

AFTERWORD

The question of whether or not the “manifestation gifts” are for all Christians today is a question that every believer in Jesus Christ should have an answer to based on the Bible. Reader, study the Bible and this book until you have an answer to the following questions:

If the “manifestation gifts” are for all believers should all of them be used on a regular basis by the congregations that have them? Those gifts are – word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, distinguishing of spirits, kinds of languages and interpretation of languages (1 Corinthians 12.8-10)

If a congregation has members that exercise most of the gifts on a regular basis, but never or rarely exercise the other gifts why do they not use the other gifts? Did the Holy Spirit refuse to give them those gifts or did the members refuse to accept them?

Are some gifts such as healing and miracles not given to every church, but only to a few special churches?

Are the super “manifestation gifts” of healing and miracles only given to the super-Christians who use them to build mega-churches?

Are the churches that have the “manifestation gifts” using them for *“for the perfecting of the saints, unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the body of Christ”* (Ephesians 4.12)?

Is every member of every Pentecostal/Charismatic church being disciplined so he/she can share the Gospel and then disciple others?

Should the super-pastors who have the super-gifts of healing and miracles have the best equipped congregations where every member is being disciplined so they can disciple others?

If the super-pastors who have the super-gifts have congregations that are **not** equipped to share the Gospel and make disciples why do they have those super-gifts? Are they for their own glorification? Are their congregations supposed to support them so they can do the evangelism and just forget about discipleship?

Is the Great Commission for all Christians and all churches or is it not for the Church today?

Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.
(Matthew 28.19-20)

Should every member of the churches that exercise the “manifestation gifts” be a super-disciple? Should all of them be winning souls and then making those converts disciples?

If the Pentecostal and Charismatic churches have no discipleship programs, and they have few or no members who are capable of making disciples for what good are their “manifestation gifts”?

If the gift of prophecy is extant this means new revelation (new Scripture) can be added to the Bible until the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. This also means the warning to not add to the Word of God (Revelation 22.18) only applies to the book of Revelation. Every Christian cult in the world has claimed new revelation.

Since the majority of the members of Pentecostal and Charismatic churches speak in “tongues” has the Holy Spirit changed His methods? Instead of giving members of a church a variety of the “manifestation gifts” as He did in the first century, does He now give most members the ability to speak the mystery “prayer language,” a few members the gift of speaking a known language they have not learned, fewer still the gift of interpretation and virtually no one the gifts of miracles and healing? The Holy Spirit is God Almighty and He does not change His ways just as Jesus Christ does not (Hebrews 13.8). Paul made it perfectly clear that not everyone is given the gift of speaking a known language (1 Corinthians 12.30).

Is there a problem in the Pentecostal and Charismatic churches where the vast majority speak a special prayer language (tongues) and virtually no one has the gift of speaking a known language they have not learned?

When believers go to Heaven will they worship the Lord in the same manner as some Pentecostal and Charismatic congregations do? Will we laugh, cry, bark, growl and roll on the floor?

APPENDIX A

WHAT YOU MUST DO TO BE SAVED

Do not wait until the Tribulation starts to trust in **Jesus Christ** to save you. If you go into the Tribulation, there is no guarantee you will survive it for very long. Within the first year or so, one-fourth of the world's population will die from war, famine, pestilence and wild animals (Revelation 6.8). By the middle of the Tribulation, one-third of the remaining population of the world will be dead (Revelation 9.15), leaving half of the world's population alive. Things only get worse. So many people die during the Tribulation that man becomes rarer than gold (Isaiah 13.12).

If you have not trusted **Jesus Christ** to save you, do it now! Read the following Scriptures:

For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3.23)

*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in **Christ Jesus** our Lord. (Romans 6.23)*

*But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, **Christ** died for us. (Romans 5.8)*

For by grace have ye been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not of works, that no man should glory. (Ephesians 2.8-9)

In whom we have our redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. (Ephesians 1.7)

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Romans 10.13)

*If thou shalt confess with thy mouth **Jesus** as Lord, and shalt believe in thy heart that God raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved: for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the*

mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 10.9-10)

But as many as received him, to them gave he the right to become children of God, [even] to them that believe on his name. (John 1.12)

If you understand you are a sinner in need of salvation because there is a real Hell, ask **Jesus** to save you right now. Tell Him that you are trusting in Him to save you and cleanse your sins by the blood He shed on the cross.

