

GREED?

Grace Mercy Ministry

Greed?

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All Scripture quotations are from the American Standard Version.

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who gave His Church gifted men and spiritual gifts for all Christians to do the work of taking the Gospel to the world and making disciples in every nation. It is secondly dedicated to all students of the Bible who sincerely want to know whether or not the “manifestation gifts” are for all Christians today and if the televangelists are faithful men of YAHWEH who are bringing glory to Him or to themselves.

INVITATION

We invite all Christians to read this book so you can learn about the televangelists who are looked upon by millions of people around the world as super-Christians.

Examine the facts for yourself and then decide if you still think the men and women in this book are holy men and women of God who are doing His work for His glory.

Once you have read this book share what you have learned with others and pass it on to those you think would be interested in the truths in it.

Please, read the Foreword, Preface and Introduction.

Comments are welcomed. Email all comments (positive or negative) to – beadisciple@yahoo.com

For more copies of this book email us at – beadisciple@yahoo.com

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FOREWORD

The question as to whether or not the “manifestation gifts” are for all believers in Jesus Christ is one of the most important questions every believer should have an answer to. This book presents the facts concerning the modern-day manifestation of the *pneumatikon charisma*. It shows in what manner the “manifestation gifts” have been exercised and what the most prominent figures in the Pentecostal/Charismatic Movement have used those gifts for.

The facts concerning the exercise of the “manifestation gifts” for the last 100 years are presented in a fair and balance manner. The facts concerning the most prominent men and women who have used them is also given in a fashion that will allow you to come to an unbiased conclusion.

As you read this book carefully, study the Bible and pray without ceasing. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding and wisdom concerning this vital subject.

Take care to carefully examine the doctrines that the televangelists teach and compare them with what the Bible teaches. Also take note of the myriad prophecies they have made and ask yourself why most of them have failed. Also consider the stories that some of them have told about going to Heaven and ask yourself why Paul was forbidden to reveal what he saw yet these men have been commanded to reveal what they saw.

Finally study the chapters on scandals and greed and make a decision as to whether or not the greatest evangelists of the Pentecostal/Charismatic Movement have merely made a few mistakes or there is a definite record of spiritual failure among them and what that means.

PREFACE

This book explores the numerous scandals that have plagued virtually every well-known Pentecostal and Charismatic evangelist and televangelist of the 20th and 21st centuries. Some of the scandals of non-Pentecostal/Charismatic evangelists and televangelists are also dealt with.

As you read this book remember that all believers in Jesus Christ are to live holy lives (that are above reproach – Philippians 2.15; 3.6; Colossians 1.22; 1 Thessalonians 3.13; 5.23; 2 Peter 3.14) and pastors and evangelists more so:

*An overseer, then, must be **above reproach**, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, **free from the love of money**. (1 Timothy 3.2-3, emphasis added)*

An overseer is a synonym of pastor. Most televangelists are pastors which means that they must be blameless and above reproach. They must also be “**free from the love of money**,” something that none of the televangelists noted in this book can honestly say they are.

We urge you to read this book carefully and then make a determination if the men and women in this book are faithful servants of God who are preaching the Gospel to the glory of God or if they are preaching a false gospel that is bringing wealth, fame and glory to them.

INTRODUCTION

A large number of Protestants around the world believe the Pentecostal/Charismatic Movement is not of God. We begin by exploring the possibility that this may be true and then we examine the fruit of the most well-known Pentecostal and Charismatic televangelists and pastors of this century and the 20th century.

We implore you to examine what the Bible says about pastors and carefully study the facts in this book. Pray and study the Bible and this book, and then decide if the Pentecostal/Charismatic evangelists and televangelists of the last 100 years faithful served God.

