

## Miraculous Salvation or the Danger of Faith with a Plus

### *The Shocking Testimony of John Pinkevich*

In this interview I would like to introduce you to one of the most unusual stories that I have heard in my life. John Pinkevich began to regularly attend worship services at the Slavic Baptist Church in the summer of 2003. As we got to know him, my friends and I learned of a story, which shook us so deeply, that it was impossible not to write about it. John's story is unusual because, while persistently seeking spirituality, he got into the charismatic movement, experienced all of the levels of devotion in this teaching, and then was literally removed from it by God through circumstances that almost ended tragically. Today, we sincerely thank God for his immeasurable mercy, which so vividly was, and is, present in John's life. I know that John's story can become a blessing and a warning for many Christians. This is exactly why I would like to share it with you.

Margaret Kolomiytseva

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John Pinkevich was born in 1975 in Poland. His mother is Russian and his father is a Ukrainian Polak. Because he was instructed in biblical teaching from childhood, at a certain point in his life John went to find "spiritual fulfillment" in the charismatic movement. This interview is a testimony of how God worked in his life and returned him to the source of true, biblical teaching – faith based only on the Word of God, not on emotions, experiences, or other "pluses," which many people try to add to their faith. (Romans 10:17, 2-Corinthians 4:18)

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Q: John, as I heard, you grew up in a family with Christian parents and heard about Christ since childhood. Please, tell a little bit about how you came to God.

A: I repented in 1989 at an evangelical service. At that time I was 14 years old. The same year, on July 27<sup>th</sup>, I was baptized. From the very beginning I loved God and His Word. After being baptized, I began to actively participate in service, first of all in preaching, helping to build a church, and in youth ministry. I was a very devoted person who gave everything to God. In 1990 our family moved to America. Here, I also actively joined in service. I attended a correspondence Bible college, "Logos," and was the assistant youth group leader in one of the churches in Spoken, Washington.

Q: It is said that for people not used to the ideology and practice of the charismatic movement since childhood, it is hard to overcome the barrier separating them from this teaching. How did this happen for you? What made you enter this setting without looking back?

A: This is true. Since childhood I was sure that the charismatic movement is a serious error. I read various literatures on this topic, including John MacArthur's "Charismatic Chaos," and, it seemed that I looked on it from a Biblical standpoint. My break from the truth began very imperceptibly. Gradually, I started getting carried away by vanity, "American" life. I wanted to hit it off big, become financially secure. I opened my own business in repair and sale of cars, in which I began to allow guile, and my priorities began to gradually change. Church services began to be boring for me, messages uninteresting, hymns long. Then questions began to arise,

like “If God is alive, then why doesn’t He show Himself? Why aren’t there miracles and healings?” During this time, in Spoken, where I then lived, a new charismatic church began to develop under the leadership of Roman Shidlovskiy. It was called “The Church of the Full Gospel.” I wanted something new, lively and went there out of curiosity. When I came there, I did not see anything shocking at first. Everything seemed to be correct. I did not hear anything against the Word of God. Everything that was said there was about faith, about the blood of Christ, about holiness. Speaking of the persuasiveness and eloquence of the preachers, I hadn’t seen anything like it before. My introduction to concepts and practices not confirmed by the Bible happened then, when I already accepted the whole charismatic society as something that surpassed my previous religious experience. It is said that if a frog is thrown into boiling water, it will jump out right away. But, if it is put into cold water and heated gradually the frog will not even notice the boiling, and in the end, it will get boiled. So it was with me.

Q: What played the deciding role in your transfer to the charismatic church?

