

THE RIVER OF THE SPIRIT

At a small, Christian youth camp in southern Poland in the summer of 2005 young people responded to a call to know Jesus better. The Spirit was poured out, manifesting His gifts, and the camp became a foretaste of heaven, just like heaven on earth. These are the inspirational messages that were preached spontaneously under a heavy anointing at that camp.

These are lessons about the ways of the Holy Spirit, how we may interact with the Spirit in our worship, how we may open our hearts to Jesus to let Him take more control of our lives. These messages may open the eyes of seeking hearts to new spiritual realms, if only they dare to go there. Hungry hearts will be stirred by these sermons to experience more of the baptism of the Spirit. They may be the key to unlocking the manifestation of spiritual gifts in your life.



CARL W. GEARHEART is a former elementary school teacher, who left his career in 1996 to minister in Ukraine. Since 2000 he has cooperated with his local, Crimean church in a ministry to homeless men near Evpatoria, Crimea, Ukraine. Since 2004 he has been registered in Ukraine as a private businessman. Since 2005 he has been active in a children's ministry in the Crimea, sponsored by the Noah Foundation of Prattville, Alabama. In 2006 his ministry was formally recognized by Abundant Grace Ministries, Inc. of Bullard, Texas, from whom he received ordination. He has often traveled in Poland and the Czech Republic, accepting invitations to preach in various churches. He has published one book in Polish, *A Challenge to the Churches*.

ISBN 978-1-61579-043-2



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FOREWARD

This book is based on sermons that were originally preached in 2005 at a Christian summer youth camp held on the outskirts of Jastrzebie a city in southern Poland. The camp is called Ruptawa after the name of the country road that leads to it. It is conducted by the pastor of a small local congregation on his own private property. Desiring to use his large home and spacious territory for the glory of God, he has over the years built dormitories and other facilities to accommodate the campers who come to the camps, often as many as fifty at a time.

The summer of 2005 was a special year for Camp Ruptawa. The Spirit of God seemed to hover over the place from the first day unto the very last day. Although there were many factors that promised a difficult camp that year, the Spirit of God seemed to sweep all difficulties aside. The weather was cool and rainy the whole week, but it failed to dampen anyone's spirits. There were no accomplished musicians to accompany worship, but the young people did their best and worshipped with their hearts, again allowing the Spirit to triumph. The young Czech interpreter was inexperienced at interpreting; Polish was his second language, while English was his third. However, we laughed at his mistakes and carried on without the least embarrassment on his part.

The load of preaching fell solely to me, which is unusual for that camp. Usually there are two or three ministers to share the load. In 2005, though, other ministers were occupied elsewhere. Not many ministers would tackle 22 hours of preaching in just nine days. There was nothing for me to do but tackle it one sermon at a time, praying all the while for the Holy Spirit to give the revelation as the sermon was in progress.

The gifts of the Spirit were manifested in a camp that does not officially, doctrinally support such manifestations. Nonetheless, the power of God was so real that none could deny it. It seemed to me and to many others that heaven had come down to that camp. The conversion of one of the pastor's sons was one highlight of the camp. On Thursday night nearly half of the campers received a direct word from Jesus through words of knowledge, wisdom or prophecy. Needless to say, the emotions were running high among usually calm, reverent worshippers. Even a couple of years later I heard second hand a testimony of a healing that was prophesied during that camp and later received. I did not remember any such prophecy, but it is not possible to remember everything that happened there.

Now these sermons have been edited from the original recordings and written with more clarity for the benefit of a larger, more general audience. Statements that may have pertained only to that camp have been removed or altered for a more general audience. Statements that may have pertained only to that camp have been removed or altered for a more general application. In some cases more explanation was due because of the difficulty of speaking through an interpreter. It is my hope that the result of the written work will be even more powerful than the original messages. These messages should be an inspiration to deeper worship and lead to a personal revelation of Jesus Christ. They should be an encouragement to all who are striving to know Jesus Christ better. That, by the way, was the theme of the camp in 2005. The camp was offered to those who wanted to know Jesus better. This book then is offered to all who would like to know Jesus better.

Carl Gearheart