Study the passages in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 concerning the qualifications of pastors:

*It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. An overseer, then, must be **above reproach**, the husband of one wife, **temperate**, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine or **pugnacious**, but gentle, peaceable, **free from the love of money**. He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. And he must have a **good reputation with those outside the church**, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. (1 Timothy 3.1-7)*

*For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint **elders** in every city as I directed you, namely, if any man is **above reproach**, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, **not fond of sordid gain**, but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word*

which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.
(Titus 1.5-9)

Since most televangelists are also pastors these qualifications apply to them. The televangelists who technically are not pastors must also meet these qualifications. Anyone who thinks an evangelist or televangelist does not need to meet these qualifications is opening the door to spiritual corruption.

Ask yourself if the televangelists and the evangelists in this book meet the qualifications that Paul set down under inspiration of the Holy Spirit:

Are the men and women in this book above reproach?

Are they temperate – exercise self-control?

Are they pugnacious (quick tempered)?

Are they free from the love of money?

Are they not fond of sordid gain?

Do they have a good reputation with those outside the church?

If you can honestly conclude that some or all of the people in this book have not failed in any of these qualifications you may believe they are faithful servants of God. Yet if any of them fail in just one of these six qualifications you must conclude that they are not faithful servants of God. Give very careful consideration to the last qualification listed here.

PART I

PENTECOSTALISM VERSUS THE CULTS

But in reality the greatest blessings come to us through **madness**, when it is sent as a **gift of the gods**. For the prophetess at Delphi and the prophetesses at Dodona when they have been **mad** have conferred many splendid benefits upon Greece both in private and public affairs, but few or none when they have been in their right mind; and if we should speak of the Sibyl and all the others who by prophetic inspiration have foretold many things to many persons and thereby made them fortunate afterwards, anyone can see that we should speak a long time. And it is worthwhile to adduce also the fact that those men of old who invented names thought that **madness** was neither shameful nor disgraceful; otherwise, they would not have connected the very word mania with the noblest of arts, that which foretells the future, by calling it the manic art. No, they gave this name thinking that mania, when it comes by gift **of the gods**, is a noble thing. (Plato, *Phaedrus* 244a-c, emphasis added)

A god “takes away the mind of these men . . . in order that we who hear them may know that it is not they who utter these words . . . when they are **out of their wits**, but that it is the god itself who speaks and addresses us through him” (Plato, *Ion*, 534c-d, emphasis added).

The Sibyl, with **frenzied mouth** uttering things not to be laughed at, unadorned and unperfumed, yet reaches to a thousand years with her voice by aid of the god. (Heraclitus, Fragment 12, emphasis added)

Breathing strange utterances and mouthing a creed which it would seem no sane mortal could understand the newest religious sect has started in Los Angeles. (Los Angeles Times)

Meetings are held in a tumble-down shack on Azusa Street, and the devotees of the **weird doctrine** practice the most **fanatical rites**, preach the **wildest theories** and work themselves into a state of **mad** excitement in their peculiar zeal. Colored people and a sprinkling of whites compose the congregation, and night is made **hideous** in the neighborhood by the **howlings** of the worshippers, who spend hours swaying forth and back in a **nerve racking** attitude of prayer and supplication. They claim to have the “gift of tongues” and be able to understand the **babel**.⁵ (Los Angeles Times, emphasis added)

ONE

ECSTATIC LANGUAGE

Xenoglossy

There have been some extraordinary stories concerning alleged xenoglossy. Throughout recorded history there have been many occasions where people have spoken in what was called ecstatic tongues. Note most of these accounts predate Pentecost and were of non-Christian origin. Christians therefore can not say with confidence that every occurrence of glossolalia must be an expression of the will of God even though many believe this.

On that occasion a young Amen worshiper attracted historical infamy when he became possessed by a god and began to make sounds in a strange ecstatic tongue.

Seven hundred years later, the Greek philosopher Plato demonstrated that he was well acquainted with the phenomenon of speaking in “tongues.”