A: I attentively listened to and sincerely accepted all of Roman Shidlovskiy’s sermons. He began to unnoticeably speak of the necessity of being baptized by the Holy Spirit with the sign of tongues, along with his general call to a more “spiritual” life. For example, he frequently said, “Enough of living the gray Baptist life. You need new spiritual gifts, holy callings.” Such appeals were common in that society. When I would come back to my “old” church I would be dying of boredom. Those old boring sermons and Baptist hymns... Meanwhile, in the charismatic church, I became more and more attracted to the indescribable, elevated feelings of happiness. This played the deciding role. I stopped fearing the tongues that made no sense and other practices, which I couldn’t find in the Bible. By this time I had already broke all ties with my “old” church and became an active participant in the charismatic church. Then, I had been put on probation in my previous church. Relatives and friends were very worried about me; the youth group prayed and fasted, asking God to convert me. I plunged deeper and deeper into practices of the charismatic teaching trying to really become “spiritual.” When I achieved one experience, I quickly got used to it and wanted something more. That’s how, in pursuit of real “spirituality,” I experienced all six steps and only on the sixth God stopped me, miraculously showing me the whole delusiveness of this path.

Q: Please tell me what these steps are that you mentioned. The first one is probably receiving the “gift” of tongues, correct?

A: Correct. The so-called “baptism by the Holy Spirit” with the sign of tongues was the first step of my knowledge of “real spirituality.” It took me a long time to start speaking tongues, even though I tried every way possible. One time Roman Shidlovskiy preached that the main barrier to receiving gifts of the Holy Spirit is our mind. He persuasively said that for a spiritual accomplishment we need to just “turn off” our mind, which criticizes the ridiculousness of meaningless babble. I also read about this from Benny Hinn. At first, it seemed kind of strange – “turn of your mind.” They were trying to persuade me, with the help of my mind, that the mind is

a barrier to spirituality. But, gradually, I began to get used to such words: “Leave your mind! It is a barrier which you need to break! Open your heart; don’t try to understand this tongue with your mind! You will never understand this anointment with your mind! The mind is a barrier! Don’t let your mind function, or just put it aside altogether!” Once, I went to one of Benny Hinn’s crusades. He spoke of a teaching made popular by his predecessor Catherine Cullman. Its main idea is the same: “Never doubt the voice of the Holy Spirit, never harbor the thought that you might fall into error, accept the voice of the Holy Spirit without doubt and without checking.” Benny Hinn continued, “The biggest danger is when we doubt the voice of the Holy Spirit. In this case we are in danger of blaspheming the Holy Spirit.” Gradually, I began to lose myself in these appeals. Pursuing spirituality, I found myself in a state where I was ready to step over the sound mind in order to obtain the coveted experience of the action of the Holy Spirit. Once, when I attended service in an American charismatic church, I decided to try what I frequently heard about – relinquish control of my mind and entrust myself to the emotional flow of “spirituality.” I remember I kept repeating to myself: “I won’t try to understand this experience with my mind; I will put my mind aside and receive the anointment of the Holy Spirit.” As soon as I refused to control myself, I plunged into the flow of emotional tension, which the room was literally charged with. A feeling of ecstasy and oblivion engulfed me, and my mouth began to utter meaningless, unintelligible sounds. Since all of this was accompanied by pleasant feelings, I thought that, at last, I understood what the real baptism by the Holy Spirit was. This moment was my starting point – the beginning of my immersion into this movement.

Q: If all of that felt so good, what is so bad about speaking tongues? Maybe it is really something that God gives for his children’s happiness?

A: I sincerely believed that it was. Speaking in tongues became for me the main point of Christianity. I aspired to it and looked for it, because it was connected to that vivid feeling that was there at my “baptism by the Holy Spirit.” But, experiencing this more and more, I began to find that it stopped bringing me fulfillment. Very soon, everything became ordinary and habitual – emotional repeating music, “immersion into worship,” babbling in tongues, and etc. Later, when God had already led me out of this nightmare, I understood that speaking in tongues was nothing more than mass psychosis, which functions like emotional doping. It gives a pleasant feeling, but it is very easy to get used to and you crave something more. This is namely how I went from the first step of speaking in tongues to the second one – ‘resting in the Spirit’.

