

"This book is truly a must read for this generation!"

Dr. Tommy Barnett, Global Pastor, Founder of the Dream Centers

"...this book is needed more than ever."

Rev. Randy Remington, President, The Foursquare Church

positioned for the

GIFTS



REVISED & UPDATED

PREPARING US
FOR EXTRAORDINARY
POWER AND COMPASSION

STOTT/HUNT

*"I encourage you to read this book and lean into all that
God has designed for this moment in time."*

Bill Johnson, Bethel Church, Redding, CA

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POWER AND COMPASSION

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Positioned for the Gifts
Preparing Us for Extraordinary Power and Compassion
Stott/Hunt

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So grateful for the staff at Foursquare Missions Press (FMP) and their efforts to print this book. (All proceeds from the book will go to FMP and to ministry in the South Pacific.)

Finally, thank you to everyone who read the various versions of the manuscript and gave us invaluable input – we are in your debt.

Jerry and Bob

Dedication

To our incredible, beautiful, Spirit-filled wives.

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What Others are Saying About *Positioned for the Gifts*

We are so grateful for the many kind and inspirational comments from the first printing of *Gifts*, but one unsolicited phone call touched us the most.

During the COVID pandemic lock-downs, a few nations reached out for our book and Jerry's video teaching on the gifts of the Spirit. One of the nations requesting resources is a large, primarily Muslim nation. After sending books and some nine hours of video teaching, Jerry received an email and then a call from an excited leader.

"You won't believe what's happened! You won't believe what's happened after the teaching you sent to our Bible schools."

In this nation, despite the restrictions, the leader calling represented some three-dozen Bible schools, training thousands of future leaders.

"We've had a mass number of students receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit after reading the book and watching the teaching. Now they are telling other people, praying for them, and seeing them instantly filled and baptized in the Holy Spirit with speaking in tongues."

This leader went on to share how this student revival empowered them to pray for the sick and cast out demons.

"We've been experiencing multiple healings everywhere!"

He told individual stories, including one of a man, who though completely paralyzed, after prayer by some of the students, was totally healed.

Finally and wonderfully, this ongoing revival has brought repentance and put personal lives in order.

One student, contemplating divorce, after this fresh encounter with the Holy Spirit saw his marriage restored and said, "It's like we are on a second honeymoon!"

This leader ended the call with a belief that the change in these many student lives is going to "change the nation."

So be it.

Every so often a book comes along that captures the current move of the Spirit – *Positioned for the Gifts* is such a book! Biblically sound and story rich, it inspires every believer to be a vital part, using His gifts for His purposes in this generation.

I've encouraged the Church for many years to deepen its commitment to the “fellowship of His sufferings,” but do so in the “power of His resurrection.” *Positioned for the Gifts* blends both together, providing a practical roadmap for church and individual alike.

The stories will move you, the insights position you – allowing the Holy Spirit to fill you to touch a hurting world. This book is truly a “must read” for this generation!

Tommy Barnett
Global Pastor
Dream City Church, Phoenix
Los Angeles Dream Center, Los Angeles

I have been fast reading through your book!! What a treasure for today's church – worldwide! The gifts of the Spirit through this “instruction manual” are the power of heaven available for the church! The unity of the Spirit and the maturity of the saints, in Ephesians 4, comes about with the

“tools” in operation to prepare the Bride. For the lost to be won we need the gift, as Jesus modeled with the woman at the well. The enemy’s actions are discerned – the one who comes as an “angel of light,” “seeking whom he may devour” with the gifts. An army of saints goes to spiritual “war” with the gifts, to see the kingdoms of this world become the Kingdoms of our Lord and our God. These are the weapons of heaven, the tools for harvest, and the adornment of the bride of Christ. He has come to Establish us, Equip us, Empower us, and Engage us, and all these take the operation of His gifts working through His children. Bob and Jerry have said it well, activated deeper hunger, and through heaven’s inspiration, challenged us to be fully empowered to fulfill the purposes of God for our generation.

Carol Ward

Missionary, Founder/Director

Favor of God Ministry (Uganda, South Sudan)

Have you ever heard someone say, “The gifts of the Holy Spirit are not for today”? Dr. Jerry Stott and Bob Hunt did not receive that memo in time. Here they bring us a real world,

modern day window into actual experiences with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit; but also train us in the solid theological underpinnings. These experiences and the teaching come from many cultures and contexts of the world. This is the kind of resource you will want, inspiring and yet grounding as well. It reminds me of Acts 1:1 referring to “all that Jesus began to *do and teach*.” This is a *doing and teaching* treasure that beckons us to adventure as we press into the Holy Spirit and the Gifts that are given to us.

