

ance in God's name. They refused repentance for their sins, relying on the indulgences they had bought. Luther's indignation was aroused. He appealed to his bishop to stop the sale of the indulgences. The bishop advised him to keep quiet. He sought for help from his fellow-priests. They feared to assail the gigantic evil. Tetzel drove a flourishing trade. "Please God," said Luther, "I will make a hole in this drum." He denied the efficacy of the indulgences. He protested, and his protest shook the world. His word, by the grace of God, was heard. It broke the spell of Roman supremacy.

In 1517, he made public his famous Ninety-five Theses. He affirmed the liberty of conscience. He openly avowed that no man, be he priest or pope, could come between a soul and God. He asserted that God alone had power to forgive sin, and that repentance and faith in Jesus Christ were necessary to forgiveness. He rejected, along with the indulgences, the pope's assumed infallibility; the idolatrous mass; auricular confession; the worship of images; adoration of relics; invocation of saints; worship of the Virgin Mary; the doctrine of purgatory; Romish fastings; and many other abuses. He declared that priests should marry, and himself, later, took a wife, Catharine Von Bora, who had been a nun. By so