

Cross Current



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Line Dancing



Daniel “Spider” Lockhart gets a big charge out of his job.

As a high-voltage power line maintenance man, he routinely has half a million volts flow around him as he steps off a helicopter and perches on live cables two hundred feet in the air. His company’s work is featured in an electrifying video on Tangle, the Christian social network site. (See High Voltage Power Worker)

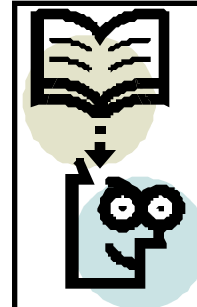
It’s a clip from the IMAX movie, *Straight Up: Helicopters in Action*. In it, a chopper does an intricate dance with danger, the pilot hovering

just close enough so the worker can do his job, without the craft getting zapped. An unnamed lineman says, “Our pilots are very smooth. It’s like they can read our every thought.”

“Back in the late 1800s, [English physicist] Michael Faraday had a theory that if you enclosed a man in a metal cage, then energized that cage at whatever voltage, that man would still live,” explains the technician. “The voltage would flow around him.”

Proving the theory, he wears a *hot suit* made of fire retardant material and stainless steel thread. “That metal thread means I have a Faraday cage around me. A half a million volts pass over me but I can work... As long as the helicopter is isolated from ground, we have the ability to bring ourselves to the same voltage potential as the line, like a bird on a wire.”

When the lineman touches a special wand to the power cable, it energizes the aircraft. An arc of light is created by the transfer of elec-



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tricity, and incredible power races between wand and wire. A cable is clamped onto the wire and, because of the *hot suit* the electricity flows around the worker. All he feels is pins-and-needles.

According to technician, there’s such a hunger for power these days, nobody wants to take lines out of service to maintain them, so work is done while the wires are still hot. He says “every move we make, is thought of and rehearsed, so it’s as safe as crossing the street.” But, he adds, “It’s not a job for a hot dog.”

Neither is the work of God, in which all of us are entrusted with the maintenance of spiritual power lines. If we’re going to effectively keep open the conduits through which the Lord’s energy flows, we need humility born of a healthy respect for that Power.

If God is its source, the high-voltage cable is the gospel. “*It’s the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes... This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight (Rom. 1:16,17)*. In that sense, the Bible can be described as Power Lines and it’s our job to ensure we can convey God’s awesome message about hope and healing to those who need to experience his life-changing energy.

The church is the helicopter — the vehicle through which we work — which is energized by contact with God’s power. It’s piloted by the Holy Spirit who takes us close to God, allowing us to reach his indescribable power, without being overwhelmed by it. And yes, he can read our every thought.

Jesus is our spiritual *hot suit*, enabling us to connect with God’s power safely. Clothed in Christ, we’re surrounded by divine might and find strength to live, change and become a blessing to those around us. As long as we don’t become too grounded in the things of the world, Jesus gives us the ability to bring ourselves to the same power potential as the gospel, the Word of God, like a bird on a wire.

In a world hungering for spiritual power, we must do continual maintenance to ensure we’re keeping the supply open. We’ll have to take risks, but God will protect us. Really listen to these words: “*May you experience the love of Christ [and] be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God,*” writes Paul. “*who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or even think!*” (Eph. 3:19,20)

Go ahead, step out on the wire.