Dr. Theodore Vail

Director of Foursquare Missions International

Pastor Jerry Stott is a practitioner when it comes to Spirit filled living and ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit. The fruitfulness of his ministry in healing, deliverance, miracles, church planting, and raising of disciples speaks for itself in Asia and the Pacific regions.

Here’s another masterpiece from Jerry and Bob’s heart to exhort, encourage, and equip the Church to minister in the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

The contents of this book would no doubt motivate and set the church ablaze for her forward march toward the end time harvest.

Leslie Keegel (D.Min, D.D)
Chairman Foursquare Global Council
President Foursquare Church
Sri Lanka

Any Bible academic can attempt to explain “the gifts of the Spirit,” but only Spirit-empowered veterans like Dr. Jerry Stott and Bob Hunt can unveil their true meanings using powerful and real-life stories. As you read through this book, your eyes will be opened to how the gifts of the Spirit are both absolutely necessary and absolutely available to reach the world for Christ. You will be moved to tears as the mysteries of the supernatural become clear and as the Holy Spirit beckons your partnership. May what you read on these pages become your new way of life!

Jerry Dirmann
Senior Pastor, The Rock, Anaheim, CA

I once heard the late John Wimber, founder of the Vineyard Movement of churches, share his testimony of conversion and ministry beginnings. As a new believer, he immersed himself in the scriptures and came to the conclusion that the New Testament lifestyle was to be one of supernatural enablement and ministry. Therefore, he approached his pastor and asked a simple question, “When do we get to do the stuff?”

I wonder if our churches aren’t filled with people asking the same question? An honest reading of the New Testament would lead one to the obvious conclusion that Jesus is offering us a supernatural life that begins upon conversion and extends into the age to come.

Jerry Stott and Bob Hunt’s book, *Positioned for the Gifts* is a much-needed resource that not only embraces this call to a dynamic life of spirit-empowered ministry, but also serves to equip and empower the believer for such a call. The content is not only biblically sourced; it is also practically illustrated through the miraculous ministry of Jerry and Bob’s own life and experience. I believe the message of this book is needed more than ever.

Randy Remington
President, The Foursquare Church

Jerry and Bob share a time when the Holy Spirit spoke loud and clear; “That’s my Church. But they have forgotten their assignment. They are enjoying the fellowship. They are enjoying my Word. They are enjoying my blessings. But they forgot their assignment—go into all the world and preach the gospel...His last word, ‘Go’...Jesus has given us authority...*And these signs will follow those who believe.* Mark 16:17”

May the Holy Spirit use this book and Jerry and Bob’s personal experiences to awaken the Church to our shared mission as well as a hunger to receive power to be His witnesses with all the signs following!

Dr. Jim Scott

Former Director, Foursquare Missions International

For over a decade now I consider Jerry Stott one of my closest friends. And in the years that the Lord has given me the privilege to know Jerry, I really have not come across many people who possess the integrity and giftedness along with an incorruptible heart like Jerry Stott.

In this book, *Positioned For The Gifts*, Jerry and Bob Hunt lay out a mission, a mandate, and a mechanism for the gifts to

bless God's people, through the empowering of the Holy Spirit. I am convinced that this book will equip and inspire you and that there are many more books to come!

Mike Kai

Inspire Church Network, Senior Pastor

Author of The Pound For Pound Principle and Plateaus

After seeing Jerry minister at our church, and interviewing him on the radio, I know he doesn't just talk about the gifts of the Spirit, he functions in the gifts of the Spirit. This book is a timely reminder to the Body of Christ that we need to "Eagerly desire Spiritual Gifts." One of the great things about Jerry's perspective is that he's ministered in many different nations and has seen the same biblical principles in action all over the world. I believe many people will be equipped and released to function in the Spiritual Gifts as a result of this book.

Pastor Matt Prater

New Hope Church Brisbane, Historymakers Radio

In this book, *Positioned for the Gifts*, you will be encouraged to take the admonition of the apostle Paul to his

young student, Timothy, “to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:6-7. The authors suggest that the gifts of God within believers have been given for specific reasons. One of those reasons is to aid us in doing the Father’s business, which is seeking and bringing to salvation those that are lost.

