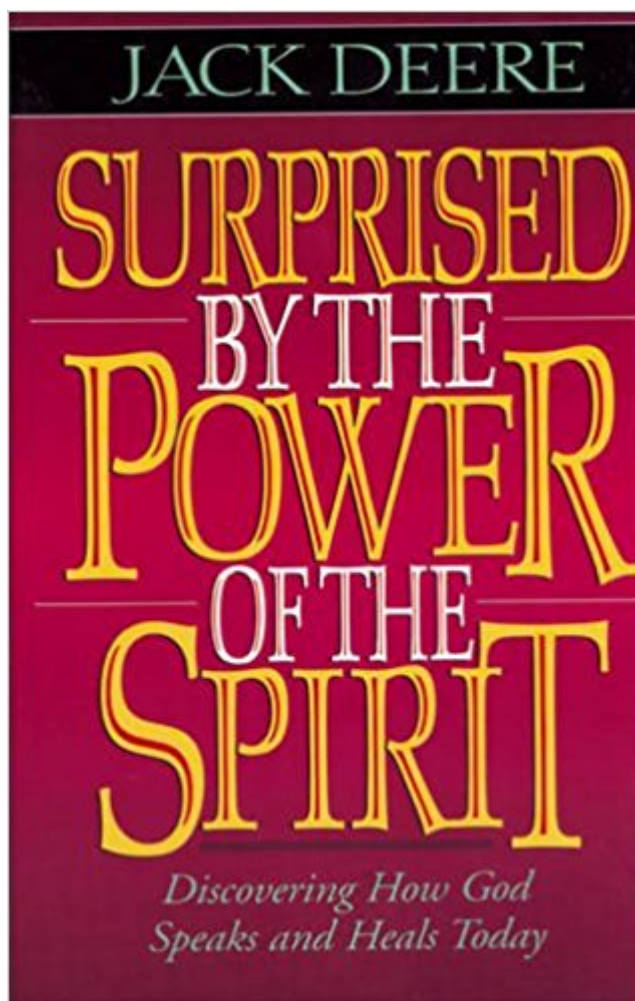


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# Surprised By The Power Of The Spirit



## Synopsis

What caused a former Dallas Seminary professor to believe that the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit are being given today? What convinced someone skeptical about miracles that God still speaks and heals? A dramatic change took place in Jack Deere's life when he took a fresh look at the Scriptures. He discovered that his arguments against miraculous gifts were based more on prejudice and lack of personal experience than on the Bible. As soon as Deere became a seeker instead of a skeptic, the Holy Spirit revealed himself in new and surprising ways. In *Surprised by the Power of the Spirit*, Deere provides a strong biblical defense for the Spirit's speaking and healing ministries today. He also describes several reliable cases of people who were miraculously healed or who heard God speak in an unmistakable way. Finally, he gives sound advice for using spiritual gifts in the church. Written in a popular style, with the care of a scholar but the passion of personal experience, this book explores: the real reason Christians do not believe in miraculous gifts, responding to charismatic abuses, whether miracles were meant to be temporary, and why God still heals.

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## Customer Reviews

What caused a former Dallas Seminary professor to believe that the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit are being given today? What convinced someone skeptical about miracles that God still speaks and heals? A dramatic change took place in Jack Deere's life when he took a fresh look at the Scriptures. He discovered that his arguments against miraculous gifts were based more on

prejudice and lack of personal experience than on the Bible. As soon as Deere became a seeker instead of a skeptic, the Holy Spirit revealed himself in new and surprising ways. In *Surprised by the Power of the Spirit*, Deere provides a strong biblical defense for the Spirit's speaking and healing ministries today. He also describes several reliable cases of people who were miraculously healed or who heard God speak in an unmistakable way. Finally, he gives sound advice for using spiritual gifts in the church. Written in a popular style, with the care of a scholar but the passion of personal experience, this book explores: the real reason Christians do not believe in miraculous gifts, responding to charismatic abuses, whether miracles were meant to be temporary, and why God still heals.