Once you have trusted in **Jesus**, and in Him alone to save you, find a good Bible teaching church to join. If you need help locating a church, call the World Bible Society (800.866.9673).

DISCIPLESHIP

Jesus commissioned His disciples to be His witnesses to His resurrection, and to make disciples of all nations:

Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. (Matthew 28.19-20)

But ye shall receive power, when the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea and Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1.8)

That commission applies to all true believers. Once a person is saved by trusting in **Jesus Christ** alone, he is to become a *disciple* of **Jesus**. One does that by engaging in several spiritual activities on a daily and a regular basis:

- 1 - **Pray** (Matthew 7.7-11; Luke 18.1-8; John 14.13-14; 16.24; Ephesians 6.18; James 1.5; 1 Thessalonians 5.17).
- 2 - **Listen** to Scripture (Deuteronomy 4.9-10; Proverbs 8.34; Luke 8.15, 21; 11.28; James 1.22; Revelation 1.3).
- 3 - **Read** Scripture (Deuteronomy 17.19; Psalm 42.1-2; 63.1; 143.6; Revelation 1.3).
- 4 - **Study** Scripture (Deuteronomy 8.3; Matthew 4.4; Proverbs 2.1-5; 8.34; 22.17; John 5.39; Acts 17.11; Romans 15.4; 2 Timothy 2.15; 3.15).

- 5 - **Memorize** Scripture (Deuteronomy 6.6; Psalm 37.31; 40.8; 119.11; Proverbs 2.1; 3.1, 3; 4.1, 21; 6.21; 22.18; Isaiah 51.7; Ezekiel 3.10).
- 6 - **Meditate** on Scripture (Joshua 1.8; Job 22.22; 23.12; Psalm 1.2; 4.4; 19.14; 63.6; 77.12; 104.34; 119.15, 23, 27, 48, 78, 97, 99, 148; 143.5; 1 Timothy 4.15)
- 7 - **Fellowship** with the brethren (Psalm 119.63; Proverbs 13.20; Acts 2.42, 46-47; 5.42; Hebrews 3.13; 10.24-25; 1 John 1.7)
- 8 - **Share the Gospel** (Psalm 96.2; Acts 2.47; 1 Peter 3.15).
- 9 - **Make disciples** (Deuteronomy 4.9-10; 6.5-7; 11.18-19; 32.46; Psalm 78.3-7; Matthew 28.19-20; 2 Timothy 2.2).

If a Christian develops a discipline in these basics of holy living he will become a *disciple* of **Jesus Christ**. It does not happen overnight. It takes many years to become a mature *disciple*, but it starts with the daily discipline of being in prayer, in the Word, in regular fellowship with other Christians and in regular sharing of the Gospel.

As you grow in the Lord you will pray more, and listen to, read, study, memorize and meditate on Scripture more and more. You will share your gospel more often, and spend more time in fellowship with other Christians.

Spiritual Fitness Program

1. **PRAY:** Pray as often as you can, wherever you are. Pray for your family, friends, fellow employees, employer, church members, pastors, and city, state and federal politicians. Pray with your family daily and with church members on a regular basis. Begin and end each day in prayer, and pray throughout the day.

2. **LISTEN TO SCRIPTURE:** Play recordings of the Bible and listen to sermons and studies. Buy an audio copy of the Bible, and listen to it at home and in the car. Buy DVDs of movies about the Bible and watch them often (*The Gospel of John, Peter and Paul, The Greatest Story Ever Told, King of Kings*, etc.).

3. **READ SCRIPTURE:** Make a reading program and stay with it. If you read three chapters a day in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament you will read the Bible through in one year. It is also important to read one chapter of Proverbs each day. It does not take more than a half-hour a day to read five chapters.