Carrying me away with pursuit of emotional effects, which I mistook for real spirituality, it was easy for Satan to lead me further. One Sunday, I attended service where the preacher called to the front those who wanted to become closer to God by experiencing falling in spirit. Before, I had already witnessed how people, in a state of ecstasy, fell backwards. It had always been unpleasant for me to see people in such a state. Listening to the call that day, I was in a dilemma. On one hand, God spoke to me through my mind saying: “Wait, where in the Bible does it talk about falling backwards? There’s not one passage in the Scriptures that talks about this as a representation of some level of spirituality.” On the other hand, I really wanted to experience

again this amazing feeling that filled when I spoke in tongues for the first time. The preacher kept calling for people to come up and a question began to ring in my mind: “Do you want to doubt the voice of the Holy Spirit? If you will doubt me I will take away this anointment, take away this happiness, take away this light, this open heaven, and you will return to the gray Baptist life, listen to the gray sermons. Do you remember how you put your mind aside? What happiness you experienced, what light? Don’t be afraid, I will lead you to an even higher anointment. Do you want to go forward or backward?” These thoughts swirled around in my head. The pressure was elevated by the emotional music accompanying the words. Some had already started walking to the front and I decided, saying: “Of course I will go forward. I don’t want to go back to the gray life.” I can’t remember if the preacher pushed me or it happened as a result of anxious waiting, but when I came up to him, I literally flew backwards, falling into a heap along with other people from the crowd.

What happened to me is the same thing that happened to the frog I mentioned earlier. Only, in my case, while heating up my environment, Satan also cleverly fed me with heightened emotions. I again experienced happiness and fulfillment similar to those that I felt the first time, when I first started babbling in tongues. This experience finally convinced me of the accuracy of my path. From this moment on I did not have any kinds of doubts. Happiness, heightened feelings, and euphoric experiences became the criteria by which I measured spirituality and, in reality, became the basis of my faith. At that time, I felt as if I had accomplished my dream – achievement of real spirituality, which was my goal.

Q: You say that the main problem was that these feelings passed quickly, but what happened in those moments when they were not there?

A: The feelings really did pass quickly, but that was not the main problem. It lies deeper than that. The thing is that our faith should be based only on the authoritative and infallible Word of God. My problem was that I mistook the feelings, which I found in the charismatic society, for the reality of faith. Emotional experiences become moving motivation, which blinds the mind and subordinates everything else. Same as people addicted to drugs are moved by an overwhelming desire to get another dose, those who accept emotions as true spirituality keep looking for vivid feelings, longer-lasting and unusual experiences. I felt this many times. As soon as you walk out of the church and immerse in real life, you start to feel even worse. You just experienced a spiritual rise, a special closeness to God, as it seemed, but, as a little bit of time passes, you feel drained out. In those moments I constantly consoled myself with remembrances of those feelings that I had when I spoke in tongues and when I fell in spirit. My teachers at the time told me that this was normal and that in time my condition would improve. Another important side of the ideology of charismatic churches is the teaching of financial sowing. I was persuaded that if I tithed generously then God will give back to me in hundredfold and will provide my financial prosperity. I sincerely believed this and so tithed everything that I could while attending conference after conference in pursuit of new miracles, more vivid “happiness,” more impressive feelings, and etc. I sincerely thought that this was the real

Christianity, accepting as truth and soaking up, like a sponge, absolutely everything I was taught by the “anointed” ones of this movement, without checking or opposing them, fearing that in doing this I might blaspheme the Holy Spirit.

Q: What was the next step of in your pursuit of spirituality?

A: The devil often acts as the angel of light using false spirituality. He can fake any kind of feeling. In order to justify these feelings he manipulates the Scriptures by ripping passages out of context and giving them the needed meaning. Once, during work, I was thinking about my spiritual experiences and a question involuntarily popped up: “What if all this is a lie? All of the arguments used by my teachers are based on their personal experiences, not on the Scriptures.” But, right away, another thought popped up in my mind: “Do you doubt that the babbling is from God? You can test it. If you suddenly start speaking in tongues right here, then they are from God.” And, I said: “All right, if this is from you, Lord, then let me suddenly speak in tongues.” And, in reality, I suddenly started babbling in tongues right at work. I was amazed and said: “That’s it. I will never again doubt the tongues. They really are from God.” I asked God for forgiveness for my doubts and promised Him to never try to understand them with my mind and to grow in knowledge and anointment. Almost the same thing happened with falling in spirit as with speaking in tongues. In this way I was introduced to the third “spiritual” step – receiving confirmation of the trustworthiness of my experiences by putting certain criteria before God. I call this confirmation through a check by a random question. By putting faith in feelings we become exposed to the danger of manipulation by the devil, which is very active in this area.

