

Behold  **the Lamb**
Publications

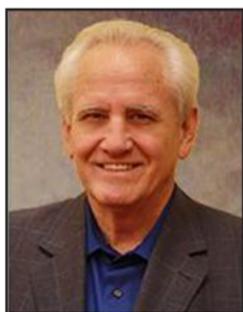
The Holy Ghost Baptism

by **Leroy Surface**

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The twentieth century began with the greatest outpouring of the Holy Ghost since the Day of Pentecost and the birth of the Church of Jesus Christ. The evidences that God was once again pouring His Spirit upon men and women were twofold; first, those who received the Spirit began *“began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance”* Acts 2:4, exactly as the hundred and twenty had on the Day of Pentecost.

The second and most conclusive evidence was the great miracles of healing and deliverance that followed. These were not faked or pretended as much of what we see today. Some of the major newspapers of the day documented the great miracles because they could no longer deny them. Sadly, that great revival, which was hated and persecuted by the elite of this world, was gradually replaced by something that was accepted by the world, but lost the glory and honor of God that was upon our forefathers.



Leroy Surface

In this message, Leroy Surface examines the decline and fall of the great Pentecostal revival. This message is not written as a condemnation of that which is real, but to expose to the light of truth that which has replaced the reality. It is written with an insatiable hunger to see God “pour out



Keith Surface

His Spirit” one more time. Six billion lost souls are waiting, and their eternity is in the balance.

“I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.” 1John 2:21

The Holy Ghost Baptism

by Leroy Surface

*“And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.** He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. **And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues**”* Mark 16:15-16

*“And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but **wait for the promise of the Father**, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but **ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.**”* Acts 1:4

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Acts 1:8

*“And, behold, **I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.**”* Luke 24:49

These scriptures record just a few of the instructions Jesus gave to His disciples on the same day He ascended to heaven. The apostle Paul said there were above five hundred people who saw Jesus at one time after His resurrection I Corinthians 15:8. Peter said He appeared “...not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us” Acts 10:40-41. We do not know

how many were with Him at His ascension, but we know there should have been at least five hundred, because that is how many were “*chosen*” to be His witnesses. Out of the hundreds of people who saw Him after His resurrection, there were only a hundred and twenty who obeyed His instructions to “*wait for the promise of the Father.*” These were the ones who received the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost

Perhaps the first command Jesus gave on that last day was “*Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*” That “*command,*” however was superseded by another command which He gave the same day; “*but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.*” These two commands seemingly have confused many in the churches today; “*should we go, or should we wait.*” The advocates of “*go*” most often go without the presence and power of the Holy Ghost, but the advocates of “*wait*” never seem to do anything but “*wait,*” while they wholeheartedly give themselves to the comforts of everyday life.

Something has been lost in the understanding of the instructions Jesus gave. When telling His disciples to “*wait,*” He said, “*ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.*” When telling them to “*go*” He said, “*these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues, etc.*”

Isn't this amazing? Those who “*waited*” were the ones who “*turned the world upside down*” in their generation, while those who refused to “*wait*” were never heard of again in the scriptures. Those who “*waited,*” waited only seven days until the Day of Pentecost came, at which time they were “*all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance*” Acts 2:4. They “*spoke with new tongues*” and “*cast out devils*” just as Jesus said they would, and they “*laid hands on the sick and they recovered.*” Mark 16:18

. On that first “*Day of Pentecost,*” over three thousand of the same Jews who had demanded the death of Jesus of Nazareth only fifty days before, now called upon His name for salvation. Peter told them to repent, convert to Jesus, call upon His name, and they also would “*receive the gift of the Holy Ghost*” Acts 2:38.

“For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.” Acts 2:39

The “*promise of the Father*” is to everyone who will “*repent and believe the gospel*” Mark 1:15, which is to believe that Jesus is the Christ, whom God sent into the world to “*take away the sin of the world*” John 1:29.

*“Then Peter said unto them, **Repent,** and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”* Acts 2:38

I will not take up the issue of water baptism in this message because of the words Jesus spoke to His disciples in the day of His ascension. He said, “*John truly baptized with water; **BUT ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.***” God Himself clearly revealed that salvation is based upon repentance and faith when the Holy Ghost “*fell*” upon Cornelius and his household within moments after hearing these words of life from Peter; “*To him (Jesus) give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission (freedom) of sins. While Peter yet spake these words, **the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word***” Acts 10:43-44.

These were uncircumcised Gentiles, which means they had not been converted to Judaism. They had never been baptized in water, which means they had not been formally converted to Christianity, but when they heard “*the word of truth*” Ephesians 1:13, that “*through His name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins*” (the Greek text speaks of freedom from sin), they believed, and their hearts were “*purified by*

faith” Acts 15:8-9. In that same moment, the “*Spirit of Christ*” came into their hearts Galatians 4:6, and they were baptized and filled with the Holy Ghost, which is the “*Spirit of the Father.*” The saying of Jesus was fulfilled where He promised those who love Him, “***We will come unto him, and make our abode with him.***” John 14:23.

*“And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. **For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.** Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?”* Act 10:45-47.

The Holy Ghost “Falls Upon”

It is a common belief in the “Spirit filled” movement today that believers receive the Holy Ghost at the moment they first “believe in Jesus.” These teach we need only to “receive our prayer language,” which they say is “*received by faith.*” They believe the Spirit “*rises up within us*” instead of “*falling upon us.*” Such teaching contradicts the experience of the hundred and twenty, and the initial experience of every other person in the book of Acts who received the Holy Ghost. On the Day of Pentecost, it came “*suddenly from heaven*” as a “*rushing mighty wind.*” At the house of Cornelius, the Holy Ghost “***fell on all them that heard the word.***”

“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city.” Acts 8:5-8

Phillip was a man full of the Holy Ghost and anointed by God to preach Christ in both word and deed. God confirmed the gospel he preached with great miracles of healing and deliverance. Many who were possessed with unclean spirits were delivered, and many who were crippled in body were healed and began to walk. The great miracles caught the attention of the entire city of Samaria, and people by the hundreds believed and received water baptism. *“Great joy was in that city.”* This was a revival greater than any that has been seen in our generation, yet, something was missing, and Phillip and the apostles at Jerusalem knew what it was; the Holy Ghost had not yet **fallen** upon the people.

