

Dearly beloved reader,

Whosoever you are that is now reading this article, please consider that this article is being written with a broken heart, with tears, travail, and even fasting for all of those that are involved in the midst of the modern charismatic movement. This article is not being written out of a hasty, spiteful personal offence, or bitterness, but rather, it is being written in the heart of Christ with much love for all of the people that are being deceived and led astray by the practices, methods, spiritual manifestations, and teachings of the modern charismatic movement. Considering the travail and burden that we have put into this letter, please deeply and carefully consider the cry that we are making in the Spirit of God, and be not as King Jehoiakim who in ungodly, uncharitable, and hasty pride, burned the roll (*Jeremiah 36:22-25*) that was sent to him by Jeremiah and Baruch, under God. This article is not being written with lightness or hastiness, but in the fear of God, we feel compelled to faithfully and thoroughly, using the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, expound the burden and controversy that God has on his heart for this "movement", and the people that are involved therein (*Jeremiah 9:1, 13:17, Ezekiel 13:1-16*).

Please also consider as you read this letter, that we, as true saints of God, are not writing this letter to express our opinions or personal thoughts on the matters about to be mentioned. Our opinions and personal thoughts do not matter, the Word of God matters, which we are subject to. On judgment day, our personal thoughts and opinions will not hold any value to them, neither will yours, and only Gods righteous perspective, which is subject to His Holy Word, will stand. This is the gauge, the rule, the measure, by which we are called to measure all doctrine and practice, and if you are not willing to subject yourself to the Word of God, and let it judge you, then you are unreasonable and a law unto yourself (*Hebrews 4:12-13, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Titus 1:9, 2 Timothy 4:2-4, Acts 13:46, Acts 17:11*). If you are not willing to be reasoned with by the word of God, then you are exalting yourself, your understandings, and your opinions above God Himself, and you are not willing to listen to God. Our burden that we are expressing to all of you, is not birthed from worldly wisdom, personal opinions, emotionalism, or unexplainable experiences, but from deep convictions of the Spirit of God through understanding the word of God, and through being granted understanding, the Spirit of God in us has been undeniably grieved and burdened, and His word is as a fire shut up in our bones, we cannot help but to make a cry against the abominations that are taking place (*2 Kings 9:22-33, Jeremiah 7:1-2, 20:9, Exodus 32:7-28, Revelation 2:16*). Dear reader, we love you too much to lie to you, to flatter you, and to be insincere with you, unlike the ways of the leaders and practices in the modern charismatic movement

"Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful."
Proverbs 27:6

"He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue."
Proverbs 28:23

Several of the burdens that we will be going through with Biblical examination include, 1) the different "manifestations" of the "spirit", 2) the practices of the "church", and 3) taking a Biblical look into the reality of signs and wonders.

1) Are The Different Manifestations Of "The Spirit" In The Modern Charismatic Movement Biblical?

A) Being Slain In The Spirit

Firstly dear reader, we are going to examine whether the manifestation of being "slain in the spirit" is biblical. It is undeniable that in many Charismatic and Pentecostal churches both in Australia, and world-wide, that people fall down after being prayed for. It is hard to forget for anyone that has ever seen this scenery, as it is usually very similar in most cases; a preacher or minister begins to pray for, or lay hands on an individual, and then in some seeming surge of spiritual activity, the person falls down backwards and lays down on the ground. Some people express that they had feelings of joy, peace, love, stillness, while others express that they saw bright lights, some have unexplainable surges of emotions and tears, others even express visions or that they heard the voice of God. It seems so spiritual, so supernatural, so exciting, and so full of awe, especially to those that perhaps have only ever been in "dry" and "lifeless" conservative Churches where there they leave unmoved by the preaching, worship, or fellowship. This seems so new and exciting, a complete contrast to all that they've experienced, and so many people want to abandon "lifeless" Christianity and therefore "open themselves" to new, seemingly "free", and exciting manifestations of God. Well dear reader, though this may seem new, exciting, and spiritual, none of those things qualify this manifestation to be Biblical. All spiritual experiences must be examined by the word of God, because we are warned that in the last days there will be "signs and wonders" unleashed

upon the world by anti-Christ spirits that will masquerade as the Holy Spirit to deceive multitudes. What any true and sincere seeker after God (that is seeking God for His glory and not personal gain or advantage) would want to ask is, "Is there any Biblical evidence to support this manifestation?" Well dear reader, let us look to the scriptures to answer this question. There is 6 accounts of scripture that some have attempted to use to support this manifestation. Let us bring them to the light, and examine them thoroughly.

1) Matthew 17:1-7

"And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid."