4. **STUDY SCRIPTURE:** Choose a book of the Bible or a topic to study, and stay with it until you finish it.
5. **MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE:** If you memorize one verse a week you will have 52 verses memorized in one year. Use memory cards and carry them with you.
6. **MEDITATE ON SCRIPTURE:** Once you have a few verses memorized you can meditate on them any time of the day, and wherever you are. Until then keep a pocket Bible or pocket New Testament handy. Keep a Bible and a few New Testaments in your car at all times for yourself and others. Get into the habit of giving out Bibles and pocket New Testaments.
7. **FELLOWSHIP WITH THE BRETHREN:** Become an active member of a church. Support the church with your time, talents, spiritual gifts and money. Go to the pastor and volunteer your time, talents and gifts.
8. **SHARE THE GOSPEL:** Once you learn how to share the Gospel be ready to do so 24/7. Be sensitive to the leading of the HOLY SPIRIT to share the Gospel. Carry tracts with you and hand them out as you are prompted by the HOLY SPIRIT. If the person(s) wants to talk – speak with them, but if they do not want to talk ask them to read the tract, and pray as you walk away. Keep a diary of your witnessing. When you lead someone to the Lord invite him to church, and make sure they become an active member. If you are not mature enough to disciple them ask your pastor(s) to find someone to disciple them.
9. **MAKE DISCIPLES:** Once you have been discipled, start to disciple others.

APPENDIX B

ARGUMENTS FOR/AGAINST MANIFESTATION GIFTS

<p>The manifestation gifts are a latter rain outpouring of the <i>pneumatikon charisma</i>.</p>	<p>All references of “latter rain” are of literal rainfall and there is no empirical evidence of the <i>pneumatikon charisma</i> being given since 100 AD.</p>
<p>Experience is all the proof needed.</p>	<p>Mormons and members of numerous pagan religions speak in “tongues.”</p>
<p>Some Pentecostals and Charismatics have spoken known languages.</p>	<p>Most Pentecostals and Charismatics speak a mystery “prayer language” not a known language they have not learned. It seems odd that the Holy Spirit has given millions of Christians the ability to speak a mystery “prayer language” but given less than a fraction of 1% the gift of speaking a known language they have not learned and the gift of interpretation.</p>
<p>There is a special “prayer language,” that most Pentecostals and Charismatics speak which is probably the language of angels.</p>	<p>The Bible does not say there is a special “prayer language” and it is not listed among the <i>pneumatikon charisma</i>. It is a creation of man not of God.</p>
<p>Evidence of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is speaking in “tongues,” the mystery language no one knows.</p>	<p>The evidence of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is living a holy life, walking in the Spirit, loving the brethren and the lost, studying Scripture daily, sharing the Gospel and making disciples.</p>

<p>Some believers have a second blessing in which the Holy Spirit gives them special power and the evidence is speaking in “tongues.”</p>	<p>Ephesians 1.3 says ALL believers have been given “<i>every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ</i>” and Colossians 2.9-10a says, “<i>for in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily, and in Him ye are made full.</i>”</p>
<p>Anyone can be healed if they have enough faith.</p>	<p>Paul had the <i>pneumatikon charisma</i> of healing and he could not heal himself, Timothy or Trophimus (2 Corinthians 12.7-10; Galatians 4.13-15; 1 Timothy 5.23; 2 Tim. 4.19-20).</p>
<p>Jesus was chastised for our well-being and we are healed by His scourging (Isaiah 53.5). All we have to do is believe this.</p>	<p>Paul either did not know this passage (Isaiah 53.5) or he did not have enough faith.</p>
<p>The healings, miracles and tongues of the Pentecostals and Charismatics must be of the Holy Spirit.</p>	<p>Unbelievers can do the same things by the power of demons (Matthew 7.21-23; 24.24; 2 Thessalonians 2.9; Revelation 13:11-14; 16:14; 19:20)</p>
<p>People have been healed by Christians who have the gift of healing in modern times.</p>	<p>Not a single alleged “healing” has been verified by a doctor. Many “healings” have been shown to not be healings and some people who were “healed” later died of their ailment.</p>
<p>There is nothing wrong with preachers and evangelists being wealthy. It is a proof that God is blessing them.</p>	<p>Most preachers and evangelists who claim to have the “manifestation gifts” of healing, miracles and “tongues” are very wealthy. Yet none of the apostles were wealthy and the greatest apostle (Paul) had to work as a tent maker to support himself (Acts 18.3). The general biblical rule concerning the rich and poor is the rich are spiritually poor while the poor are spiritually rich (James 1.9-10).</p>

<p>God promises that if you give to Him he will give back more to you in this life.</p>	<p>The Bible is explicitly clear that our rewards for giving to God will be in Heaven not in this life (Matthew 6.19-21). Those who give to get more in this life have a love of money that will spiritually kill them. Instead of seeking after riches we are to be content in all things (1 Timothy 6.7-11).</p>
<p>The gift of prophecy is extant which means new revelations and Scripture can be added to the Bible.</p>	<p>The Bible is complete and no new revelations or Scripture can be added to It (Revelation 22.18).</p>

FINAL THOUGHTS

Non-Pentecostals and Charismatics

A vitally important question that every Christian who does not exercise any of the “manifestation gifts” (1 Corinthians 12.8-10) must ask himself is:

Am I resisting the Holy Spirit?