*“Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, **that they might receive the Holy Ghost:** (For as yet **he was FALLEN upon none of them:** only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and **they received the Holy Ghost.**”* Acts 8:14-17

There are several doctrines of the modern church that fail in the light of the revival at Samaria. First, this revival shows that believers do not receive the Holy Ghost at the moment they *“put their faith in Christ.”* Multitudes were converted by the preaching of Phillip, but none of them received the Holy Ghost until the apostles came down from Jerusalem.

Paul found some *“believers”* during his first visit to Ephesus, and asked them, *“Have you received the Holy Ghost **since you believed**”* Acts 19:1. They were believers, but they had never heard of the Holy Ghost, because Apollos, the man of God who had preached Christ to them, did not know about the baptism with the Holy Ghost, *“knowing only the baptism (water) of John”* Acts 18:25. After instructing them further in the gospel, Paul laid his hands on them and *“the **Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied**”* Act 19:6.

Several years later, Paul reminded these Ephesians of the day they received the Holy Ghost “after” they heard and believed “the word of truth.” He said in his epistle, “*In whom (Christ) ye also trusted, **after that ye heard the word of truth**, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also **after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise**, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory*” Ephesians 1:13-14. How did Paul know they were saved? They had believed “*the word of truth*, and trusted in Christ alone for their salvation. How did he know they were “*sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise?*” They “*spake with tongues, and prophesied*” when the Holy Ghost **came upon them**.

The “Initial Evidence”

*“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And **they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.**” Acts 2:1-4*

The first evidence a believer has been filled with the Holy Ghost is they will “*speak in other tongues as **the Spirit gives them utterance***” Acts 2:4. Speaking in tongues is not the only evidence, or even the greatest evidence, but it is “the initial (first) evidence” that a child of God has been baptized with the Holy Ghost. Due to the importance of knowing for certain the Holy Ghost has come, there are several very important things every child of God should understand about this wonderful baptism.

1. Those who received the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost immediately began to “...speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.” The word “utterance” was

translated from the Greek “*apophtheggomai*,” which means “*to enunciate plainly*.” It was not the people, but the Holy Ghost, who “*pronounced*” the words they spoke. The Spirit of God actually formed the words in their mouth.

2. Speaking in tongues as the Spirit of God gives utterance is always a miracle. It can happen only when the Holy Ghost is upon the believer. It is no different than any of the other manifestations of the Spirit which Paul listed in I Corinthians 12:7-11; “*All these worketh that one and selfsame Spirit...*” ^{verse eleven.} If a person could truly speak in other languages at their will they could also work a miracle at their will.

3. Speaking in tongues by the Spirit can only be initiated by the Holy Ghost and never by the believer. The believer can yield to the Spirit who gives utterance, but the believer cannot yield to what the Spirit is not doing. If it is not the Holy Ghost who initiates the speaking, then it is not the Holy Ghost that is giving the utterance.

4. Speaking in tongues is not a prayer language. This does not mean that one filled with the Holy Ghost will not pray in tongues, but tongues is not a language given to you for you to pray in at your will. Paul said, “*I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?*” I Corinthians 14:15-16.

Whether Paul prayed in other tongues or in his own language, he prayed “*with the Spirit*.” If this were not so, he could not “*prophecy with the Spirit*.” There are times the Spirit of God will make intercession for us in “*groanings that cannot be uttered*” Romans 8:26, but this will always be in times of a powerful moving of the Holy Ghost within us.

5. The baptism with the Holy Ghost is not received by faith. This is an error that has opened the door for much pretense and fleshly activity. Only those things which were accomplished and finished by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ can be received “*by faith.*” The baptism with the Holy Ghost is not a work that was “finished” on the cross. John the Baptist said, “***I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire***” Matthew 3:11. Jesus said, “***John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence***” Acts 1:5.

John the Baptist was the first among many who baptized with water, but Jesus Christ alone has the authority to baptize with the Holy Ghost. He did not baptize anyone during his earthly ministry either with water or the Holy Ghost. His mission on earth was to offer His body and blood for the sanctification of those who would believe and trust in Him Hebrews 10:10, 13:12. Jesus told His disciples, “*It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter (the Holy Ghost) will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you*” John 16:7. He sent the Holy Ghost upon the hundred and twenty on the Day of Pentecost, and He still sits at the right hand of the Father, ready to send the Holy Ghost upon those whose hearts have been made pure by faith in His precious blood.

Those who received the Holy Ghost at the house of Cornelius were all uncircumcised Gentiles. Peter said, “***God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith***” Acts 15:8-9. A sinner can repent and receive Christ “*by faith*” and his heart will be purified by that same faith, but no one can “receive the Holy Ghost by faith.” It is God who “*knows the hearts,*” and Christ who “*sends the Holy Ghost*” John 16:7 to those whose heart has been made pure. The wonderful baptism with the Holy Ghost is

a sovereign act of God. It is the ministry of Jesus Christ at the Father's right hand to send the Holy Ghost unto whomsoever He will. This cannot be circumvented by any means.