The gifts of God are not for ownership. They are the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow through the lives of believers to empower them to minister to others. The needs people have exist everywhere, not just in a church service.

Be encouraged by this book to allow the Holy Spirit to use you in ministry to those you encounter day by day. Also, as spirit-filled, Pentecostal believers, we should continue to yield to the Holy Spirit in our church services so that those gathered will be blessed and encouraged, healed and delivered by the power of God.

Dr. Sterling Brackett
Former LIFE East President,
Chief Operating Officer (retired) The Foursquare Church

To adequately demonstrate the love of God apart from power is impossible. Only the miraculous can fully represent the radical weightiness of His desire for us to be free from all that ails us. In *Positioned for the Gifts*, Jerry Stott and Robert Hunt share a brilliantly practical exposition on both the value and the purpose of the spiritual gifts. We serve a God who has empowered us to release His Kingdom on the earth. As the authors write, “The Gifts are meant for battle, Kingdom of God warfare.” There are no sidelines in the Kingdom of God. We have all been called and equipped to invade the impossible. I encourage you to read this book and lean into all that God has designed for this moment in time.

Bill Johnson

Bethel Church, Redding, CA

Author of When Heaven Invades Earth and The Way of Life

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Introduction

This is a book about the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit, offered to everyday believers in Jesus Christ, listed in 1 Corinthians chapter 12.

It's written, both with real life stories and biblical truth, to encourage average people to step out in faith and make the supernatural a natural part of life.

It's a journey both authors have taken and continue to take. This book is as much for them as for anyone reading it. Moving in the power of the Holy Spirit is not something you can bottle and store. Like manna from heaven, it needs to be fresh everyday.

In some ways the words you are about to read could be described as a battlefield strategy handbook. The Gifts are meant for battle, Kingdom of God warfare. Yes, they are intended to encourage the Body of Christ, but they also take ground from the enemy of our souls. And this ground is not easily seized.

The authors write fully aware of a current prophetic stream, coursing globally, of a coming Holy Spirit empowerment to those who desire to serve the purposes of God for their generation. Throughout the writing there was a deep sense that this new, younger generation would be the one that would take Kingdom warfare to the next level. (Yet, their hope is that the book will be as meaningful to the 80-year-old warrior as it is to the 18-year-old.)

To the pastor, the leader who both wants to grow in the Gifts and to see others come along, the authors write as former pastors who are fiercely committed to the local church. The Church was, at the time Paul wrote, and still is today, the community to risk and learn, and then to go and do. Their prayer is that this book will be a resource, a road map for your congregation to experience the joy of supernatural living.

The authors know that in using a term like “Kingdom Warrior” it may seem exclusionary to those who love the Lord but wonder where they fit in such a spiritual battle. Maybe you are raising children and, frankly, that is all “the battle” you can handle. That’s real. Moving in the gifts of the Spirit, however, can and should be something experienced in the home. Our spiritual lives are lived more there than anywhere else. And what could be more authentic, more formative, than our

children seeing us move in the spiritual realm as naturally as we do in the physical world?

We live in a culture that worships those who receive the most attention – through TV, radio, internet... even the pulpit. No disrespect to those who have the spotlight of media upon them, but most of us do not. We may live outside the limelight, but the brightest light of our Lord shines on us as we encounter everyday life. This book is for the rest of us who want all the Lord has for us – nothing more, but nothing less. Everyday life may be the most exciting adventure of all.

You'll soon note that the authors wrote as one voice, sharing stories without individual attribution, for the sake of rhythm and flow throughout.

Finally, the authors wish to encourage you to pray and to ask the Holy Spirit to lead you throughout the reading of this book. The gifts of the Spirit cannot be fully comprehended apart from the Spirit of God. And, prayer is so critical if we are not only to understand, but also to apply what we have read.

May the Spirit of the Lord guide us into all truth. (John 16:13)

Chapter One

The New Kingdom Warrior

I knew the voice inside me. It would come quietly, speak softly, and then leave with its words repeating in my memory. This time it came with an emotion, one that I was not accustomed to, like the feeling that accompanies a stern warning from your father. The message came clear, direct, and with force.

Leave quickly.

The team of a dozen mainly college age students that I had been leading by boat up and down the various tributaries of the Amazon River in Brazil were now expecting the supernatural. Blind eyes gaining full sight and deaf ears recovering total hearing bookended a wide spectrum of healing of mostly the “Riberenos,” or river people. Rare was the person who walked away not touched by God. I had seen healing before, but not of this magnitude and consistency. Word was getting out that God was with us.