Jack Deere, formerly an associate professor of Old Testament at Dallas Theological Seminary, is a writer and lecturer who speaks throughout the world on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. He is the author of the best-selling book, *Surprised by the Power of the Spirit*.

I agree with Wayne Grudem and Sam Storms that this is the best exegetical refutation of cessationism available. I suspect that I'll be using and citing from this book a lot going forward. The book is strongest when the author is offering an apologetic for continuationism and/or refuting cessationism. It's weakest when it offers an admonition for the Vineyard style piety that the author seems to prefer. It's strongest when the author exegetes from scripture, it's weakest when he appeals to anecdotal evidence and personal experience. The book is also marred by the fact that much of that anecdotal evidence and personal experience involves controversial Pentecostal minister Paul Cain. To be fair, this book was originally published in 1993 long before Cain's moral problems began to manifest themselves in the early 2000's. The author was intimately involved in confronting and seeking to restore Cain during this time (see the "Public Apology" of Paul Cain's Wikipedia page for details). Suffice to say I think that if this book had been written later, it might not have included content about Cain, and frankly been a better book as a result of it. Hindsight is always 20-20, isn't it? That said, this is a solid book that I enjoyed immensely and will be freely recommending to others. After a short break to get through some other books, I fully intend to tackle the author's sequel to this book entitled, *Surprised by the Voice of God: How God Speaks Today Through Prophecies, Dreams, and Visions*

I have read many books by X-Charismatics that God has had mercy on. It shows the unbelievable mercy and love of God. Jack does a fantastic job of De-bugging the ludicrous old arguments of the

anti-Charismatics. He is not NASTY as ALL of the anti-Charismatic books are. They make a big show of errors that were made and ignore that real miracles that happened. Just think, if the anti-Charismatics are correct, then people like the Smith Wigglesworth, Katherin Kulman, John G. Lake and other great people of GOD were all fakes! Is there any proof that EVERYTHING these people did was false. Of course not! The cry is "I can prove it from scripture!" Of course the critics of Jesus' day said the same thing about HIM. Check out this statement: "Search the Scriptures, NO prophet ever cam out of Galilee!" See we can PROVE Jesus could NOT be a prophet! The Mormons and the Jehovah's Witnesses can "prove" things from scripture also.

Strongly recommend for anyone who wants to understand the workings of God's Holy Spirit. The power of the Spirit didn't die with the apostles. The first century Christian's spoke in tongues, healed the sick, prophesied, and demonstrated wonder working power in the Holy Spirit. Jesus sent him for all of us. Jack Deere presents this from the point of view of a Super Christian and Theologian who wanted to really find out about the Holy Spirit and the power for today. I dare you to read this if you are interested in finding out the truth of this gift from God.

I luv this book. Very insightful and helpful in our walk with the Lord. It helps to let you know that we can do much more for the Kingdom of God. I recommend this book to anyone who wants a deeper walk with the Lord.

I was raised a Baptist so my background was similar to the author's. However, I was reading the Bible as a teenager and questioned many things the church taught, mainly this stuff about "that was for then, but not for now". Through a series of many adverse circumstances in my life, I came to know God on a deep personal level that he speaks of. So it was interesting to read things from of a pastor's view, an educated one at that! I am glad he came into fullness....I can't wait to read his next book!

Captivating and informative read as Jack Deere takes the reader on a personal journey into the realm of the Spirit, what a life in the Spirit looks like, and the reasons why the Spirit is not always welcomed in the church. His personal experience and anecdotes make the material presented easily accessible. This book is invaluable for anyone who finds him or herself awakening to the presence of the Holy Spirit and the gifts the Holy Spirit longs to give.

I was showed so much about the Holy Spirit I never saw before. It made me stop and think more on what I just read and in my life. I also was encouraged, cried and praised Jesus. Jesus wants more of our Love and time.

For all who are not satisfied with the answers we have been given to the things we read in the bible and see in our experiences of life and who want more, this book has the answers. I felt the author had walked in my shoes, questioned what my tradition taught and had the skills to search the scriptures for truth. Jack Deere does a fantastic job of questioning, seeking, finding and introducing the reader to a deeper understanding of the Holy Spirit and His work in our lives.

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