7. The believer who speaks in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance is edified. I Corinthians 14:4.

The apostle Paul said, *“He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church”* I Corinthians 14:4. Before any person can “edify the church,” they must first “be edified” by the Spirit. Those who have been baptized with the Holy Ghost can receive many infillings. When the Holy Ghost comes upon them in their private time of prayer and worship, it is to “edify” them until they can be a source of edification to others. Those who have a “prayer language” which they can speak at their will are not edified when they speak. In fact, I heard one minister say, *“It may be boring, but you need to speak in your prayer language every day.”* Boring! When the Holy Spirit of almighty God is speaking through a child of God, it is one of the greatest of all experiences, and those through whom He speaks are edified by the Spirit flowing through them in the pure languages of the Spirit.

Paul said, *“For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful”* I Corinthians 14:14. Many, including this writer, have received the baptism with the Holy Ghost and did not know at the time that they were speaking in tongues. That is what it means that the “understanding is unfruitful.” If, on the other hand, a person has been instructed in what to do in order to “receive the Holy Ghost by faith,” their understanding must be very active to obey the commands of a minister and repeat what they hear.

Paul made it clear that, in the church, it is better to speak in a language *“easy to be understood”* I Corinthians 14:9, 19 than to speak in an unknown tongue. For while the Spirit coming upon you to speak in unknown tongues edifies you, the same Spirit coming upon you to speak in the common language of the church is

what edifies the church. The time of public ministry is not for the edification of the minister, but for those to whom he ministers.

The apostle Paul said, ***“I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied”*** I Corinthians 14:5. Many have mistaken these words of Paul to say, *“I want everyone to speak in tongues, but I prefer that you would prophesy.”* That interpretation misses an important point. The Greek word Paul used for *“that”* is *“hina,”* which means *“in order that.”* With this understood, it is clear to see what Paul was saying; **“I would that every one of you spoke in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, not just to ‘speak in tongues,’ but ‘in order that’ you would be edified by the Spirit of God to speak to others in your common language with the same anointing and power of the Holy Spirit.”** Those who are “renewed in the Spirit” every day in their “secret place” of prayer are the ones whom God can use to edify the church in the time of public worship. Concerning our time of private worship, Jesus said, *“The Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.”*

Matthew 6:6

. The “Second Evidence”

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.” Acts 1:8

*“And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be **endued with power** from on high.”* Luke 24:49

The word *“power,”* as it is used in these verses, is translated from the Greek word *“dunamis,”* which is defined by Strong’s Greek Dictionary as *“force (literally or figuratively); specifically miraculous power (usually by implication a miracle itself).”* It is the definition of *“a miracle itself”* that I want us to see. These verses can be accurately translated to say, ***“You shall receive miracles, after that the Holy Ghost is come***

upon you” Acts 1:8, and “...tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be **clothed with miracles** from on high” Luke 24:49.

The “*lust for power*” has caused great damage to the Pentecostal movement. Far too many people want what they perceive to be the “*power of the Holy Ghost*” so everyone they touch will “*fall in the spirit.*” This entire generation has been plagued with those whose great desire is to make a “*fair show in the flesh*” Galatians 6:12. Their greatest desire is for people to see them as someone truly “*great*” and with much “*power*” from God. The apostle Paul, who was without a doubt the greatest of the apostles, wrote “*For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me*” II Corinthians 12:6.

The apostles were “*clothed with miracles*” in exactly the same manner as Moses was clothed with miracles fifteen hundred years before. Moses was a man whom God sent to deliver the slaves out of Egypt. When Pharaoh refused to release the children of Israel at the command God gave through Moses, God literally destroyed the land of Egypt through the outstretched rod of Moses. Moses did nothing but say the things God told him to say, but when the heathen nations saw the mighty power of God that accompanied him, they greatly feared Moses and his God. They heard how God parted the waters of the Red Sea to deliver the children of Israel from the wrath of Pharaoh, but He did so at the outstretched rod of Moses. This same God destroyed the armies of Egypt in the Red Sea when Moses stretched out his rod over the sea a second time. The nations heard that God fed His people with manna from heaven at the word of Moses, and gave them cool fresh water to drink out of a dry flinty rock when Moses struck it with his rod. Moses did not have the “*power*” of himself to do any miracle but God chose to do miracles through him, and thus Moses was “*clothed with miracles,*” and the nations of the world saw that these “*slaves from Egypt*” were “*God’s chosen people.*”

Jesus said, “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, **The Son can do nothing of himself**, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel*” John 5:19-20.

Not even Jesus, the “*only begotten Son of God*” had the power to do miracles at His own will. He said, “*The Son can do nothing of Himself,*” yet the Father so clothed Jesus with miracles that multitudes followed Him wherever He went. The scripture says, “*they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick*” Matthew 8:16.

It was the same in every place when God poured His Spirit upon the people. The first evidence of those whom Jesus baptized was they “*began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.*” The “*second evidence*” was, they immediately entered into a life of miracles. It was not that they were all “*doing*” miracles, but that they all entered a lifetime of miracles as God “*clothed them with miracles.*”

The first miracle of healing after the Day of Pentecost is recorded in the third chapter of Acts. Peter and John were entering the temple to pray when they were confronted by a lame beggar who asked for some money. Peter’s answer resulted in five thousand souls being added to the church that same day; “*Silver and gold have I none; **but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God***” Acts 3:6-8.

Notice that Peter spoke to the man, “*in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.*” He did not say “*in the name of The Messiah of Israel,*” nor did he say “*in the name of the Son of God.*” Neither of these would have been so offensive to the Jews as to

speaking in the name of the one they had rejected as a blasphemer and delivered up to be crucified less than two months before. Consider the impact on the people when Peter spoke “*in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,*” and the man “*lame from his mother’s womb*” Acts 3:2 immediately rose up to walk. This “miracle” was proof to those who saw it that “*Jesus of Nazareth*” was indeed “*the Christ, the Son of God*” Matthew 16:16.