But in reality the greatest blessings come to us through **madness**, when it is sent as a **gift of the gods**. For the prophetess at Delphi and the prophetesses at Dodona when they have been **mad** have conferred many splendid benefits upon Greece both in private and public affairs, but few or none when they have been in their right mind; and if we should speak of the Sibyl and all the others who by prophetic inspiration have foretold many things to many persons and thereby made them fortunate afterwards, anyone can see that we should speak a long time. And it is worthwhile to adduce also the fact that those men of old who invented names thought that **madness** was neither shameful nor disgraceful; otherwise, they would not have connected the very word mania with the noblest of arts, that which foretells the future, by calling it the manic art. No, they gave this name thinking that mania, when it comes by gift of **the gods**, is a noble thing. (*Phaedrus* 244a-c, emphasis added)

Elsewhere Plato said a god “takes away the mind of these men . . . in order that we who hear them may know that it is not they who utter these words . . . when they are **out of their wits**, but that it is the god

itself who speaks and addresses us through him” (*Ion*, 534c-d, emphasis added).

He also explained that poets compose only when they are “possessed” (*entheos*, “within is a god”), “out of their minds” (*ekphron*), and when their “mind is no longer in them” (*Ion* 533d-534e). In *Apology* 22c and *Meno* 99c he said that these inspired poets do not know what they are saying.

According to Plato there are four forms of “madness”: 1 – a mantic madness which leads to prophecies from gods through divine possession as exhibited at the oracles of Delphi and Dodona or in the words of the Sybil (244a-d); 2 – a madness that provides a way of release for those in need during a crisis (244d-e); 3 – a poetic madness that comes from the inspiration of the Muses (245a); and 4 – the madness of the soul in its attempt to ascend to the divine (245c-249d). The first three forms of madness are those that Plato asserts are the results of “inspired madness.”

Greek philosopher Heraclitus (5th century BC) was the first to mention the Sybil:

The Sibyl, with **frenzied mouth** uttering things not to be laughed at, unadorned and unperfumed, yet reaches to a thousand years with her voice by aid of the god. (Fragment 12, emphasis added)

There were a total of ten locations where Sybils prophesied in Greece, Turkey, Persia, Libya and Italy from the 5th century BC to the Middle Ages. All of the thousands of women who were Sybils spoke prophetically in the manner noted above.

These Sybils made prophetic utterances while allegedly under the influence of a spirit. They were unaware of what they prophesied while in a trance. [**Authors’ note:** We are convinced that if they were not frauds they prophesied under the influence of demons.]

There are also legends of people speaking in “tongues” among various cults – Mithra cult of the Persians; the Osiris cult of Egypt, the Dionysian cult and the Orphic cults in Macedonia, Thrace and Greece.

Conclusion

Since pagans have spoken in “tongues” for over 2,000 years one must have an answer to this question – Is it possible that some Christians who speak in “tongues” do so by demonic powers as the pagans do?

TWO

SIMILARITIES OF PENTECOSTALISM AND THE CULTS

You decide if the Pentecostal/Charismatic movement is of God or of the devil or of man. You may want to watch the movie “Religiosity” before you make your decision. Also study the chart below before you make a determination:

Manifestation	Shakers	Subud	Qigong	Kundalini yoga	Pentecostals Charismatics	Bible
Slain in the spirit	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Uncontrolled laughter	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Physical shaking	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Appearing to be drunk	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Animal sounds	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Felt energy surge, fire	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
People go into trances	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
People smell fragrances	?	?	?	Yes	Yes	No
Repetitive singing/chanting	?	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Speaking in “tongues”	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Laying on of hands	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Performing miracles	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Healing people	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mind reading	?	Yes	?	Yes	Yes	Jesus only
Visions	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

Prophetic utterances	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
New spiritual revelations	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Demon possession	Yes	?	?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Revival meetings	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Leaders are inspired	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Leaders are sent from God	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rich Leaders	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No

www.bible.ca/tongues-kundalini-shakers-charismastics.htm

It is interesting that the Kundalini Cult and Pentecostals/Charismatics are identical in their manifestations of power and activities. One must honestly ask, “How do I know for certain that what the Pentecostals/Charismatics do is of Jehovah while what the Kundalini cultists do is not of Him?” Could both groups be under the influence of the devil?