One more adventure awaited my team as they stayed in the boat on the shore below, a white sandy knoll where I and my interpreter met the leader of this village, an older man, shirtless, wearing tattered tan shorts and cheap plastic sandals. Usually within moments serious faces gave way to smiles. The people were hospitable to a fault, especially to a boat full of Americans who had “brought their God.”

This time was different. No smiles or giggling laughter greeted us. At the same time, the voice came. Without changing my rather forced smile, I spoke to the interpreter, “Let’s go.” She seemed puzzled both at their responses and at my reply – but even more so when I told her, “Don’t take your eyes off of them. Keep smiling, and let’s back up slowly to the boat.” With our faces toward the strangers, but our legs moving in the opposite direction, we stumbled down the sandy embankment, reaching the boat.

“Everybody stay inside. Let’s shove off!” As soon as we turned our backs on the river people, the rocks, partially hidden by the twilight, began to whirl passed our heads and hit the metal boat – big rocks from everywhere, slamming against the roof of the boat as if the jungle itself had come alive with rage. Beginning our unplanned retreat, we marveled that no one was struck – a miracle in and of itself.

Whether the Holy Spirit graced me at that moment with a word of wisdom, word of knowledge, or both, I'm not sure. But without question, the voice inside didn't originate with me – it came from God. I and my team, however, were fortunate beneficiaries because I knew how to listen.

The Powerful Purposed Life

Listen to the voice of the Spirit. Move in the gifts of the Spirit. Be a believer who is able and willing to use every divine resource available to achieve the purposes of God for this generation. And, do it all with love – this is the new Kingdom Warrior.

Dynamic young author A.J. Swoboda succinctly and simply said to a group of 4,000 of his peers:

“When you walk in the Spirit, you see things differently.”¹

There is a growing group, comprised across generational and ethnic lines, that gets it; the day of the exalted, single personality driven ministry is passing and is giving way to an army of average, everyday individuals. These are believers who are hungry for God, solid in the Word, and steeped in the primacy of love. Their humility makes them keenly aware that they cannot gain ground in hand-to-hand Kingdom warfare – unless their weapons are of the Spirit.

Their faith is not merely some quaint, personal expression or a parental or cultural appendage – it is tied to something much larger and beyond themselves. They are the new cloud of witnesses, sharing a common passion passed down for over two thousand years. They are the warriors who fight to establish the Kingdom of God.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10

For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.
2 Corinthians 10:4

The late professor from Dallas Theological Seminary, Merrill F. Unger, understood this years ago:

“But the Christian warrior, steadfastly refusing to surrender the ground which is his in Christ and availing himself of the full armor of God, maintains his Spirit-filled experience. He is therefore invincible. The power of God in his life, as he is thus protected through satanic temptation and attack, now becomes available for an effectual ministry, bringing blessing to men and glory to God.”²

From Cambodia, Ted Olbrich, missionary and leader of one of the fastest church planting movements in the world, recently

wrote on Facebook about the fearlessness and focus needed in today's leaders:

“Prayers for the sick result in healings and a church is born. It really isn't rocket science, say I. There are two things that paralyze most churches: They give lip service to the Holy Spirit but don't totally depend on His leadership and power, so nothing happens. Or, they are so hung up on their own failures, imperfections and sin they are convinced God won't use them. So He doesn't. Everywhere I go I do everything I can to cast down both lies. The Holy Spirit is alive and well, and is powerful as ever, you just have to believe in it. So confess, repent, and get over yourselves! Believe in His desire to use YOU and then have the guts to act like it. That'll do.”³

The world does not need cool Christians who are culturally saturated. It needs exiles with the scent of heaven and the aroma of Christ.

This new warrior, of whom age is irrelevant, cares more about Kingdom than the surrounding, encroaching culture. The world has lost its grip on these servants of God. In the eloquent words of John Piper:

“The world does not need cool Christians who are culturally saturated. It needs exiles with the scent of heaven and the aroma of Christ.”⁴

This new warrior understands the boundaries of this Kingdom of God, the “already but not yet.”⁵ They live in the realities of the fullness of the Spirit while being buffeted by the enemy and the flesh. They are realists based in the ideals of Scripture.