If the “manifestation gifts” are for all believers today then the Holy Spirit wants to give one or more of those gifts to every believer. Since about half of all Protestant believers do not exercise any of those gifts they must be resisting the Holy Spirit! They are either resisting Him consciously or through ignorance. Those who are knowingly resisting the Holy Spirit are actively grieving Him (Ephesians 4.30) and quenching Him (1 Thessalonians 5.19) in violation of biblical commands!

If this is true it is a very powerful indictment of Christians who do not want the “manifestation gifts” of the Holy Spirit who lives within them! Can they be fully used by the Holy Spirit to do the will of God? Can they truly live a fully sanctified (holy) life as all believers are commanded to (1 Peter 1.15-16)? Are non-Pentecostal/Charismatic believers hindering the work of the Holy Spirit?

A very prominent Charismatic pastor told the authors on a radio talk show that he believes the members of churches that do not believe the “manifestation gifts” are for Christians today are “resisting the Holy Spirit.” We are certain that most Pentecostal and Charismatic pastors would agree with him.

If they are correct does that mean the major cause of apostasy of the last days (2 Thessalonians 2.3; 2 Timothy 4.3-4) is the rejection by the cessationists of the “manifestation gifts” of the Holy Spirit?

If you are a member of a church in which the members do not exercise the “manifestation gifts” are they exercising the other gifts of Romans 12.6-8? Do members regularly preach (gift of prophecy), serve, teach, exhort, give liberally, lead and show mercy? If they do not you may want to speak with your pastors about this.

Does your church have a dynamic discipleship program in which everyone is being trained to be a disciple who can share the Gospel in a

clear and concise manner and then disciple those he leads to the Lord? If it does not have a discipleship program you may give prayerful consideration to asking your pastors why it does not.

Pentecostals and Charismatics

Please give careful consideration to these thoughts and questions concerning the “manifestation gifts” of the Holy Spirit:

Every pastor of every church that exercises the “manifestation gifts” should know what gifts each member has. Even the pastors of mega-churches should know this. The assistant pastors should have a specific number of members they are responsible for watching over their spiritual welfare (Hebrews 13.17). These pastors should have a list of members and know what gifts they have.

If you are a member of a church that exercises the “manifestation gifts” go to your pastor and simply ask him if he knows what gifts each member has. If he asks you why you want to know tell him you want to know if the church has a balance of gifts as the Bible says every church should have (1 Corinthians 12.14, 19). When Paul asked if all the members of a church were apostles, prophets, teachers, miracle workers, healers, speakers of a known language they do not know, and interpretation of languages (1 Corinthians 12.29-30) the answer is no! If he tells you it is none of your business you know he has a problem. You may want to find another church.

You can also do an informal survey of the members by simply watching what gifts they exercise. You can discreetly ask some members what gifts they have if you do not know what they are. Once you complete your discrete survey see if there is a balance of gifts.

If virtually everyone has the ability to speak the mysterious “prayer language,” few or none have the gift of speaking a known language they do not know and a few or no members have the gift of interpretation you know there is an imbalance.

If a large percentage have the gifts of a word of wisdom and a word of knowledge, but very few have the gifts of faith and distinguishing spirits something is wrong.

If no members or only the pastor or a couple others have the gifts of prophecy, or miracles or healing something is wrong.

Once you examine the distribution of gifts if there is an imbalance in your church you are a member of a dysfunctional church. You need to

give much prayer to whether or not you should go to another church where there is a balance of the “manifestation gifts.”

All of the gifts in 1 Corinthians 12.8-10 were given for two purposes – to prove that Jesus is the promised Messiah (Isaiah 28.11; Acts 2.11-12), and to equip believers to do the work of preaching the Gospel and making disciples (Ephesians 4.11-12).