It must also be noted that the members of the most bizarre cult within Christendom, the “Children of God,” spoke in “tongues.” This cult, which was founded by David Berg, proselytized through prostitution. They call it “Flirty Fishing.” Would God give these cultists the gift of speaking in “tongues” or any other gifts?

Conclusion

One cannot base his decision as to whether or not the “manifestation gifts” are for Christians today on personal experience or the experiences of others. Experience is not a criterion to make a spiritual decision. One must look at the fruits as Jesus said (Matthew 7.15-20). A pastor who exercises some of the “manifestation gifts” may be for real if is not greedy, wealthy, proud, boastful and overbearing, and he is truly poor, humble and a servant to all. Yet is he feeding his flock and discipling every member of his flock so they can disciple their children and others?

Even if a pastor is for real, but he is not discipling his flock he is neglecting his main duty in order to exercise his gifts. One must wonder and ask, “Is the exercise of his alleged gifts more important than feeding the flock of the Lord the Word, discipling them so they can disciple others and taking the Gospel to all the world?”

If you attend a church where the pastors and congregation exercise the “manifestation gifts,” but they do not have a dynamic discipleship program the church is dysfunctional. Remember this eternal truth: Jesus Christ gave His Church gifted men (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers) and He gave the people manifestation and ministry gifts. These men and gifts were given to the Church “*for the perfecting of the saints, unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the body of Christ: till we all attain unto the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a fullgrown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ*” (Ephesians 4.12-13). A congregation should be disciplined so they can do the *work of service*:

Share the Gospel (Acts 1.8)

Make disciples (Matthew 28.19-20;

Love the brethren (John 13.34-35; 1 Corinthians 12.25; 1 Peter 1.22)

Love the lost (Matthew 5.44-48)

Be hospitable to the brethren (Romans 12.13; James 2.15-17; 1 Peter 4.9; 1 John 3.16-18)

Be hospitable to strangers (Hebrews 13.2)

Help the widows, orphans, poor and needy (Proverbs 19.17; James 1.27)

If a church has an explosion of “manifestation gifts,” but few if any of the members are maturing in the Lord, being disciplined and doing the “*work of service*” those gifts are not bringing glory to God. Instead they are bringing glory to the ones who are exercising them.

If you still have not made up your mind watch the video clips on the Internet of the following men exercising their “manifestation gifts”:

Oral Roberts

Laughing – www.youtube.com/watch?v=96vKvwBaZQs&feature=related

Healing – www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCgxVW3i8JI&feature=related

Healing – www.youtube.com/watch?v=0tw7UvFu8ns&feature=related

Kenneth Hagin

Laughing – www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vUuL4oR-CI&feature=fvwrel

“Tongues” – www.youtube.com/watch?v=loOlt71nRAQ&feature=related

Slaying – www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vUuL4oR-CI&feature=fvwrel

Healing? – www.youtube.com/watch?v=hWKCpOK996k&feature=related

Healing? – www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ge_0AWjaqrM

Drunk - www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBwRyahpqEs&feature=related

Ken Copeland

Drunk - www.youtube.com/watch?v=1SgByE0pX1M&feature=related

“Tongues” - www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixOr_bT0mOk

Raise dead – www.youtube.com/watch?v=luh30BiCUII&feature=related

Rodney Howard-Browne

Promo – www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwMJMKE71iE&feature=related

CNN – www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxH7STCf3oU&feature=related

Laughing – www.youtube.com/watch?v=96vKvwBaZQs&feature=related

Drunk – www.youtube.com/watch?v=EscftE3XIVM&feature=related

Drunk – www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wneq9dgzTBI&feature=related

