

PENTECOST LOST!

How is the faithful city become a harlot?" Isaiah 1:21. God posed this question to His prophet about a hundred years before Jerusalem was destroyed. "I loved her...I was a husband to her...how did she become a harlot?" Even God seems to not understand. A generation later, He speaks to Jerusalem through yet another prophet; "I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into **the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me?**" Jeremiah 2:21.

Why is it that every true move of God seems to degenerate into something God cannot accept? Case in point: only sixty years after the Day of Pentecost, five out of seven churches received a message from Jesus to "repent, or else..."

Revelation 2:5, 2:16, 2:22, 3:3, and 3:19. Three centuries after the Day of Pentecost, the "church" had entered the dark ages, absolutely controlled by the spirit of antichrist. The sixteenth century brought the "reformation" and the "protestant revival." The eighteenth century brought the Wesleyan Revival, and the sanctified revival of the nineteenth century. God began to pour His Spirit upon those who were truly sanctified, and the great Pentecostal revival began at the very beginning of the twentieth century. Each of these great "revivals" began to degenerate with each succeeding generation because the "children" became "imitators," but not "possessors" of what their parents had. Neither Luther nor Wesley would recognize the movements that came out of their revivals. So it is with the Pentecostal revival. Only the very aged among us can remember the "glory" of the Pentecostal revival. What is left of it is only the "degenerate plant" of what was once "the planting of the Lord" Isaiah 61:3.

In 1965, in only the second year of my ministry, I heard the first of many prophetic warnings from God: "In the last days, a harlot will arise out of Pentecost and will be more vile in her affections than the Roman Catholic Church of the dark ages." It was not a message I wanted to hear, because I was very proud of my "Pentecostal heritage." In 1969, I saw in a vision from the Lord that another spirit would come to the churches, pretending to be the Holy Ghost, and many of the churches would receive this "strange spirit" and begin to exalt themselves to the world. I did not know it had already begun. It is with great sadness that I say I have seen these things unfold in the churches exactly as the Lord said.

A "degenerate plant" does not know it is "degenerate." Those who have partaken of a "strange spirit" do not know what they have done. Only those few remaining who have seen and partaken of the true can

recognize the false. Because I was forewarned by God, I recognized the "strange spirit" immediately when seekers began to "learn how" to speak in tongues. Before that time it was never heard that any person could "learn how to speak in tongues." The "initial (first) evidence" of the Holy Ghost had always been the same; they "...began to speak with other tongues, **as the Spirit gave them utterance**" Acts 2:4.

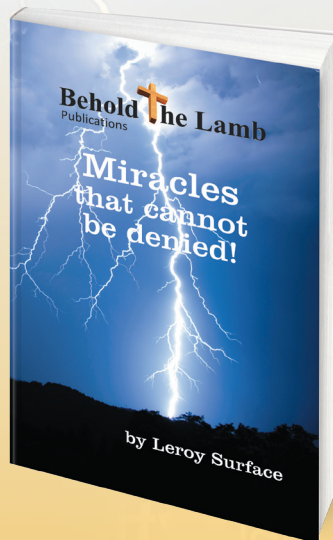
It is a dangerous thing to "learn how" to speak in tongues. It is even more dangerous to learn how to prophesy. Many have unwittingly opened themselves to unclean spirits to speak through them. The scripture is very explicit concerning the operation of the "gifts" of the Spirit. "...all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit" I Corinthians 12:11. The supernatural manifestation of God's Spirit has been traded for something that is

fleshly, carnal, and sometimes demonic.

Simon the sorcerer so bewitched the people of Samaria that they believed he was "the great power of God" Acts 8:9-10. When Phillip came preaching Christ, the scripture says, "Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Phillip" Acts 8:13. Then Peter and John came and prayed for the believers and the Holy Ghost fell upon them. When Simon the sorcerer saw this he offered them money, saying, "Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost." Peter responded, "Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for **thy heart is not right in the sight of God**" Acts 8:21. Those who believe they can impart the Holy Ghost or the manifestations of the Spirit to whoever they choose are "Simons" and not "apostles of Christ."

We often hear that God uses "flawed (sinful) vessels" for His glory. **NO!** Paul spoke to Timothy about various vessels, "some to honour, and some to dishonor." II Timothy 2:20. He makes it clear, it is the "vessel unto honour, **sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work**" II Timothy 2:1 that God uses, and never the vessel which is "flawed with sin." The idea that God will pour Himself into an unclean vessel is far from the truth. Only those whose hearts have been "purified" by the blood of Christ are filled by God. These have not only "pure hearts," but "clean hands" also Psalms 24:3-4.

One of the great men of God of the twentieth century was my good friend B.H. Clendennen, founder of The School of Christ International. By special permission I can send you a short message he wrote many years ago titled "**The Trojan Horse.**" It is the story of "**Pentecost Lost!**"



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