At that time, God began to speak to me through circumstances. I unexpectedly got into a car accident. It was a loss. But then, accidents happen and I did not understand anything. Very soon, I got into another car accident, much more serious than the previous one. My car was totaled. But, again, I did not want to doubt my path. Feelings and experiences that I received from the moment I joined this movement were so appealing that even in the most serious circumstances I did not want to allow myself to think that God was speaking to me, wanting to stop me. The fourth “spiritual” step to which I aspired – learn to literally hear the voice of the Holy Spirit and obey Him unconditionally. At one big conference, a famous charismatic leader, Sunday Adelaje, preached that truly spiritual people could hear the voice of the Holy Spirit all the time. He was very persuasive, telling about how he hears the Holy Spirit and communicates with Him all the time, as with a friend. I understood that he was talking about a new spiritual level that I needed to reach. Then, I thought, would begin what I was hoping for. I already knew that in order to climb the spiritual ladder I needed to put aside my mind. I returned from the conference under very impressed and couldn’t stop thinking about how to reach this level of spirituality. Again and again I listened to recordings of sermons about this topic. In the end, I told myself: “That’s it. I’m putting aside my mind in this matter also. I will attentively listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit.” The next day, when I came to work, the guys asked me: “How was the conference?” I was all ready to answer them and describe what it was like, when a thought formed in my mind: “Were you going to answer with your mind? Put your mind aside.” I don’t really remember what

I said then, I just gave in to the influx of feelings and spoke. But, it came out to be something “correct,” “smart,” even logical. And here I was filled with the same vivid feelings as when I rose up the previous steps, beginning with the speaking in tongues and etc. Only this time they were even more strong and vivid. Again, I felt light and an open heaven in front of me. Then, I was asked another question about my understanding of this movement. I again was about to answer with my mind, but the voice said to me: “Wait. Listen to what I will say.” I did the same thing I did last time and this time some kind of silliness came to mind. I said to myself: “Hold on, no. They will laugh at me.” But, the voice wouldn’t leave me alone: “Do you doubt me again? I will take away all of your feelings and return you back to the gray Baptist life.” I remember that I gave such a stupid answer that the guys exchanged glances and apparently thought that something was wrong with me. My answer was meaningless and unrelated. But, I did not pay attention to this thanks to the feeding by the Crafty One with heightened feelings and brave ideas. I had the feelings. That was enough for me. I decided that I had finally reached what all of the great “anointed” ones had.

Q: It’s amazing that there is such a variety of “spiritual” effects. It seems that as soon as one becomes ordinary, right away there appears a new one. Is there a limit to this?

A: For me, the limit came when, in pursuit of spirituality in the charismatic experience, I almost lost my life. This came later though, and before this I experienced one more step – knowing the future and knowing the thoughts of other people. Aspiring to reach true spiritual height, I copied everything I saw from famous charismatic leaders. At almost every church service they say some kind of prophecy. Until this time, my wife had not experienced any “spiritual” steps and I kept thinking about how to explain all this to her, so that she could also experience this happiness and emotional rise by which I was so carried away. One day, I clearly heard a voice in my thoughts: “Do you want to raise her spiritually? Listen and do what I will tell you.” We had then sat down with my wife to eat dinner. I answered the voice inside myself: “All right. I want to explain this to her. Help me.” The voice answered me: “Listen and do what I will tell you.” My wife started asking me how my day was at work. The voice told me: “Be quiet and don’t answer anything.” My wife began to worry that something had happened at work but the voice persistently forbade me to answer her. Then, my wife decided to change the subject and said: “Well, try and see how the dinner today is?” The voice said to me: “Put down your fork, don’t eat and don’t answer.” I did exactly that. My wife became scared and asked: “What is wrong with you?” And here the voice said to me: “Now pray in tongues with all your strength.” And I, as loudly as I could, started screaming meaningless fraises. Scared of what was happening to me, my wife almost passed out. She felt faint. I led her to lie down on the couch and she asked me to bring her clean water. I brought her a glass of water but she said: “No, John, I want clean water.” I thought maybe she wanted water cleaned by a special filter and went to go get the water. And then, the voice says to me: “She does not need your water. I will now lead you into the highest level of anointment. I will tell you the thoughts of your wife. Pour out this water, go to your wife and tell her that she doesn’t need this water but the Word of God.” I came out of the room and my wife