The purpose of all the gifts of the Spirit listed in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12 is to edify (1 Corinthians 14.17), exhort (1 Corinthians 14.31) and equip believers (1 Corinthians 12.28; 14.26; Ephesians 4.11-12). When any “manifestation gift” does not edify, exhort or equip believers it should not be used. Edification, exhortation and equipping are three aspects of spiritual growth.

If the “manifestation gifts” are for believers today their main purpose is to help them mature in the Lord so they can share the Gospel in a clear and concise manner (1 Peter 3.15) and then disciple the people they lead to the Lord (Matthew 28.19-20).

If the exercise of “manifestation gifts” in a church is not helping the members grow spiritually they are being used improperly. Every Pentecostal and Charismatic church in the world should have the most mature Christians to be found anywhere, who are daily sharing the Gospel, leading people to Christ and discipling them. The members of all Pentecostal and Charismatic churches should be a super-believer who know the Bible inside-and-out, can quote hundreds of verses by memory, can teach the Bible with no preparation, can share the Gospel in a clear and precise manner, who boldly share the Gospel daily and who can disciple those they lead to the Lord. If this is not true of your church then the members of your church are not using the “manifestation gifts” properly.

Do you spend more time in real prayer, Bible reading, Bible study, Bible memorization and meditation than you do in praying in “tongues,” and listening to preachers and gospel music?

Christians who are not growing spiritually by having a daily discipline of praying, feeding on the Scriptures, attending regular Bible studies and worship services, sharing the Gospel and making disciples are spiritual babies. A believer can be saved for 50 or more years and be a spiritual baby. There are millions of elderly believers around the world who have not grown up spiritually. It is sad, but it is a fact of life. The average believer does not give this fact much thought because they do not understand how serious the problem is.

Once again we use the illustration of just how serious a lack of spiritual growth is:

If we were to see a baby of six months of age stand up in a crib and say “dadda” and “momma” we would think the child was making rapid growth. Yet if we came back 20 years later and we saw a fully grown man in the same crib stand up and say “dadda” and “momma” and that is all he could do we would be horrified.

Every believer should be just as horrified to see a brother or sister in a church who has been saved for 20 or more years and knows virtually nothing about the Bible, cannot share the Gospel, cannot quote more Scripture than John 3.16, does not read the Bible daily, rarely studies the Bible, almost never meditates on Scripture, seldom prays, rarely attends Bible studies and only attends Sunday worship services regularly. There are millions of Christians in America and around the world who are spiritual babies and can do no more in the spiritual world than saying “dadda” and “momma.”

If you are not a super-believer study Appendix A carefully and do what it says. Make certain you are born from above, become a disciple and set up a spiritual fitness program.

One last question for Pentecostals and Charismatics

All Pentecostal and Charismatic believers who exercise one or more of the “manifestation gifts” must ask themselves this question concerning those gifts:

Have I been misled by false prophets into believing the “manifestation gifts” are for Christians today?

If the “manifestation gifts” were not given to believers after the Bible was completed (circa 100 AD), and they have not been given to believers of the 19th, 20th or 21st centuries everyone who has them has counterfeit gifts of the Holy Spirit. Those gifts are from the flesh not the Holy Spirit!

If the founders of the Pentecostal movement were exercising counterfeit gifts from the flesh then those who have followed them have imitated their actions and they do not have true Holy Spirit gifts. This means that most Pentecostals and Charismatics unwittingly have imitated others not knowing what they are engaged in his a fantastic spiritual hoax!

All Pentecostals and Charismatics would argue vigorously that their gifts are real and they have helped them grow spiritually. They would

also argue that Pentecostals and Charismatics have won millions of souls for the Lord and have done untold good works for Him.

That is a matter of debate. The Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox Catholics can make the same claims! So can the Mormons, the Jehovah Witnesses, the Seventh Day Adventists, the Campbellites, and “Christians” from dozens of other denominations. Jesus said there will be many who will call Him “Lord” on judgment day and argue with Him that they prophesied in His name, cast out demons in His name and performed many wonders in His name. But he will say to them:

“I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.” (Matthew 7.23)

As we have explained before – come Judgment Day there will be millions or possibly billions of people who thought they were saved, served Jesus Christ faithfully and performed many good works. Yet they believed “*another Gospel*” (Galatians 1.6, 9) and they were not saved! They also performed their many good deeds in the flesh or in the power of demons, not in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Just because some practice, custom, ritual or act makes you feel spiritual does not mean it is biblical or something God wants you to do. Even if you believe it is biblical, and you have grown spiritually and you have performed many good works because of it does not mean it is of God. If that were so it would mean the vast majority of Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox Catholics, Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, Seventh Day Adventists, the Campbellites, and “Christians” from dozens of other denominations and the “cults” are truly born again.

