

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



Lead's to More Encounterds

- ⁴² 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



As a Result of these Encounters

- ⁴³ [[ap](#)] Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; **and many wonders and [[aq](#)] signs were taking place through the apostles.** ⁴⁴
- And all those who had believed [[ar](#)] were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ and they *began* selling their property and possessions and were **sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.**
- ⁴⁶ Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread [[as](#)] from house to house, they were taking their [[at](#)] meals together with gladness and [[au](#)] sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷
- praising God and having favor with all the people.
- **And the Lord was adding [[av](#)] to their number day by day those who were being saved.**



The Next Glorious Encounter

- ³ When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he *began* asking to receive alms. ⁴ But Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, “Look at us!” ⁵ And he *began* to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. **⁶ But Peter said, “I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk!”** ⁷ And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. ⁸ [c]With a leap he stood upright and *began* to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.
- **Peter realized they had NOTHING to give him that would really help him – it all had to come from JESUS!**




Close Encounters With HIM!

- ¹¹ While he was clinging to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them at the so-called [d]portico of Solomon, full of amazement. ¹² But when Peter saw *this*, he replied to the people, **“Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this, or why do you gaze at us, as if by our own power or piety we had made him walk?”**
¹³ The **God** of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, **has glorified His [e]servant Jesus**,¹⁶ **And on the basis of *faith in His name*, it is [g]the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which *comes* through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.**



Our Differentiator

- In business, when we say “the competition” what are we talking about?
- So, the Church has competition, too. Let’s name some:
- What is it that should make the Church different than all of our competitors?
- The one thing that differentiates the church from the world, ALL we really have to give, is a connection to the life-changing power and presence of God



Close Encounters=Holy Double Take

- ⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God; ¹⁰ and they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to *beg* alms, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.
- Consternation and Confusion
- They witnessed the unexpected, the impossible, the unexplainable
- Well, there is an explanation, but it is crazy



Paul's Simple Strategy

- And when I came to you, brethren, **I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom**, proclaiming to you the [a]testimony of God. ² For I determined to know nothing among you **except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified**. ³ **I was with you in weakness** and in fear and in much trembling, ⁴ and my [b]message and my preaching were **not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power**, ⁵ so that your faith would not [c]rest on the wisdom of men, **but on the power of God**.



All we have is Jesus

- And that is enough
- That is what people really need
- Not programs but life
- Not “relevance” but relationship – with Him and with His body – where they can be loved and healed and restored
- But it is not about US, it is about his power flowing through us and using us as we share the only thing that really matters



Continuous Close Encounters

- ⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to:
 - the apostles' teaching – firm foundation
 - and to fellowship – connectedness with each other – where love and power flows
 - to the breaking of bread – remembering Him who is our hope and our source
 - and to prayer. – participating power, love and presence of God ignites it all



It is Just This Simple

The Body of Christ – that's you and me and every place and every person where the Name of Jesus is lifted up - should be a place where people **ENCOUNTER HIM** – His love and His power and His grace and His life-changing presence. It can happen in a thousand ways, but if it is NOT happening, we are NOT the Body of Christ – we are NOT His Church.

Because we have nothing else to offer anyone, but the chance to know HIM