

## **EMPOWERED FOR GLOBAL MISSION: A MISSIO-PNEUMATOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF ACTS**

*Denzil R. Miller*

Spiritual power has become a hot topic in contemporary missions research. Paradoxically, the way has been led, not by Pentecostals, but by non-Pentecostal evangelicals. The purpose of this work is to call the Pentecostal church to a fresh understanding of its need for spiritual empowering to accomplish the Great Commission of Christ, and thus bring closure to the missionary enterprise before the soon coming of Christ (Acts 1:8; Matt. 24:14). It was written on commission from the Assemblies of God World Missions, Africa Office, and is to be published as a book by Life Publishers, Springfield, MO, under the title *Empowered for Global Mission: A Missionary Look at the Book of Acts* (working title).

The book is a missio-pneumatological investigation of the New Testament book of Acts. In it the author contends that the biblical experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit, an experience separate from and subsequent to the new birth, is an essential prerequisite for missionary work. It is a theological investigation of the subject of Spirit empowerment primarily from a Lukan perspective, although the Pauline perspective is also briefly examined.

The book contends that in Acts 1:8 Luke revealed his purpose in writing Acts to be both *pneumatological* (“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you . . .”), and *missiological* (“ . . . and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth”). Luke then fulfilled his purpose by carefully constructing his book around seven key outpourings of the Spirit, each

of which resulted in powerful Spirit-anointed missionary witness, and each of which contributed to his missio-pneumatological intent in writing the book.

The book further argues that Spirit baptism is a normative experience for all Christians and that contemporary missional ministry is to be done in the power of the Spirit with signs following. The role of spiritual gifts in missions is addressed. Four applications are made to modern missions, including the Spirit in missions, receiving Spirit baptism, ministering Spirit baptism, and ministering spiritual gifts. Evidential tongues is also discussed.