This confirmed the words Peter preached to them on the Day of Pentecost; “*Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, until I make thy foes thy footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.*” Acts 2:33-36

This great miracle convinced over five thousand Jews they were guilty of the death of their Messiah, whom they understood by the prophecies would come into the world to “*make an end of sins*” and “*bring in everlasting righteousness*” Daniel 9:24-27. No one could speak to the lame man “*in the name of Moses*” and receive a miracle, nor “*in the name*” of any prophet or priest that ever lived, but “*in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth*” the lame man immediately rose up, “*walking, and leaping, and praising God*” Acts 3:8, into the temple for all to see. This proved beyond any doubt that “*Jesus of Nazareth*” is “*The Christ, the Son of God which should come into the world*” John 11:27.

The fifth chapter of Acts begins with the report of a couple named Ananias and Sapphira who plotted together to deceive the church and receive praise from the apostles at the same time. In the early days of the revival in Jerusalem, there were thousands of people added to the church in a very a short time. Many of these were cast out of the synagogues and rejected by their families because of their faith in Jesus. There were those in the church who were destitute through no fault of their own, but

had lost everything when they first trusted in Jesus. The scripture says many who had possessions sold them and laid the money at the apostle's feet for the provision of those who were destitute. Ananias and Sapphira sold a piece of land and pretended to give all to the church, but they conspired between themselves to keep back part of the money. The Holy Ghost revealed the deception to Peter, and when he questioned them they lied, not only to Peter, but to the Holy Ghost who revealed the deception. Peter made it clear to them that they could have kept all the money. No one had required them to give, but their "lie" brought the righteous judgment of God against them, and they both fell dead in the midst of the church.

The things that followed are truly amazing; **(1.)** *"...great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things. And (2.) by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people"* Acts 5:11-12.

1. "Great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things." The result of this "fear" was that no one wanted to join the church after the report that two people had fallen dead because of an offering they had brought. The thirteenth verse says, ***"And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them."*** The church was cleansed of pretense, and no "pretender" dared to join them. When churches are filled with pretense in either the pulpit or the pew, it is evident that the Holy Ghost is not present in that church. Many "fad revivals" have come and gone in our generation, and they attracted "pretenders" like flies to honey, but a true move of the Holy Ghost will restore the "fear of God" in the hearts of the people.

2. "And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people...Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them" Acts 5:12-15. The results of such a move of God are shown in parenthesis in verses 13-14;

“And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.”

Oh what a wonderful state for the church, when pretenders are kept out by the fear of God while multitudes of believers are added because of the wonderful works and miracles of God they see. Oh God, how we need your miracles!

*“And Stephen, **full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.**”* Acts 6:8

*“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And **the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.** For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city.”* Acts 8:5-8

*“...all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks. And **God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:** So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.”* Acts 19:10-12

Where are the Miracles?

*“And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, **if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.**”* Judges 6:13

This question, which the young man Gideon asked, is one that every “*born again child of God*” should be asking. Just a little over a hundred years ago, the twentieth century was brought in with a mighty outpouring of the Holy Ghost upon those who

believed the truth and sought for the promise given in the scriptures, “...that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God” Ephesians 3:19. In every case, when the Spirit “fell upon” a person, they were “filled with the Holy Ghost,” and “began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance,” exactly as the scriptures describe on the Day of Pentecost Acts 2:1-4.

The greatest proof that God poured His Spirit upon the people, however, were the great miracles that followed wherever these “Spirit filled” Christians went. Not everyone became a “worker of miracles,” but everyone entered into a life of miracles as the Spirit of God worked with them. Jesus said, “*These signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues... they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover*” Mark 16:17-18. The twentieth verse says, “*And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.*” Miracles are the second great evidence that God has “poured His Spirit” upon His people.

The miracles of the twentieth century revival continued unabated for a little over fifty years. It was the same as in the revival at Jerusalem that began on the Day of Pentecost; pretenders feared to join them, but believers were added continually to the church because of the mighty power of God that was manifested in the services. Every decade saw the arising of mighty men and women of God who were doing exploits in the name of Jesus, and bringing many to repentance.

I had my revival tent set up in Miami Oklahoma in June of 1970, when I met an old man of God who gave me an eyewitness report of a revival that came to Miami over sixty years before. A man of God came to town and rented a large warehouse on one end of Main St. and announced his revival services. Unknown to the man of God, a circus was scheduled to set up their huge tent on the other end of Main St. to begin the same night as the revival. Local pastors told the man of God, “*It’s a shame that you spent your money on the warehouse*

before you knew the circus was coming.” They didn’t believe it was possible to have revival during a circus.

Both the circus and the revival began the same night, but before the week was over, it was the circus that was leaving town because all the people were coming to the revival. Miami Oklahoma was a lead and zinc mining town. According to the old man of God who gave me this account, the corners of the warehouse were stacked to the ceiling with canes, crutches, braces, and the wheelchairs of those who had been crippled and maimed in the mines, but were miraculously healed in the revival.

My uncle Will Pennell was a printer who worked for Raymond T Richey, a man of God from Atwood Illinois who came to Houston Texas and built the “*Evangelistic Temple.*” My aunt kept a scrapbook of the Richey revivals, and I saw the newspaper pictures and reports of the great revival in Houston that took place in the decade of the 1920’s. By the end of the revival, so many crippled and lame people had been healed that a parade was held in downtown Houston as a public testimony to the power of God. Those who had been healed walked in parade behind several truckloads of canes, crutches, and braces which they burned in Memorial Park as they rejoiced in Jesus and worshipped God. The “*parade*” of those who had been healed was thirteen city blocks long. Five thousand people were saved in that great revival.

The Pentecostal revival continued for fifty years through the ministries of men like Smith Wigglesworth from England, Charles S. Price, John G. Lake, and seemed to reach a crescendo from about 1947 through the mid 1950’s through the ministries of men like William Branham, Oral Roberts, Jack Coe, and TL Osborne.