Hinn – www.youtube.com/watch?v=APOfnHd4uNc&feature=related

Benny Hinn

ABC – www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2tSIXq2wz4

NBC – www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVG1x-rh6FE&feature=related

CBS – www.youtube.com/watch?v=dhvFScYQR_c&feature=related

CBS – www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhlJemoar5s&feature=related

CBS – www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kXt4KjWc0E&feature=related

CBS – www.youtube.com/watch?v=HYpGWpxHKLA&feature=related

CBS – www.youtube.com/watch?v=bgDHuHhX43U&feature=related

Fox – www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLZAzJ5g0w4&feature=related

Joel Osteen – www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8twkBdDvI0&feature=related

2011 – www.youtube.com/watch?v=NYSuyEGmxUs&feature=related

Healing – www.youtube.com/watch?v=CkdaIF_H9JI&feature=related

Slaying – www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7rulzvWMmY&feature=related

Slaying – www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7rulzvWMmY&feature=related

Slaying – www.youtube.com/watch?v=UoeYZwM-wdo&feature=related

Slaying – www.youtube.com/watch?v=THRkrXMDHss&feature=related

Kill – www.youtube.com/watch?v=rA8GGc4Rv2s

Cursing people – www.youtube.com/watch?v=7wAQ5ftiEqE&feature=related

Cursing people – www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-N4BZUqcWI&feature=related

Drunk – www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOPQ9Cxz5So&feature=related

Drug use – www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZRPSVxcpZM&feature=related

Drug use – www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQSGrGTcorw

Adultery? – www.youtube.com/watch?v=flsTxf5nci4&feature=related

Divorce – www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6Avsdjwln4&feature=related

Wife – www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDJU_NZFtZc&feature=related

Raise dead – www.youtube.com/watch?v=ID52FjPWQec&feature=related

Loves Catholic Church - www.youtube.com/watch?v=9KIqSzjpuwk&feature=related

Praising John Paul II – www.youtube.com/watch?v=NgMA0ZDGxn8&feature=related

Hinn exposed – www.youtube.com/watch?v=bsfU7MxZPyc

John Arnott

Promo – www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQiK_hMVC2k&feature=related

Madness – www.youtube.com/watch?v=xCeVZ6e2T0E&feature=related

Bentley - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9aWpTvcM74U&feature=related>

Peter Popoff

James Randi expose – www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZ-7beRITYM

Inside Edition expose – www.youtube.com/watch?v=KYdlX_Wn1K4

KOMO expose – www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPBKOqsGBfg&feature=related

Pat Robertson

Healing – www.youtube.com/watch?v=QIqihX0V0gU

2011 predictions – www.youtube.com/watch?v=IV1JodANwgI&feature=related

Slip of tongue – www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9DH-o_kP-Q&feature=related

Paul Crouch

Kill - www.youtube.com/watch?v=2hFWi26Mz78&feature=related

Rick Joyner

Dream – www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oDKcAQHWrQ&feature=related

Madness – www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMxNwBwJ0XU&feature=related

More madness – www.youtube.com/watch?v=coVQxfpuBTQ&feature=related

Hokey Pokey – www.youtube.com/watch?v=vTPowYQ-jVU

Bentley & Wagner – www.youtube.com/watch?v=coVQxfpuBTQ&feature=related

Johnson, Bickle – www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVJmepd86hY&feature=related

Todd Bentley

Nightline expose – www.youtube.com/watch?v=AW2kaRP3EtI

Nightline expose – www.youtube.com/watch?v=7LJICxXnvlw&feature=related

Healing – www.youtube.com/watch?v=w9mSCHJfnGE

Jesus will visit – www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNGPjFYdgJw&feature=related

Hits old lady – www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJD_7LLixz4&feature=related

Violence collection – www.youtube.com/watch?v=97WA46li9s8

Head butt – www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhultR6Q1xA&feature=related