was already waiting for me by the entrance. I repeated the words of the voice exactly: “You don’t need this water; you need the Word of God.” My wife was very surprised, started to cry, and said: “John, you’re a prophet.” And now I again experienced an unusual spiritual rise, the same feelings I experienced earlier. Again the same light, the same open hands, the same heavens...

Q: John, during this time period, besides these feelings and experiences, did you have normal communication with God through prayer and reading of the Bible?

A: Yes, I read the Bible a lot, but, as I now see, I only read chosen passages and understood them through explanations of the “anointed” ones, who had become my idols at the time. The charismatic practice gives the impression of loyalty to the Scriptures, but, in reality, only uses them justify its ideas. Verses are taken out of context and are given a meaning that isn’t originally there. An allegorical interpretation, added to the vivid imagination of the interpreter, leads to totally unreasonable, but very interesting, extravagant and attractive ideas, which leaders of this movement give out. This type of approach to the Scriptures does not lead to spiritual growth but rather to decay from within. The interpreter acquires meaning, instead of the Scriptures. The strength of his “anointment” is measured by how well he can find things in the Scriptures that no one else sees which usually are not there in the first place. This attitude towards spiritual life led me to give in, little by little, to sinful temptations and immerse in the vanity of life. All of my “spirituality” was based only on emotions at times of “inspiration.” I became more nervous, irritable. Fear settled in my heart. During this time, while in pursuit of the visual, new feelings, miracles and signs, I dashed around to different conferences. In this way, I became personally acquainted with many famous Russian and American leaders of the charismatic movement.

Q: Your absolute loyalty to this movement resembles fanaticism. Would you call your faith, during that period of time, fanatical?

A: Yes, I would most likely call my faith fanatical at that time, because I blindly believed everything I was told. I was taught to never doubt anything that “God’s anointed ones” said, and the Bible stopped being an authority for me. This is what led me to the last “spiritual step.” I tried to imitate what others told about – to see God with my own eyes, face to face. Everything happened by the same practiced plan. The same voice in my thoughts began to tell me that I can have an even greater anointment. I really wanted to reach such a level of closeness to God, to be able to rise to heaven and return to Earth freely, like Jesse du Plessis, Roberts Liardon, and others. I felt like something was holding me down. I felt I needed spiritual power to overcome the physical law of gravity. I was always taught that faith is a power that can overcome anything, even gravity. Charismatic preachers say that practical realization of faith is shown in not only talking about it but that we should take a precise “step of faith,” based on the new reality. This way, those whom these preachers attempt to heal are convinced to act like they are healed, even

though they continue to suffer from their sickness. “You,” they say, “must show with your actions that your faith is stronger than all powers.”