The “Charismatic Renewal”

It was in the late fifties that the great Pentecostal revival seemed to ebb as a movement to “*put Pentecost on Main St.*” began and

proceeded to make “*speaking in tongues*” acceptable to people in mainstream denominations through a different name. The terms “*baptism with the Holy Ghost*” were changed to “*charismatic renewal*,” and “*speaking in tongues*” to “*practicing glossolalia*.” This resulted in a flood of people from every major denomination seeking the experience under the new name, because “*Pentecost*” was out and “*Charismatic*” was “*in*.” Millions of people worldwide were “*receiving their prayer language*” and the “*charismatic renewal*” became the popular revival of the day.

There were many in the movement who believed they could teach others “*how to speak in tongues*,” which was unheard of in the Pentecostal revival. This opened the door to many “*pretenders*” who had found no place in the true outpouring of the Holy Ghost. I do not question the fact that some truly received the baptism with the Holy Ghost during the early years of the Charismatic movement, but they were “*mixed*” and “*mingled*” with those who “*learned how*” to do things which only the Holy Ghost could do in the Pentecostal revival of the past generation.

During the decade of the 1960s, many “*pretenders*” also arose in the so called “*Pentecostal revival*.” The airways became filled with radio ministers who supported their ministries with every kind of extraordinary gimmick that can be imagined. People were sending offerings to receive “*miracle oil*,” “*miracle water*,” “*miracle meal*,” and one preacher in Houston Texas actually sent out “*miracle mopstrings*,” promising “*healing and prosperity*” to those who received these articles and wore them on their body. Many innocent people who remembered the great revivals of Oral Roberts and Jack Coe of the 1950’s were drawn into these gimmicks, trying to recoup some of what they missed from the past revivals. Other sincere Christians were driven out of Pentecost into the arms of those in the “*charismatic renewal*” which at the first rejected all

gimmicks, but practiced something just as damning; the “*practice*” of teaching the people “*how to speak in tongues.*”

John Osteen was the pastor of Hibbard Memorial Baptist Church in 1958 when through a series of events in his life he received an insatiable hunger to receive the baptism with the Holy Ghost. After diligently seeking for some time, he told his wife and friends that he was going alone to a hotel and would not return until he had received the Holy Ghost. I believe he had been there three days when he received the Holy Ghost with a mighty baptism from heaven, and from that moment, his ministry was “*charged*” with power from above. About three years later he held an auditorium meeting in Pasadena Texas, where great miracles began happening, and I was one among those who received an instantaneous healing.

I remember John’s ministry in those early days. One of his favorite scriptures was Acts 19:2, “*Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?*” At that time he preached exactly as the Word of God says, that the baptism with the Holy Ghost is received subsequent to salvation. There can be no question about the powerful impact of John Osteen’s ministry around the world to awaken the people to the supernatural power of God through the baptism with the Holy Ghost. His personal experience was very real, but sadly, he in time became the companion of those who taught “*another way.*”

According to the charismatic teaching, there was no reason for John to seek for the Holy Ghost so diligently, even to the point of isolating himself in a hotel room to seek God. He should not have “*tarried,*” according to the new teaching; he should have simply “*received it by faith*” and began saying whatever strange syllables came to his mind. And again, he should have developed his own prayer language, according to the doctrine of the “*pretenders*” in the modern charismatic movement of that day. John never renounced his initial baptism with the Holy Ghost, but after a time he began to accept a “*method,*” which was contrary to his personal experience. He became a “*magnet*”

to draw people from the dead and dry denominations as well as from among those Pentecostals who, like himself, had at one time received a true baptism in the Spirit.

During the decades of the seventies, eighties, and nineties, there were more people “*speaking in tongues*” than ever in the history of the world, but perhaps most of them had been taught how to speak. Men like John Wimber, the founder of the Vineyard movement arose, telling the people he could teach them how to speak in tongues, as well as how to operate all nine spiritual gifts. He successfully trained hundreds, if not thousands, of young men and women to do the same. Out of this movement came the so called “*Toronto Blessing*” and the “*laughing revival*” of the nineties. These became the “*pattern*” for revivals across the nation during the decade of the 1990’s, including the Pensacola revival that followed. These “*revivals*” eventually became a “*curse*” upon those churches that received them, with dozens of them closing their doors shortly after.

In the decade of the 2000’s it was the “*Tod Bentley revival*” in Lakeland Florida that caught the imagination of multitudes worldwide with the “*claims*” of extraordinary miracles including “*raising the dead.*” That revival ended in 2008 in great shame with charges of immorality and drunkenness, both of which proved to be true. The prophet Jeremiah seemed to speak of these “*revivals*” over twenty five hundred years ago;

“They shall roar together like lions: they shall yell as lions’ whelps. In their heat I will make their feasts, and I will make them drunken, that they may rejoice, and sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, saith the LORD. I will bring them down like lambs to the slaughter....” Jeremiah 51:38

The out pouring of the Holy Ghost upon the churches that had begun a hundred years before lasted less than sixty years. It became mingled with flesh and pretense in the 60’s, 70’s, and 80’s. During the decade of the 90’s and the 2000’s, demonic spirits took over what flesh and pretense had begun. Today it seems the days of true revival have passed, because millions of

people have a bad taste in their mouth because of the “revivals” of the past decades. Today, less than fifty years after it seemed the so-called “*phenomena*” of “*speaking in tongues*” would sweep the world it is difficult to find the person, whether in the pulpit or the pew that is truly filled with the Holy Ghost.