John Avanzini

Pookey pool – www.youtube.com/watch?v=sn7KwXsLTSU

Everyone

www.youtube.com/watch?v=z3qKGuc2KsQ&feature=related

Kundalini, Pentecostals & Charismatics

www.youtube.com/watch?v=6zF4L350l1s&feature=related

Kathryn Kuhlman

Heals deaf mute – www.youtube.com/watch?v=Puek6ppEDaE&feature=related

William Branham

www.youtube.com/watch?v=p2iQyTFfZbc&feature=related

www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGmp4LTWOfE

Jack Coe

Healing – www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbXq8jnFK08&feature=related

A.A. Allen

Heals short leg – www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxpPvBPkx-s&feature=related

Heals blind girl – www.youtube.com/watch?v=JR3iX2SJ8e4&feature=related

Heals deaf mute – www.youtube.com/watch?v=eE1EWi8_w0A&feature=related

Heals lame – www.youtube.com/watch?v=-mAQrIhMIGA&feature=related

James Randi exposes A.A. Allen & W.V. Grant

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfyZuqS1t0A&feature=related

Ask yourself why Branham behaves in a dignified manner while the alleged “faith healers” of today are totally out of control. Did the Holy Spirit instruct them to “heal” in the most bizarre methods imaginable? Or are they frauds?

After watching some or all of these videos ask yourself if a believer was there in person, “Would what they witnessed help them mature in the Lord and be discipled?” If you cannot explain how the alleged exercise of the “manifestation gifts” can cause one to grow and mature in the Lord and be discipled you must ask yourself, “What value is it?”

You may say that the famous televangelists are frauds, but not the average pastor in a small church. Some may not be frauds, but how do you know? If they are not frauds do they speak out against televangelists who have been proved to be frauds? Do they exercise their “gifts” in strict accordance to the rules that Paul set down? Have you recorded some of the utterances they and others in their church have made and had a linguist examine them to see if they are speaking a known language?

(Remember, the so-called “unknown prayer language” is to only be used in private, every public utterance must be of a known language.)

If you have not checked out your pastor or a pastor that you believe is not a fraud as noted above you cannot be certain he is not a fraud. You are simply taking his word and you are not testing the spirits as you and all believers are commanded to:

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but prove the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world. (1 John 4.1)

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves. By their fruits ye shall know them. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but the corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Therefore by their fruits ye shall know them. (Matthew 7.15-20)

Is the history of the Pentecostal/Charismatic Movement one of rejection of Scriptural rules, abuse of authority, sexual immorality and bizarre behavior that brings shame upon the name of Jesus Christ?

A few last ideas you may want to meditate on are:

Is it possible that many of the leaders of the Pentecostal/Charismatic Movement be demon possessed without knowing it?

Is it possible that millions of Pentecostal/Charismatic laymen be demon possessed without knowing it?

Could the power that they experience in their own bodies and in the bodies of others be the power of demons?

How can you be certain that the power flowing through you is of the Holy Spirit and not a demon?

Many Pentecostals believe Christians can be demon possessed. How can they be fully assured that it is the Holy Spirit within them who is empowering them and not a demon?

THREE

WHAT THE AZUSA STREET REVIVAL WAS LIKE

The Azusa Street Revival of 1906 was very similar to the Welsh Revival of 1904. The following is how the Welsh Revival was described:

Men and women were mowed down by the axe of God like a forest. The glory was resting for over two years in some localities. Ministers could not minister, like Moses, when the cloud of glory came down on the Tabernacle. The weeping for mercy, the holy laughter, ecstasy of joy, the fire descending, burning its way to the hearts of men and women with sanctity and glory, were manifestations still cherished and longed for in greater power. Many were heard speaking in tongues and prophesying. Many witnessed God's healing power in their bodies. Confusion and extravagance, undoubtedly, were present, But the Lord had His hand on His people, and they were preserved and were taught of God to persevere and pray.