In proper Biblical context, the disciples were **completely conscious of what was happening, they were overcome by the fear of God, and they fell forward in an act of reverence.** Conclusion: This does not support being "slain in the spirit".

2) Matthew 28:1-4

"In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men."

The text here is speaking of **the unconverted soldiers** that were keeping guard of Jesus tomb **in rebellion to Almighty God. In an act of the judgment of God**, he struck these soldiers with **such a great terror and fear** through the presence of His angel that they **shook with fear** and likely **fainted**. Conclusion: This also does not support being "slain in the spirit".

3) John 18:3-6

"Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons. Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground."

The context of this passage here, is in reference to a **multitude of devil-inspired people in rebellion to God** who had **come under the influence of Judas Iscariot** to betray and crucify The Son of God. When Jesus had boldly confronted them in His innocence, and answered them saying, " I AM" (Jehovah), the innocence and majesty of His presence caused their guilt ridden consciences to be intimidated and to reverence Him. They **were led by the devil, were conscious, were under the wrath of God, and were put in fear.** Conclusion: Nothing here supports being "slain the spirit".

4) Acts 9:3-4

"And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?"

This passage here is speaking about Saul (who later become known as the Apostle Paul) who was very vexed and grieved with the Christians who were preaching that the Jews needed to repent, get converted, and receive the Biblical Christ as their Saviour. He thought that he knew the God of the Bible, though he was led by the devil, and was persecuting the true saints of God, that were truly being led by the Spirit of God. The Lord, **in His wrath and sore displeasure against the rebellion of Saul**, appears to Saul in **such a fearful manner** that Saul fell **forward in fear and reverence at the presence of God, being perfectly conscious.** The Lord then **rebukes him**, exposes him as **a false convert**, smites him with **physical blindness for 3 days**, and commands him to go into the city where a true disciple of Christ would **pray for him and lead him in the**

right way. The fruit of this experience, is that Paul was in fasting and prayer for 3 days as sinner seeking God for salvation and repenting of all of his dead religious works that were being done in the flesh. He repented, forsook the other Jews that were zealous for the Bible but were falsely converted, sought out the true saints of God, and received the true Spirit of God, which he was once an enemy of. Conclusion: This certainly does not support being "slain in the spirit"!

5) 1 Kings 8:10-11 (The same account is also recorded in 2 Chronicles 5:13-14)

"And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord, So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord."

The context of this verse here is the historical account where the temple of the Lord had just been finalized and Solomon was about to pray the prayer of dedication of the temple. Because the presence of God was with King Solomon, and because the Lord was pleased with the Spirit inspired obedience of the nation at the building and dedication of the temple, the Glory of God was so present, and the priests were so in awe of the majesty, holiness, and wisdom of God, that they dare not continue to stand. The **priests prostrated themselves in reverence** at awe at the glory of God, **having self control, sound understanding, and were fully conscious of what was happening.** Conclusion: This is nothing even remotely similar to being "slain in the spirit".

6) Ezekiel 1:28

"As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of One that spake."

The context of this passage, was that Ezekiel had been taken away in the Babylonian captivity with most of the nation of Judah, because God was judging them for their sins of not keeping church purity and defiling the house of God with their detestable things (*Eze. 5:11*), and worshiping other spirits in the house of God (*Ezekiel 8:11-18*). The Lord was searching out a man to be His mouth piece to prophesy against the sins of the people that were taken in the captivity to the end that they would be brought to repentance with proper understanding and forsake all of the sins that had led to their banishment in captivity. Ezekiel was beginning to see visions of God, and when the glory of God came to him he fell on his face in godly fear and reverence, and then he heard the voice of God speak to him that God was going to speak through him to rebuke the people for forsaking the word of God to follow the evil imaginations of their own heart, and Ezekiel was warned to separate from them and not to be like them (*Ezekiel 2-3*). The Lord was appearing to Ezekiel and speaking to him in a mighty way because he was going to single-handedly, under God, faithfully and thoroughly rebuke the people without fearing any of their faces! Ezekiel was about to become a sign and a wonder against all of their false and presumptuous hopes in Gods promises, while they continued to disobey Him, which had led to them coming under the judgment of God. Ezekiel **was fully conscious, had self-control, was prostrated on his face in reverence.** Conclusion: Nothing here supports being "slain in the spirit".

B) Holy Laughter

Let us now have a look at another very common "spiritual" manifestation that is taking place in many Charismatic Churches: Holy Laughter. Who could ever forget when Rolland Baker came to Glory City Church on the 13th of January, 2017 and the majority of the congregation had burst out into loud shouts of roaring laughter? It seemed that every person he touched fell to the floor laughing hysterically. The footage of this event is public on youtube for all the world to see. Let us now bind our consciences to the Word of God and bring to the light what the Bible teaches on this subject.