A recent headline (2014) in “*Christianity Today*” says, “***Assemblies of God Surge, But Speaking in Tongues Slumps.***” In response to the article, Rev. George O. Woods, General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God made this statement; “*The **practice** of speaking in tongues is very integral to who we are. It was one of the generating factors 99 years ago in our being formed and it's still the **encouragement** for every believer to speak in tongues.*” It is in Brother Wood’s response that we find the “key” to the supposed “*slump.*”

“*Speaking in tongues*” is not the “*practice*” of Spirit filled believers, and the believer should never be “*encouraged*” to “*speak in tongues.*” There is no one who has ever lived that can, at their own will, “*speak in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance*” any more than they can heal the sick or do a miracle at their own will. When the emphasis was placed on “*speaking in tongues*” rather than “*Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed,*” the Pentecostal revival began to die. Those churches that received the “Charismatic renewal” quickly filled with people who received a “*prayer language,*” many of whom had never been truly “born of God.” Exactly as Paul warned the Corinthians, false teachers came in preaching “another gospel,” and they received “another spirit” II Corinthians 11:3-4.

I received a vision from the Lord in July of 1969 during a time of fasting and prayer. I saw another spirit come to the churches, pretending to be the Holy Ghost, but it was not. I saw that many would receive this false spirit, believing it to be the “Spirit of God,” and thus the reality of Pentecost would be destroyed. Only thirteen years later, I experienced something during a trip to Israel that confirmed what I had seen.

I had joined with the pastor of an Assembly of God church in the Houston area to make up enough people for a tour of Israel. He had eleven people lined up to go, and needed sixteen to make the trip. My wife and I, and three others from our church joined with them for the ten day trip. Several days into the tour we were on the Mount of Olives at the place where the tour guides tell us Jesus ascended to heaven. The host pastor had asked me to bring a short message at that location, which I did. The presence of God filled the small pavilion where we gathered, and when I finished speaking, it seemed every eye was filled with tears, and no one spoke for several minutes. Finally our tour guide, an Armenian Christian and a professor at the Hebrew university, began to speak through the tears that filled his eyes. It was the next day, however, that I discovered what God had done in that short service.

Early the next morning we left Jerusalem for the city of Tiberius on the Sea of Galilee. That afternoon, during our “free time,” the head deacon of the host church asked me to walk with him along the seashore. After a short time, he told me the reason for this private visit. He began by telling me he had felt the presence of God for the first time in many years as I had spoken at the Mount of Olives. He said, *“Don’t get me wrong. I love our church and our pastor. We know how to worship, and the worship in our church is beautiful. All the gifts of the Spirit are in operation in our Sunday morning services. Everyone just flows together, and it is beautiful to see.”* Then he began to get to the point. *“We used to think we had to wait for the Holy Ghost to come upon us before we could speak in tongues, but our pastor (a previous pastor) taught us that it is our “gift” of a “prayer language,” which we can use at any time. He taught us how to prophesy, and to operate all nine gifts of the Spirit.”* This brother was truly appreciative of the teachings he had received from this previous pastor, yet after telling me again of the beautiful services they have, with all nine gifts of the Spirit in operation, he said to me, *“Brother Surface, it has been many years since I have felt the presence of God, and I didn’t even*

know it until you spoke yesterday. Please pray for me. I want the presence of God in my life once again.”

The contradiction I heard from this sincere brother actually stunned me. The entire congregation of a large church had been deceived by a teacher who was both sincere, but deceived. They had rejected the “tried and true” of the early years of the Pentecostal movement, which required the presence of almighty God to come upon the people before any work of God could be done. Those who believe they can “speak in tongues” at any time according to their will are only the “tip of the iceberg” of the heresy that has destroyed the Pentecostal movement in the world today. Everything this man had seen since he last felt the presence of God, things that seemed so “beautiful” in his sight, were all the working of flesh at best, and the working of “another spirit” at worst.

The “Screwworm Fly” Syndrome

When I was a child on the farm during the 1940’s, the screw worm fly was a plague across Texas and most of the southern part of the nation. The fly would lay its eggs in any scratch or wound of a farm animal, and the larvae would eat the flesh of the animal until its life was destroyed. Every effort to control the fly proved futile until a research lab discovered that the female fly would mate only one time during her lifespan, and this became the key to eradicating the screwworm fly. Instead of trying to destroy them, the laboratories bred millions of flies and sterilized them so they could not reproduce. They released millions of these sterile flies from airplanes across the rural areas of the nation. The population of the screwworm fly effectively doubled overnight, but half of them could not reproduce. When the sterile laboratory fly mated with a fertile wild fly, there were no offspring, and within a very few years the screwworm fly was extinct in the United States. It may seem to be a very poor analogy, but the great outpouring of the Holy Ghost in the first half of the twentieth century has been destroyed by the same means in our generation.

When the “*pretenders*” came in during the decade of the sixties and seventies, and began “*teaching*” the people “*how to speak in tongues,*” they, and those who were deceived by them, were like the sterile flies that were released among the fertile flies. Those who mixed with the pretenders could not reproduce the reality, and the revival began to die. They thought they were experiencing the greatest revival since the New Testament church, because more people were “*speaking in tongues*” than ever in the history of the world. Today, it is almost unheard of, because the “*pretenders*” were like “*sterile flies,*” and perhaps most of those who do “*speak in tongues*” have never received the Holy Ghost. Oh God, help us! Pour out your Spirit again until the “*pretenders*” are put to shame, and the multitudes are, once again, brought to repentance and faith.

Holy Ghost Baptism; a Sovereign Act

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.” John 16:7

“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he (Jesus Christ) shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.” Matthew 3:11

The apostle Peter told Cornelius that Jesus is the one “*which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead*” Acts 10:42. God has also “ordained” Jesus Christ to be the one who “sends” the Comforter (the Holy Ghost), and “baptizes” believers “with the Holy Ghost.” Notice the words of Jesus, “*I will send Him unto you,*” and the words of John the Baptist, “*...He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.*” The modern thought is that Jesus fulfilled His part of these promises on the day of Pentecost, when He “sent the Holy Ghost” upon the hundred and twenty and “baptized” them every one. “There is no reason to wait,” they say, “because the Holy Ghost came on

the Day of Pentecost,” and we simply “receive Him by faith.” Such thinking totally misses the truth of the scriptures.