Think about it!

All believers

Remember this important truth: All of the gifts of the Holy Spirit that are found in Romans 12 and in 1 Corinthians 12, were given to equip believers to do the work of preaching the Gospel and making disciples (Ephesians 4.11-12). The main purpose of all gifts is to help believers mature in the Lord so they can share the Gospel in a clear and concise manner (1 Peter 3.15) and then disciple the people they lead to the Lord (Matthew 28.19-20).

Everything God has given us (life, health, intelligence, knowledge, understanding, wisdom, talents, employment, a domicile, cars, spouse, children, possessions and money) is to be used for the glory of Him who

gave them to us. Everything we do and say is to be done for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10.31; Colossians 3.2). Everything God gives us is a tool to help us serve Him better. If there are some things you have that cannot be used to help you glorify God you may want to consider parting with them. If there are possessions or hobbies that consume your time and keep you from praying, studying the Bible and serving God fully you may want to give them up.

If you are a true child of God and you want to serve Him, He will take away everything that hinders you from serving Him if you do not dispose of them yourself. If you do not rid yourself of these things and God does not it may be evidence that you are not saved.

There are millions of people in the world who think they are saved but are not. They can be found in every religion and cult. They can even be found in your church. There have been many people in churches who were members for twenty or more years who went up at an altar call to be saved. Some have been deacons, wives of deacons and even pastors.

Getting rich

If you want to get rich so you can spend the money on yourself you just might not be saved. If you want to get rich so you can use the money to bring glory to God wait on Him. If He wants you to have more money He will give it to you without having to give millionaire televangelists your hard-earned money.

Fortunately, there is no scriptural principle that says a Christian will get rich by giving to a televangelist. There is no scriptural principle that says a Christian will get rich in this life if they give to the Lord and to the poor. The only promise of getting rich by giving to the Lord and the poor is in the life to come.

Examine your motives for giving to a televangelist or any pastor who claims God must give back to you in this life more than you give to Him. The popular saying, “You can’t out give God” is NOT biblical. He is NOT obligated to give back to you more than you give Him in this life! If He was obligated every Christian would eventually become a multi-millionaire like all of the televangelists.

Examine your faith

If you still think God is obligated to give back to you more than you give Him in this life memorize the following Scripture and meditate on it:

Try your own selves, whether ye are in the faith; prove your own selves. Or know ye not as to your own selves, that Jesus Christ is in you? unless indeed ye be reprobate. (2 Corinthians 13.5)

A reprobate is not saved. Christians who have a great desire to get rich in this life so they can live it up may not be saved!

*Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, **unless you believed in vain.** (1 Corinthians 15.1-2, emphasis added)*

Scripture is clear that some people believe in vain. We also know by the words that Jesus said there will be many on judgment day who will think they were saved but will not be:

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’ (Matthew 7.21-23)

This passage does not teach a person must work for his salvation. No, it teaches that if a person is truly saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone apart from works (Ephesians 2.8-9). Yet if a person is saved he will perform good works he was saved to do (Ephesians 2.10).

Other passages also say that those who think they are saved but do not live like it just might not be saved:

What doth it profit, my brethren, if a man say he hath faith, but have not works? can that faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked and in lack of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Go in peace, be ye warmed and filled; and yet ye give them not the things needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it have not works, is dead in itself. Yea, a man will say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith apart from [thy] works, and I by my works will show thee [my] faith. Thou believest that God is one; thou doest well: the demons also believe, and shudder. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith apart from works is barren? (James 2.14-20)

For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, even so faith apart from works is dead. (James 2.26)

James is not teaching that a Christian must work his way into Heaven. No, he is saying that if you are truly saved you will do good works such as giving to the needy as John and Paul said:

But whoso hath the world's goods, and beholdeth his brother in need, and shutteth up his compassion from him, how doth the love of God abide in him? [My] Little children, let us not love in word, neither with the tongue; but in deed and truth. Hereby shall we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our heart before him. (1 John 3.16-18)