Gradually the gifts were again manifested. The voice of God was heard... and, the voice, with no uncertain sound to its hearers, was opening new doors, and the Pentecostal flame ran through the country, and is still spreading. (Chevreau, Guy, *Pray with Fire*, citing Evans, Eifon. *The Welsh Revival of 1904*. Worcester: Evangelical Press of Wales. 1969. p. 194)

An eye witness of the Azusa Street Revival described the meetings this way:

They shouted three days and three nights. It was Easter season. The people came from everywhere. By the next morning there was no way of getting near the house. As people came in they would fall under God's power; and the whole city was stirred. They shouted until the foundation of the house gave way, but no one was hurt.¹

An observer at one of the services wrote these words:

No instruments of music are used. None are needed. No choir – the angels have been heard by some in the spirit. No collections are taken. No bills have been posted to advertise the meetings. No church organization is back of it. All who are in touch with God realize as soon as they enter the meetings that the Holy Ghost is the leader.²

The first edition of the *Apostolic Faith* publication claimed a common reaction to the revival from visitors:

Proud, well-dressed preachers came to “investigate.” Soon their high looks were replaced with wonder, then conviction comes, and very often you will find them in a short time wallowing on the dirty floor, asking God to forgive them and make them as little children.³

Among first-hand accounts were reports of the blind having their sight restored, diseases cured instantly, and immigrants speaking in German, Yiddish, and Spanish all being spoken to in their native language by uneducated black members, who translated the languages into English by “supernatural ability.”²

Singing was sporadic and in *a cappella* or occasionally in tongues. There were periods of extended silence. Attendees were occasionally slain in the Spirit. Visitors gave their testimony and members read aloud testimonies that were sent to the mission by mail. There was prayer for the gift of tongues. There was prayer in tongues for the sick, for missionaries, and whatever requests were given by attendees or mailed in. There was spontaneous preaching and altar calls for salvation, sanctification and baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Lawrence Catley said that in most services preaching consisted of Seymour opening a Bible and worshippers coming forward to preach or testify as they were led by the Holy Spirit.⁴ Many people shouted throughout the meetings. The members of the mission never took an offering, but there was a receptacle near the door for anyone that wanted to support the revival. The core membership of the Azusa Street Mission was never much more than 50–60 individuals with hundreds and thousands of people visiting or staying temporarily over the years.⁵

In an article entitled, “Weird Babel of Tongues,”⁶ a Los Angeles Times reporter describe what went on at the meetings:

Breathing strange utterances and mouthing a creed which it would seem no sane mortal could understand the newest religious sect has started in Los Angeles.⁷

Los Angeles Daily Times

WEDNESDAY MORNING, APRIL 18, 1906.

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<p>W</p> <p>S</p> <p>1</p> <p>its</p>	<h2>WEIRD BABEL OF TONGUES.</h2> <p><i>New Sect of Fanatics Is Breaking Loose.</i></p> <p><i>Wild Scene Last Night on Azusa Street.</i></p> <p><i>Gargle of Wordless Talk by a Sister.</i></p>	<p>By the church, held there, was almost 700 on the evening before. But last night the scene was wild and uncontrolled. With a fervent spirit, he continued to lead until the church was...</p> <p>When he had performed to the "hymn," which was sung in a peculiar way, and in a peculiar manner, the church was divided into a noisy, excited and uncontrolled condition. Another thing peculiar was the "gargle" which was given by one of the sisters. The church was in a state of confusion, and the church was in a state of confusion...</p>	<h2>AMAZING SUIT FOR DIVORCE.</h2> <p><i>Pretty White Wife Wroth of Black Husband.</i></p> <p><i>Friendless Girl's Story of Sorry Match.</i></p> <p><i>Claims She Loved Negro When Married.</i></p>	<p>LC</p> <p>A</p> <p>C</p>
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Headline about the “Weird babel of tongues” and other behavior at Azusa Street, from a 1906 Los Angeles Times newspaper.

