



# NEW LIFE

## CHARISMATIC RENEWAL MINISTRY

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Jan 2011

## ONE BODY IN CHRIST

By Vince Dorazio

**W**hen Jesus told the Apostles that they were to go into the world and proclaim the good news **"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."** (Acts 1:8), Jesus was preparing all those who accepted Him as the Messiah that they would become one body in Him. And for a while everyone who accepted Jesus as the Messiah and Savior were of one mind and one body in Christ. They held all that they had in common and shared all things with one another.

They would meet together regularly as one body of believers in Christ to worship and praise God in the glory of the Holy Spirit. Something like our Charismatic prayer meetings. But that quickly deteriorated as jealousy began to settle in. Some of the people began to complain that they were not being treated fairly with the daily distribution of food. (See Acts 6:1)

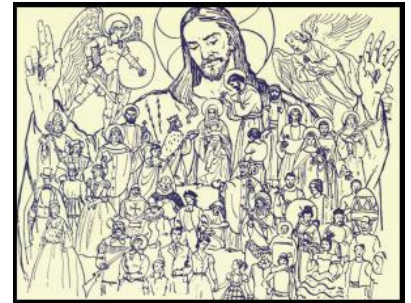
When St. Paul was on the way to Damascus to kill those who were believers in the New Way of Jesus, he was converted and became a believer in Jesus as the Messiah and Savior. Paul was chosen by

Jesus to become the person who would bring the message of Jesus to the Gentiles. (See Acts 9)

We also read in Acts 10 when St. Peter was asked by a gentile to come and explain the New Way of Jesus to them. Even while Peter was telling the Gentiles about Jesus as the Messiah and Savior the Holy Spirit came upon all in the Gentile household, and they began to speak in tongues of the Holy Spirit and praising God.

So what does all this mean? I believe that this is what God wanted to happen right from the beginning; that all people, Jew and Gentile, were to become One Body in Christ Jesus! They were not to be separated because of their past beliefs and practices. They were to come together and become one. For there is only One God and One Spirit!

But as usual, people will be people. Even in the early rise of the Church we hear of bickering and problems in the body of believers. While there were others, besides Paul, who were also spreading the Good News of the resurrection of Jesus, it is Paul who takes the leadership role of trying to set the people straight. Other



Christians went into Pagan territories and they began spreading the word about Jesus, evangelizing and baptizing people in the Name of Jesus Christ. One of those was a man named Apollos.

### Who Is Apollos

Apollos was a Jewish man from Alexandria who was spreading the word about Jesus and of the baptism of John. While Apollos was a spiritual man and a great speaker of the baptism of repentance, he did not know anything of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. It was through the friends of Paul, Aquila and Priscilla, "who took him home with them and explained about God's new way in greater detail." (Acts 18:24-28)

When Paul arrived in Ephesus, he found there were Christian believers who had never heard of the Holy Spirit. They had only heard of the Baptism of

repentance of John, probably through the preaching of Apollos. **"As Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came down upon them and they began to speak in tongues and to utter prophecies."** (Acts 19: 6)

Paul probably considered Apollos to be a valuable asset in bringing people to accept Jesus as the Messiah. **"Apollos was a man full of spiritual fervor. He spoke and talked accurately about Jesus, although he knew only of John's Baptism."** (Acts 18:25)

This became evident when Paul heard of the "division" going on in Corinth when people began choosing sides as who they belonged to; Apollos or Paul or Cephas (Peter) or Jesus. Paul is encouraging the Corinthians not to have factions between them. **"I urge you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose. For it has been reported to me about you, my brothers, by Chloe's people, that there are rivalries among you. I mean that each of you is saying, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?"** (1 Corinthians 1:10-13)

### **Divide And Conquer**

One of Satan's greatest weapons is to put a division between Christian people;

many times in the simplest ways. The enemy knows that when Christians gather together as One Body and One Spirit in Christ that there will be strength in numbers and he will be defeated. The only way Satan can claim victory is to keep Christians divided. That is why that we in the Charismatic Renewal must come together regularly and be united as one body and stay strong in the Holy Spirit.