Communicating to the necessities of the saints; given to hospitality. (Romans 12.13)

James, John and Paul all said that a true believer will help the needy. One way a Christian has an assurance of salvation is by their compassion for the needy. Other ways of having assurance is by having a daily desire for the Word, for prayer, for fellowship with the brethren and for sharing the Gospel. If you seldom help the poor and needy, and you seldom pray, read, study, memorize and meditate on Scripture, fellowship with the brethren and share the Gospel you just might not be saved. And if you give money to millionaire televangelists in order to get rich your heart is not in Heaven where it should be – instead it is on Earth (Matthew 6.21).

A final verse to meditate on is Luke 13.24:

Strive to enter in by the narrow door: for many, I say unto you, shall seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

There will be billions of people from Cain to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ who wanted to be saved, but were not. They sought to enter through the narrow door (gate), but they failed to go through it. Instead they entered through the wide door that leads to destruction (Matthew 7.13-14). They sought salvation in a false religion, a cult or through works of the flesh.

To make certain you are seeking salvation according to the Word of God study Appendix A prayerfully.

Closing argument

We saw in Chapter 12 “What the Azusa Street Revival Was Like,” that the leaders and the people who attended it did not exercise the “manifestation gifts” in accordance with the commands given by Paul. More than three men spoke in “tongues” in a single worship service and there was not always an interpretation:

If anyone speaks in a tongue, it should be by two or at the most three, and each in turn, and one must interpret; but if there is no interpreter, he must keep silent in the church; and let him speak to himself and to God. (1 Corinthians 14.27-28)

The activities at most meetings were not orderly, but extremely chaotic and confusing to outsiders:

...work themselves into a state of **mad excitement** in their peculiar zeal.¹

Night is made **hideous** in the neighborhood by the **howlings** of the worshippers, who spend hours swaying forth and back.¹

They cry and make **howling noises** all day and into the night. They run, jump, shake all over, shout to the top of their voice, spin around in circles, fall out on the sawdust blanketed floor jerking, kicking and rolling all over it. Some of them pass out and do not move for hours as though they were dead. These people **appear to be mad, mentally deranged or under a spell.**²

If the Azusa Street Revival was of the Holy Spirit it means He violated the clear commands of Scripture! This is something that serious believers cannot accept for any reason. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit do NOT violate Their Word. To do so would be a sin! They cannot sin (Deuteronomy 32.4; Titus 1.2; Hebrews 4.15; 6.18). Therefore we must conclude that the Azusa Street Revival was not of the Holy Spirit. Since it was not of the Holy Spirit all that has followed is not of the Holy Spirit also. It must be a great deception by the great deceiver – Satan:

And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, the old serpent, which is the Devil and Satan, and bound

*him for a thousand years, and cast him into the abyss, and shut [it], and sealed [it] over him, that he should **deceive the nations no more**, until the thousand years should be finished: after this he must be loosed for a little time. (Revelation 20.1-3)*

*And the devil that **deceived them** was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where are also the beast and the false prophet; and they shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. (Revelation 20.10)*

The Bible is clear that the devil not only deceives individuals (2 Corinthians 4.4), but he also deceives all of the nations of the world. The methods he uses to deceive all mankind are myriad. He deceives them in all aspects of society – politics, economics, education, medicine, science, ethics and religion. The great apostasy of the last days that we live in (2 Thessalonians 2.3; 2 Timothy 4.3-4) is partly due to deception by Satan. We can be certain that he has deceived millions of people through false religions, cults, doctrines and practices.

Is the only conclusion a believer can come to after examining all of the facts concerning the Pentecostal/Charismatic Movement is that it is a great deception by Satan and part of the fulfillment of Bible prophecy?

Let no man beguile you in any wise: for [it will not be,] except the falling away come first, and the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition. (2 Thessalonians 2.3)

For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. (2 Timothy 4.3-4)

Notes

1. Hayford, Jack W.; Moore, S. David. *The Charismatic Century: The Enduring Impact of the Azusa Street Revival*. Warner Faith. 2006. (August, 2006 edition).
2. "Azusa History." International Center for Spiritual Renewal. Archived from the original on May 11, 2007. <http://web.archive.org/web/20070511032252/http://www.icfsr.org/history.html>.

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