Jesus did not “send the Holy Ghost” into the world. The Spirit of God has been present and active on planet earth from the time He “moved on the face of the waters” in the days of creation Genesis 1:2, and will continue until He gives the final call to humanity in the last verses of the bible Revelation 22:17. At no time has He not been present on earth. Jesus did not promise to “send Him into the world,” but to “*send Him unto you...*” John 16:7, speaking to each of His disciples individually. Jesus Christ, the Son of God is still “the baptizer.” He is also “the judge of the quick (the living) and the dead” Acts 10:7, and He judges the hearts of the people, sending the Holy Ghost to whom He will.

“And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.” John 16:8

Jesus said in the previous verse, “*I will send Him unto you.*” In this verse, He continues to say, “*...when He is come (unto you), He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.*” The presence of God in this present world does absolutely nothing to hold back the rising tide of secularism, or to change the course of fallen humanity. It is when He is present in and upon His people that things change. True revival always changes the culture around it. One of the proofs of the emptiness of the charismatic revival, during which more people were “speaking in tongues” than ever in the history of the world is the undeniable fact that those were the same years we lost America to secularism, immorality and perversion. As big as it was, it was nothing more than “a tempest in a teapot.”

“We have been with child, we have been in pain, we have as it were brought forth wind; we have not wrought any deliverance in the earth; neither have the inhabitants of the world fallen.” Isaiah 26:18

The prophet Isaiah describes perfectly the result of a “false revival.” It is like a woman with a “false pregnancy.” She

believes she is pregnant. She has all the joys and hopes of an expectant mother, all the appearance and symptoms of pregnancy, even to the point of suffering the birth pains, only to discover she was stricken with a rare disease called “empneumatosis,” in which her large intestine is filled with gas pockets. She thought she carried a child, but she “brought forth wind.” Such “revivals” cannot bring true deliverance, nor change the popular culture. The world around us continues its walk of death, and the church simply joins them.

The Approval of God

The baptism with the Holy Ghost is the sovereign ministry of Jesus Christ as He sits at the right hand of the Father. The idea that this “baptism” can be “received by faith” is so far from the truth. It is the “crown of glory” which God gives in this life to His children who are “well pleasing” to him. It is the seal of God’s approval upon His people.

When the Holy Ghost came upon Jesus in a “*bodily shape like a dove,*” He heard a voice from heaven saying, “*Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased*” Luke 3:22. This voice was not for Jesus’ sake alone, but for those Jews who were also at John’s baptism, hoping to find their Messiah. According to the record given by Matthew, the voice the people heard said, “*This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased*” Matthew 3:17. The crowd of people saw the Holy Ghost descend upon Jesus in a “*bodily shape like a dove*” Luke 3:22, and they knew this along with the “*voice from heaven,*” was proof that “Jesus of Nazareth” is indeed God’s beloved Son.

“Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know.” Acts 2:22

“How that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and

healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.” Acts 10:38

Concerning the ministry of the Old Testament high priest, the apostle Paul said, “...no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron. So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, *Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee*” Hebrews 5:4-5. Can you imagine the problem that would arise if any person other than the one “called of God, as was Aaron” took upon themselves the “honor” of the one chosen to minister behind the veil in the “holiest place?” That man or woman who dared to take such honor “unto themselves” would immediately be taken outside the gates of the city and stoned to death.

The baptism with the Holy Ghost is the greatest honor God bestows upon any person. In every instance, when the Holy Ghost “falls” upon a believer, it is “proof” that Christ did not die in vain. Jesus Christ died as “*The Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world*” John 1:29. When the Holy Ghost “falls” on a believer, and begins to speak through that believer in languages they have not learned, it is a witness from God, their sin has been taken away, and they are a “*vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work*” II Timothy 2:21.

Strange Fire

“And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not.” Leviticus 10:1

Consider how much greater is the offence of those in the modern day church who seek to “*take this honor unto themselves.*” They are like Nadab and Abihu, the two sons of Aaron who brought “strange fire” into the Tabernacle. Moses and Aaron had just concluded the dedication of the “Tabernacle in the wilderness.” They had prepared the sacrifices as God had

instructed them, and the scripture says, “...***there came a fire out from before the LORD, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: which when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces***” Leviticus 9:24.

Moses and Aaron did not kindle the fire that consumed the sacrifice. Instead, they stood at the door of the tabernacle with their hands outstretched to bless the congregation when the fire of God came upon the sacrifice to consume it. When the people saw this, they “shouted and fell on their faces.” What a glorious time it was at the dedication of the tabernacle, when God alone was glorified, who also exalted Moses and Aaron in the eyes of the people. That “glorious time” was short lived, however, because of two young men, the sons of Aaron, who wanted to take for themselves the “glory” God had bestowed upon Moses and Aaron.

These two sons of Aaron were priests by right of birth, and they would also minister before the Lord in their turn. If their hearts were right before God, they would also, in their day, taste of the glory of God. They were not willing to “wait,” however, but wanted this great honor “right now, today.” They must have made their plan together. They would take fire into the tabernacle, offer a sacrifice, and kindle it with their own fire. They would stand before the congregation like Moses and Aaron had, and receive the praise of the people as the sacrifice was consumed, but it was not to be so.