Of course, I had my doubts about overcoming the force of gravity. I thought about it a lot. I read and listened to the testimonies of others. In my mind, a picture painted itself that if I step from a high place, then, right before I touch the ground, I will be raised to heaven, where I will communicate with God face to face. Later, I will return and witness to others about this amazing experience. Of course, this idea was way too brave and my mind objected to it. And, once again, the voice inside of me said: “I will take away all of the feelings, all of the steps and anointment, and return you to the old, gray, emotionless, Baptist life.” This battle went on inside of me for a while. Once, while I was working on the scaffolds of a multiple-story building I had this thought: “Try me. You have already tried me more than once.” This was another one of those experiments with checking by a random question – “Well, do you want to check if I am right? You are a good supervisor and your subordinates have never made bad comments about your work. Now, if one of them comes to you and says – John, you did not texture that wall very well – then it is the voice of the Holy Spirit.” I agreed to these conditions and here, really, one of my subordinates comes and does something he never did before – he jokingly says the same exact words: “John, you did not texture that wall very well.” I was amazed! “What a direct answer from God!” I thought, “And why was I in doubt?” Here, I again experienced the same emotions, felt the sky was brightly shining, and saw the outstretched hands. Now, I could go to heaven and speak to God. I imagined that I was already rising to heaven with an untold happiness and felt that a great power was near me. My mind went dull. At that moment I was on the scaffolds, on the sixth floor. That was the last thing I remembered. I woke up after a few days, in the hospital. I don’t know if I jumped from that height, or just tripped and fell, but the fall was horrendous. Of course, I did not overcome the force of gravity and flew down, not up. I still don’t know how I survived and am amazed at God’s miracle of my salvation. I had a broken nose and broken eye sockets, a shattered heel and a serious head injury. Blood was flowing out of my nose, mouth and ears. The doctors predicted a very small chance of survival and said that, if I lived by some miracle, it would not be life, but existence of a body with an injured brain. But, I am still alive and you are the witnesses. God spoke to me in a special way. He punishes every son that he receives. (Psalms 119:71, Hebr. 12:6).

Q: It is unbelievable to survive a fall from the sixth story! Tell me, please, how did this affect your leaving the charismatic movement?

A: At first, as I said, God spoke to me through the car accidents, which I went through twice. But, I understood very little of His words. Then a more serious thing happened. Roman Shidlovskiy, the one who called himself a great prophet and said that we will conquer Spoken, died in a car accident. The fact that his prophecies did not come true was a warning sign for me. The Bible says that if the words of a prophet do not come true, he is a false prophet and God was not speaking through him. (Deuter. 18:20-22). This was a warning bell, a signal, meant for me, but I did not listen again and silenced this voice in my heart, because I was filled up with



emotions and the high, eloquent words of charismatic preachers. Then, while playing basketball, I badly injured my hand. My hand quickly swelled up, so much that doctors even acknowledged the possibility of amputation. God was merciful to me once again, but I still did not understand anything. In the end, happened that, which I just told you about – I almost lost my life, I was on the brink of death, my life hung by a thread. When I was between life and death for a few days, my relatives were already getting ready for my funeral.

When I was taken home from the hospital, I began to understand that God wanted to tell me something through all of these experiences. I opened the Bible and began to look for answers there. I read for many, many days and thoroughly studied all of the passages about tongues, prophecies, revelations and faith. Finally, I could be truthful to myself and sincerely analyze all of those “spiritual steps” and experiences that I went through. God began to disclose Himself to me through His Word. That is when I began to understand that only God’s Word, expressed in the Bible, is the only authoritative and conclusive guide in our life. I repented before God from all my heart, first at home in my closed room, and later in the church that I was in before I was carried away by the charismatic movement.

Q: How can a regular person become sure that the charismatic movement is an error? Maybe you’re the one with the unlucky experience and others do not go to such “extremes?” What would you advise to those who are part of this movement now?

A: To become sure of the error of the charismatic movement it is necessary to fulfill a few requirements. First, it is necessary to unequivocally accept the total, objective authority of the Scriptures. The problem is that in the charismatic movement a relocation occurs of the authority of the Scriptures to its interpreters, from its objective meaning to their intricate inventions. Study the Scriptures, investigate them. Nothing and nobody can show you the true path better than God himself – through His Word. Be like the good-thinking believers in Beria, check everything you hear by the Scriptures and you will be safe from errors. The second important requirement – be truthful to yourselves. Do not accept the wish as the reality. The charismatic movement is built on creating a pseudo reality in the mind of people. Do not let yourselves be deceived. If you will truthfully approach yourselves and what is said in the Scriptures, if you will penetrate it and study it in context then you will surely see what is true and what is false. The third requirement – do not let yourself do what is foolish and unreasonable. God gave us a mind so that, with its help, we can communicate with him. He gave us logic so that he can use it to inform us of the truth of His Word. The Bible speaks many times of the necessity of having an educated mind, meaning a mind influenced by God’s Word. (Eph. 4:17-23; 1-Peter 1:13) Never does it call to stop thinking and give in to emotions. The Devil, on the other hand, always tries to darken the mind. This is the danger of euphoric experiences. At first, they seem spiritual, but they always dull our ability to think soundly. Further, the pursuit of emotions deprives a person of a real spiritual life expressed in understanding of the Word and putting it into practice. (1-Peter 2:2-3)