Paul wrote the following in a vulnerable time in his life:

Therefore, since through God’s mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God...The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel... 2 Corinthians 4:1-4

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 2 Corinthians 4:7-9

This new warrior seeks to be authentic, because Jesus was and is authentic. This drives them to be the same person raising their hands in church to worship as they are in the classroom raising their hand to ask a question – that their voice of praise to God be the same voice of love to their neighbor. It also drives them to reject the ordinary and to push the boundaries of faith.

“Life is too short, the world is too big and God’s love is too great to live ordinary.”⁶ Christine Caine

This new warrior has battled sin and has found freedom in grace. They know the toll on the human condition of missing the mark and how to extend God’s tender mercies. They will walk in the fruit of the Spirit hand in hand with those crushed in spirit.

In the words of writer Tullian Tchividjian:

“Churches that will thrive in any meaningful way going forward, will not be castles of purity... but rather basements of grace where broken sinners are embraced and forgiven; places where sin doesn’t shock and grace still amazes.”⁷

This new warrior knows to ask the Spirit to gift them to go, to serve the purposes of God for their generation. Many of these purposes lie outside the confines of Sunday morning and the walls of the church. They are driven by the Spirit to take their message to the marketplace.

One of the early warriors in the Spirit, Dr. Jerry Cook, said it well:

“The gifts of the Spirit, as I understand them, are God’s means of getting to people and meeting their needs through believers. I do not believe the

spiritual gifts were meant primarily for the sanctuary. Some of them can operate there, and that’s fine, but many of them were primarily designed for the street.”⁸

The clash of kingdoms is accelerating; old wineskins will not work.

A Prophetic Move

Many older leaders, Kingdom warriors themselves, sense the move of the Spirit to release believers outside the comfort of the Church and into a chaotic world. Because they will be armed with power and established in love with a heart for the lost, they will be the generation that shakes the Church out of any fear and apathy. The clash of kingdoms is accelerating; old wineskins will not work.

Clint Pickrel is a respected leader, rancher, entrepreneur, and retired pastor. The Lord has burdened his heart with the following message:

“Some years ago the Lord spoke to my heart and said,
‘You’re a part of a David Generation.’

“David was known as a man of war. Most of my peers, men and women, have fought many battles. We’ve sacrificed, paid a price, costing us in ways we’ve never gotten back. But we didn’t do it for ourselves – we did it for the next generation.

“David’s accomplishment wasn’t just to establish Israel as a national force, but to establish Solomon as king – with nearly unlimited resources, no need for continued fighting and bloodshed – so that his son could build the temple of God. (To establish the Kingdom of God for his generation.)

“Solomon didn’t look or act like David. He carried forth a legacy that established Israel as a political force, but he also built the temple that brought forth the presence of Almighty God.

“There is a Solomon Generation that God is raising up that is given the task to establish the presence of God like we have never seen, possibly in the history of the world.

“In our generation, much of the move of the Spirit was very church-centered, even though we reached the world and focused on the lost. But, so much of where the gifts of the Spirit moved was in our church service.

“The Solomon Generation will not look like that. The Solomon Generation is a move of God in the marketplace. It’s not going to be church-centric – not that the church will be less important, but it will send a generation outside its walls and into the streets.

“The Solomon Generation will be every bit as Spirit-filled, Spirit-empowered, moving in the might of the Gifts, but they will do it beyond Sunday morning to reach the lost. Word of knowledge, prophecy, working of miracles, healing will happen in the marketplace.

“This Solomon Generation will establish the presence of God in a supernatural manner that we, the David Generation, hungered for, we fasted for, we cried for, we fought for. And the manifestation of our dream is in front of us.

“This season is so significant because we are resourcing a younger generation that will not look like us, talk like us, sound like us. But they are going to do as much as we’ve ever dreamed of and more. This is the juncture of history we are in. We are impacting the next 50 years. This Solomon Generation could very well be the generation that ushers in the Second Coming of Christ.”⁹

No more time for theological squabbles or waiting. It’s time to do, to go, and to be armed and ready. This book is dedicated

to challenging all of us toward that end. Its focus is on the nine gifts enumerated in 1 Corinthians 12 for the purpose of winning the world, in the same way Jesus did. This is not a theological treatise, rather a combination of personal stories and a biblical understanding of the Gifts.

Hopefully, prayerfully, it is a book full of spiritual truth and inspiration that causes you to hunger for Kingdom warfare and Kingdom blessing – to serve His purposes.

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of

miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. 1 Corinthians 12:1-11