“And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. Then Moses said unto Aaron, This is it that the LORD spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace.” Lev. 10:2-3

What a dangerous thing it is to approach God with fire you have kindled. This is what the scripture calls “strange fire.” It is the same as those who “learn how” to “speak in tongues,” or “prophecy.” God said, “***Behold, I am against the prophets...that use their tongues, and say, He saith.***” Jeremiah 23:31

Wait for the Promise of the Father

If the sons of Aaron had simply “waited,” and prepared themselves in their time of waiting, they would certainly have received the same honor they had seen bestowed on Moses and Aaron. They were priests by birthright, and their day would come. When Jesus spoke to His disciples on the day of His ascension to the Father, he told them to “*wait for the promise of the Father*” Acts 1:4. He promised those who would wait, “*ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence*” Acts 1:5. The modern sons of Aaron say, “We will not wait! We will take it ‘by faith’.” They are of the same spirit as those who told the prophet Jeremiah, “*We will not walk therein...*” Jeremiah 6:16, and “*we will not hearken*” Jeremiah 6:17.

There may have been as many as five hundred gathered on the day of his ascension who heard the command from Jesus to “wait for the promise,” but only one hundred and twenty did so. They spent their days in prayer and supplication Acts 1:14, singing praises to God and expecting the mighty baptism with the Holy Ghost to come unto them John 16:7.

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:1-4

This is the experience of those who “waited” seven days for the promise to come, and when it came, it came “suddenly from heaven.” They went on to “turn the world upside down” in their generation. What became of those who did not “wait,” we do not know, but we can clearly see those today in the modern church who refuse to “wait” before God until Jesus Christ sends the Holy Ghost. These are those who believe you can “receive

the Spirit by faith” at the time of your choosing. They “learn how” to operate all the “gifts of the spirit,” and they do so without the presence of God.

Sinners with a “Prayer Language”

“And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us.” Acts 15:8

Peter made it clear before all the council in Jerusalem that “God knows the hearts.” If a person’s heart is not pure, Christ will not send the Holy Ghost unto them. Cornelius’ heart was “purified by faith” in a moment of time when he heard the word of truth from Peter and rejoiced in it. “Purified by faith” does not mean God only “sees our heart as pure” when we believe, even though it is still filled with sinful things. A heart that is “purified by faith” is the only heart that is truly pure. There is no sin or uncleanness in it, because Christ, *“the Lamb of God”* has *“taken away the sin...”* John 1:29, out of their heart and nature.

What a tragedy it would have been if “a charismatic with a prayer language” had gotten to Cornelius before Peter arrived. One of these came to our church about fifteen years ago. He came highly recommended as one who was getting many people filled with the Holy Ghost in every service. The fact that he was a professor at “Southwest Bible College” in Waxahachie Texas reassured me that this man would at least be spiritually clean and doctrinally safe, but how wrong I was.

Sunday morning service went reasonably well. We had an especially good crowd that night, because he had announced a special “Holy Ghost baptism” night. After he preached a short message, he asked for everyone who would to come forward, and many responded. He asked a young lady if she was saved, and she said “No.” He responded, “We’ve got to take care of that first. Please repeat after me...,” and he led her in a short sinner’s prayer. “Now,” he said, “we’ve got to get you to talking in tongues,” and he began instructing her in what to say and what to do. Suddenly almost everyone standing up front

turned and left the altar. They didn't simply return to their seats, however, but they left the building in confusion. They were telling one another, "That's not what Brother Surface has preached to us about the Holy Ghost," and it certainly wasn't. I was embarrassed before the guest minister, but proud of our congregation at the same time for refusing to receive something that simply was not real. The young lady he prayed for had been drawn to the Lord for some time, but this man, trying to give her something she wasn't ready for, caused great confusion in her heart, and we did not see her in service again for several months. Thank God, she is saved today and working daily in the office at "Behold the Lamb" ministries.

If this man from Waxahachie had gotten to Cornelius before Peter arrived, He would have told him something like this; *"I can see by the way you fast and pray that you are saved already. We just need to get you started speaking in your prayer language."* What a mess Peter would have found when he arrived. Everyone in the house would have been chanting a prayer language, but not one of them would have been saved. The Angel had told Cornelius to send for Peter, ***"Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved"*** Acts 11:14. Those "words" were not "repeat after me" words. They were not a "sinner's prayer" to say, or "words to repeat" to receive a prayer language. Instead, Peter would speak to them "words of Spirit and life" John 6:63, which to those who believe them are "words of eternal life" John 6:68.

Conclusion

I must admit that I am distressed by the wounds that the Pentecostal and full gospel movements have inflicted upon themselves through ignorance of the things of the Spirit. There are, and probably always will be, those who resist the Holy Ghost, and fight against every manifestation of the Spirit. Those who do so from the outside through unbelief can do no great harm to a move of the Spirit of God. It is those who embrace the baptism with the Holy Ghost in doctrine, but

actually seek nothing more than what Paul calls a “*fair shew in the flesh*” that do the greatest harm.

When you hear a minister boast they have seen more people filled with the Holy Ghost than anyone in history, it is a signal that something is very wrong.

When you hear them tell the people the Holy Ghost is “*received by faith,*” and instruct them to simply speak whatever comes into their minds, you can know the minister himself is spiritually ignorant.

When he tells those who obey his instructions they have received the Holy Ghost, you know the reality has been lost, and pretense has taken its place.

When you see people who can open their mouth and instantly began to speak in tongues without any move of the Spirit of God, you know they have been the victim of some pastor or evangelist who only wanted to make a “*fair shew in the flesh,*” just as those who wanted to circumcise the people in the churches at Galatia Galatians 6:12.

When you see churches which are filled with “*tongue talkers*” that are no different than the world, you know they have not received what the hundred and twenty received on the Day of Pentecost. Far too many preachers today think they have found a shortcut to give the people the Holy Ghost without the necessity of first preaching to them “*the word of truth*” Ephesians 1:13, which will cleanse them from all sin and purify their heart to receive the Holy Ghost. What these preachers have really accomplished is to insure that the Spirit will never fall on those who believe them. It is sad but true that if you are satisfied with something less than that which is real, that is exactly what you will have. Let us instead be counted with those who seek God for that which “*comes suddenly from heaven*” and falls upon the people in a mighty baptism from above.

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