I would also like to share with you some resources, which helped me return to normal Christian life. These are books and articles that you can find on the Internet.

1. [www.equip.org](http://www.equip.org) – In *Search* type faith movement and click on go.
2. [www.gty.org/resources.php?section=articles&aid=231980](http://www.gty.org/resources.php?section=articles&aid=231980)
3. [www.pfo.org/book-cat.htm](http://www.pfo.org/book-cat.htm)
4. [home.computer.net/~cya/cy00052.html](http://home.computer.net/~cya/cy00052.html)
5. [www.letusreason.org](http://www.letusreason.org) – Click on *Word Faith*
6. [www.gospeloutreach.net/wordfaith.html](http://www.gospeloutreach.net/wordfaith.html)
7. [hbcdelivers.s439.sureserver.com/category/doctrines-of-devils/word-faith/](http://hbcdelivers.s439.sureserver.com/category/doctrines-of-devils/word-faith/)
8. [www.deceptioninthechurch.com/bhinn.html](http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/bhinn.html)
9. [www.thebereancall.org](http://www.thebereancall.org)
10. [www.thechristianexpositor.org/page7.htm](http://www.thechristianexpositor.org/page7.htm)
11. [www.biblebb.com/files/WRDFAITH.HTM](http://www.biblebb.com/files/WRDFAITH.HTM)
12. [www.deceptioninthechurch.com/word-faith.html](http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/word-faith.html)
13. [www.npnvideos.com](http://www.npnvideos.com)
14. [www.thedoormagazine.com](http://www.thedoormagazine.com)
15. [www.mts.net/~acts1711/Faith\\_Movement.htm](http://www.mts.net/~acts1711/Faith_Movement.htm)

Q: Thank you, John. Last question: in what condition is your spiritual life today? And what would you like to say to our readers?

A: Today, I am a member of the Slavic Bible Church in Vancouver, Washington and I love my church very much. Right now I spend a lot of time in youth ministry. I organize youth Bible studies, prayer meetings, while always studying His Word in detail. Also, God urges me to witness about what happened to me and show the truth of faith based only on the Scriptures, without any additions and pluses. Many times I am invited to different churches where people are interested in my testimony, and through my testimony I give glory to God by explaining the importance of faith without pluses and based only on the Word of God, not on emotions or euphoric experiences. God already proved the credibility of His Word through signs and miracles when it was written, and now, it does not need additional proof. On the other hand, when we look for signs and miracles today, we underestimate and doubt the already proven authority of God's Word by doing this. By looking for additional testimony of the Holy Spirit we, in reality, humiliate Him. He is the author of the Bible and it is necessary to believe Him.

This is what I want to say to everyone who will read this interview. The most important thing is – no pluses. Let your faith be based on the infallible Word of God, which is without mistake and self sufficient. You do not need the Word plus revelations of modern prophets, or the Word plus tongues, or the Word plus signs, and etc. By honestly studying the Word you will understand that the time of prophets and signs has passed. Pay attention to yourself and to your teaching, and continue in these things always. (Gal. 1:6-8; 3:2-3; 1-Cor. 1:22-24; 1-Tim. 4:16; 2-Tim. 3:14-17)

Q: John, thank you so much for the interview. I know that it will serve as a blessing to many and help them receive answers to hard questions. God bless you.

*The interview was done by Margaret Kolomiytseva – January, 2004.*