



# NEWSLETTER

The voice of those who escaped from the iron curtain

[www.johnmilitaru.org](http://www.johnmilitaru.org)  
[johnmilitaru@yahoo.com](mailto:johnmilitaru@yahoo.com)

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*Become Doers and Not Hearers Only*

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***"...He gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Acts 1:4-5***

***"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." Acts 2:1-4***

Dear Friends,

At the end of this month we will celebrate the day of Pentecost which took place over 2000 years ago in Jerusalem. We can imagine how the disciples must have felt after walking, talking, eating and traveling with their friend Jesus, only to see Him suffer, die, and be resurrected as their Lord and Savior. After His resurrection, Jesus spent some more time among them (40 days) and afterwards they witnessed his ascension into heaven. They must have gone through so many emotions witnessing all these events that had taken place in just a few short years. After His ascension, they may have been eager to go out and start spreading Jesus' message of salvation, but they were told to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit (the Helper and Comforter) fell upon them. They obeyed Jesus' instructions and waited as they continued in prayer and supplication in one accord for 10 days after His ascension (Acts 1:14).

Most of us have read this portion of scripture many times. And some of us might not fully understand the manifestation of the Holy Spirit. Maybe even some of the apostles didn't fully understand *how* the Holy Spirit would manifest but regardless, they waited, by faith, for the Holy Spirit to come down. Sadly, a lot of modern churches don't believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking of tongues anymore, and others have no knowledge about it at all, but the detail we can't forget here is that the apostles were obedient to do what Jesus commanded them. They may have been eager to run out and start spreading the Gospel right away, but they were *doers* of His instructions by waiting on the Holy Spirit. After the Holy Spirit came upon them, the apostles began to preach the Gospel to many, baptizing, and discipling them. Those who received the Gospel and were saved also became *doers* by continuing in the apostle's teaching (Jesus' Gospel), fellowshiping, breaking bread, and praying (Acts 2:41-57). Many signs and wonders were done through the hands of the apostles. And all this happened because the apostles were obedient to wait for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem.

The apostles were fully penetrated and transformed by the power of the Gospel message of Jesus. For this reason they became doers of the Word and not just hearers. Becoming a doer of the Word is a direct result of the transformation of the Word penetrating and changing us from the inside

out. James compares being a hearer of the Word only to looking at ourselves in a mirror, walking away, and immediately forgetting what we look like (James 1:23). He also says that by being hearers only, we deceive ourselves! The modern church today is a great example of being deceived. Going to church for an hour on Sunday and living your life like the rest of the world on the other six days a week is deception and we're only fooling ourselves. The presence of Jesus and the power of His Word has to be evident in us every single day so that people can see us radiate His love. Not just on Sunday in our Sunday best!

***"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."*** James 1:22-25

In James 1, the Amplified translation says we have to be *an active doer who obeys*. It's not enough for Christians to just know the Word, even the devil can quote it and twist it! We know this from when Jesus was tempted in the wilderness by satan in Matthew chapter 4. So how do we become doers and not hearers only? The Word of God has to be activated in order for it to be effective. We activate the Word by speaking and doing what It says. Just like the apostles, by faith, let the Word penetrate them and they became transformed by the power of the Gospel. The Word of God needs to become a part of our nature, which is the very nature of God. The apostles' lives reflected what the Word of God said and it was seen in their everyday lives because they became *doers* of it. Nothing stopped them from spreading the Gospel and it became our blueprint for winning souls. It continues to spread today, 2000 years later.

This month we encourage you to read through the book of Acts (Acts of the Holy Spirit) and see how the Lord worked through the lives of the Apostles. By reading and meditating on Acts, you will see how obedient and committed they were to the work of the Lord, even unto death. Many of them suffered beatings, whippings, scourging, shipwreckings, snake bites and many other perilous life events all because they chose to be doers of the Word. And most importantly because of their love for Jesus and His Gospel.

Are you a *doer* of the Word and being obedient to what He has called you to do? If the answer is no, it's not too late, friend. Every single one of us has a calling on our lives. Like the apostles, some are called to full-time Ministry and others are given special gifts to minister and support the body of Christ until the return of our Lord and Savior. When we are obedient to do what He has instructed us to do and to walk in our special giftings, the Lord is delighted in us. If you need prayer today for anything, including healing or deliverance, please give us a call. We will pray together with you, in one accord, asking the Father to come through for you in whatever area you need Him to.

***"But Samuel replied, "What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams."*** 1 Samuel 15:22

In His Service,  
John & Alexandra