The *Los Angeles Times* was not so kind in its description of unusual things going on on Azusa Street:

Meetings are held in a tumble-down shack on Azusa Street, and the devotees of the **weird doctrine** practice the most **fanatical rites**, preach the **wildest theories** and work themselves into a state of **mad** excitement in their peculiar zeal. Colored people and a sprinkling of whites compose the congregation, and night is made **hideous** in the neighborhood by the **howlings** of the worshippers, who spend hours swaying forth and back in a **nerve racking** attitude of prayer and supplication. They claim to have the “gift of tongues” and be able to understand the **babel**.⁵ (Emphasis added)

Another local paper reporter in September 1906 described the happenings with the following words:

...disgraceful intermingling of the races... 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**. They claim to be filled with the spirit. They have a

one eyed, illiterate, Negro as their preacher who stays on his knees much of the time with his head hidden between the wooden milk crates. He doesn't talk very much but at times he can be heard shouting, 'Repent,' and he's supposed to be running the thing... They repeatedly sing the same song, 'The Comforter Has Come.'⁸ (Emphasis added)

Charles Parham was also severely critical of the highly unusual activities:

Men and women, white and blacks, knelt together or fell across one another; a white woman, perhaps of wealth and culture, could be seen thrown back in the arms of a big "buck n---r," and held tightly thus as she shivered and shook in freak imitation of Pentecost. Horrible, awful shame!⁵

Conclusion

The things that the people did who attended the Azusa Street revival meetings were unprecedented in the history of the Church. Nothing like it had ever been seen before. It was looked upon by the Christian community as extremely unusual and not of the Lord. The secular world also considered what they did to be weird saying, "These people appear to be **mad, mentally deranged** or **under a spell**" (emphasis added).

Some of the things the attendees did were – shout loudly for hours, roll around on the dirty floors, **howl**, run, jump, **shake all over**, shout at the top of their voice, **spin around in circles**, fall on the floor **jerking**, **kicking** and rolling all over it, and **pass out** and not move for hours as though they were **dead**.

Similar things have been seen in many Pentecostal and Charismatic services since 1906, and even more outrageous things such as barking like dogs, growling like a lion and uncontrollable laughter. And they do it all in the alleged power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ. Two of the most notable "outpourings" in recent years were the Toronto Blessing and the Brownsville Revival.

Some questions everyone needs to meditate on and answer are:

Since the entire secular world thinks the activities at the Pentecostal and Charismatic revivals of the 20th and 21st centuries are bizarre and laughable can they be of the Holy Spirit?

If the revivals were of the Holy Spirit they would have brought thousands or millions to the Lord. Why have they only been the laughing stock of the secular world and a side show for Christians?

Have the Pentecostals and Charismatics who have attended the revivals matured in the Lord and become dynamic disciples of Jesus Christ who have disciplined others?

Or have most of the Christians caught up in the revivals remained spiritual infants who are looking for another spiritual fad to get high on?

Why did the apostles and believers of the first century not exhibit some or all of the actions of those of the Azusa Street revival, Toronto Blessing, Brownsville Revival and other revivals?

Has the Holy Spirit changed the way He manifests His power due to cultural differences of the first and twentieth centuries?

It is clear from the testimonies of the people who attended the revival and secular observers that they did not follow the commands of Paul concerning the use of the “manifestation gifts.” Far more than three people spoke in “tongues” during a service and most of those utterances were not interpreted against the clear command of Scripture:

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)

If the Holy Spirit changed His ways, for whatever reason, does that mean He is not God? Jesus said He is the “same yesterday and today, and forever” (Hebrews 13.8). Is the Holy Spirit also the “same yesterday and today, and forever” or does He change His ways from time-to-time? Does He also inspire people to violate the strict rules of worship set down in the Bible? We think not!

Notes

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8. "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>.

For a detailed history of the use of "manifestation gifts" from Pentecost to today read the book *Holy Spirit Gifts* on line or order a hard copy.

HOLY SPIRIT GIFTS



www.freeworldfilmworks.com/gifts.pdf