Just as Paul was trying to tell the people that they should be united together as **One Body in Christ Jesus**, we too in the Charismatic Renewal must follow the same instructions that Paul was giving to the Corinthians.

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***"After all, who is Apollos? And who is Paul? Simply ministers through whom you became believers, each doing only what the Lord assigned them."*** (1 Corinthians 3:5)

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### **Charismatic Prayer Meetings**

Many of our Charismatic prayer meetings are splinter prayer groups with little or no gifts of the Holy Spirit in use. While we are all believers in Christ Jesus, we are separated in the collective use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

As Paul mentions in his letter to the Corinthians we are to bring together the gifts of the Holy Spirit as One Body in Christ. While we have different gifts all the gifts of the Holy Spirit become alive when we come together as one body.

**"Now in regard to spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be unaware.**

**You know how, when you were pagans, you were constantly attracted and led away to mute idols. Therefore, I tell you that nobody speaking by the spirit of God says, "Jesus be accursed." And no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes. As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit. Now the body is not a single part, but many. If a foot should say, "Because I am not a hand I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. Or if an ear should**

say, "Because I am not an eye I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God placed the parts, each one of them, in the body as he intended. If they were all one part, where would the body be? But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you," nor again the head to the feet, "I do not need you." Indeed, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are all the more necessary, and those parts of the body that we consider less honorable we surround with greater honor, and our less presentable parts are treated with greater propriety, whereas our more presentable parts do not need this. But God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to a part that is without it, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. If (one) part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy."  
(I Cor 12:1-26)

It is time for our prayer meetings to consolidate and regroup as One Body in Christ. It is time to relight the fire of the Holy Spirit that was lit in the 1970's. It is time to mend the broken Body of Christ.

The Charismatic Renewal in the Twin Cities began at St. Albert's Catholic Church in Minneapolis with the St. Paul The Apostle Prayer Group. At that time there were over 300 people meeting weekly from many denominations coming together as oneness in the Holy Spirit. So it is fitting that we relight the flame that was started there. We will be sponsoring a "Charismatic Revival Day" within the next month. In the meantime we invite and encourage everyone to begin to join with us each Thursday night at:

**St. Albert's Catholic Church**  
**2833 – 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South**  
**{E. 29<sup>th</sup> Street & 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue So}**  
**Minneapolis, MN.**

**Thursdays 7:30PM**

Our purpose of coming together as one body is to proclaim that

**JESUS CHRIST**  
**IS LORD!**

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

If you are in need of a healing prayer support, we would like to include you in our daily prayers. Mail in your prayer request and we will add your request to our prayer list.

Send your prayer requests to:

**New Life CRM**  
**6253 Penn Avenue South**  
**Richfield, MN. 55423**

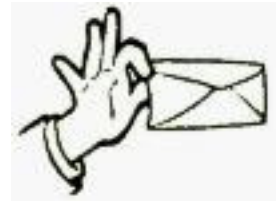
Please also remember to pray for all those in need of your prayers. And also for our ministry to do all that God calls us to do and bring the Word of the Gospel to all people.

### **DONATIONS NEEDED**

Your donations to New Life Renewal Ministry are greatly appreciated and needed so that we may continue to sponsor Renewal Conferences and Days of Renewal without any registrations costs. All our events have always been on a **FREE-WILL OFFERING**. We appreciate everyone who has made this possible with their financial support.

Our newsletter, NEW LIFE, is also sent to everyone without charge. As you continue to read this newsletter, please consider making a generous donation gift so that we may continue to bring New Life to everyone who asks!

See back page for mail in form. We thank you in advance for your continuous support and prayers for this outreach ministry.



**MAY OUR LORD**  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
**CONTINUE TO**  
**BLESS YOU**  
**ABUNDANTLY**  
**WITH HIS NEW**  
**LIFE !**



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**MAY THE  
 BLESSINGS OF THE  
 NEW YEAR  
 BE WITH YOU !**

**DONATIONS**

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**CHARISMATIC**  
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**THURSDAYS 7:30 PM**

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**2832 – 32 Avenue South**  
**29<sup>th</sup> Street & 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave. South**  
**Minneapolis, MN.**  
**(1 Block North of E. Lake St.)**

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