The word "laugh" is found in the Bible 38 times in total, found in a total of 7 different contexts. Here is a list of the different kinds of laughter described in the Bible:

- The **wicked laughter** of the heathen to mock and scorn true saints of God (*Nehemiah 2:19, Job 12:14, Psalm 22:7, Psalm 80:6*).
- The **evil unbelieving laughter** of saints or sinners, who do not believe the Word of God because it went against their own understandings or perceptions (*Genesis 17:16-18, 18:10-15, Matthew 9:24, Mark 5:40, Luke 8:53*).
- The **vain, idle, tasteless, mindless, thoughtless, laughter** of a fool (*Proverbs 29:9, Ecclesiastes 2:2, 7:6*).
- The **proud, fearless, and short lived laughter** of presumptuous people to whom God is calling to be humbling themselves in brokenness and repentance (*Luke 6:25, James 4:9*).

- The **terrifying and sobering laughter of God, where He arises to laugh, scorn, mock, judge, and rebuke in His wrath** those that laughed, scorned, mocked, and took lightly His Word (*Psalm 2:1-5, 59:5-8, Proverbs 1:22-31, Ezekiel 23:31-33*).
- The **sobering laughter of saints who with godly fear rejoice in the righteous judgments of God** (*2 Kings 19:21, Psalm 52:1-7, Isaiah 37:22*).
- The **clean laughter of saints who rejoice in God, and His righteous causes with trembling** (*Genesis 21:6, Psalm 126:2, Eccl. 3:4, Luke 6:21*).

Out of these 7 different manifestations of laughter, 4 of them are in reference to sin, 2 of them are in reference to the fearful judgments of God, and 2 of them is in reference to the clean, holy, pure, laughter of saints rejoicing in God, and His righteous causes. That being said though, the clean laughter of saints who have the Spirit of God is in unity with the reality that the Spirit of God makes saints **sober minded** (*Acts 26:25, 1 Thes. 5:6-8, 1 Tim. 3:2, 11, Titus 1:8, 2:2, 4, 6, 12, 1 Pet. 1:13 4:7, 5:8*), **sound minded** (*Mark 5:15, 2 Tim. 1:7*) **grave** (*1 Tim. 3:8, 11, Titus 2:2*), **possessing self-control/temperance** (*Titus 1:8, 2:2, Acts 24:25, Galatians 5:22-24, 2 Peter 5:1-8*), **led by understanding** (*Ephesians 5:17, Col. 2:2, 1 John 5:20*), **subject to sound doctrine to guide their decisions** (*1 Timothy 1:10, 2 Timothy 4:3, Titus 1:9, 2:1*), **possess the fear of God** (*2 Corinthians 7:1, Hebrews 11:7, Col. 3:22*) and **that even their rejoicing is with trembling** (*Psalm 2:11, 1 Cor. 2:3, Phil. 2:12*). On the contrary, those that are led by **their flesh** or by **seducing spirits** have **no fear of God before their eyes** (*Romans 3:18, Jude 1:11-13*), **are not led by understanding** (*Romans 1:28-32, 1 Corinthians 14:19-20, Ephesians 4:17-20, Ephesians 5:17, 1 Timothy 1:7*), **are sensual** (*Jude 1:18-19, James 3:14-16*), and **do not guide their thoughts and decisions by the Word of God** (*2 Timothy 4:1-4, 1 Timothy 6:3-5*).

With all of this being said dear reader, let us soberly consider if the "Holy Laughter" that is taking place in many Charismatic denominations, is indeed holy laughter. Anyone that has been in Glory City Church and other Charismatic Churches that are similar can recall what happens when this "holy laughter" comes upon individuals and groups. Usually, a person is getting prayed for or prophesied over, or a "minister" is praying or prophesying over the congregation. Then, in a sudden, unexplainable, surge of seeming "spiritual feelings", people are overcome with this "feeling" to make them laugh. Many times it's unexplainable. Many times people don't know what's happening. It just "springs upon them". Considering the fact that this laughter "springs upon" people after being prayed for, it seems very clear and evident that this manifestation is lacking the **sober mindedness, sound mindedness, temperance, self control, understanding subject to biblical truth, and the fear of God** that someone that is **being led by the Spirit of God would possess**. On the contrary, this unexplainable, sudden, sensual, feeling to laugh suddenly bursts upon individuals or crowds of people who are **completely void of the fear of God or biblical understanding** about what is happening to them. The individuals and crowds see others hollering in laughter, and behold all the smiles, the seeming joy, the seeming sensations of peace and joy, and it is all so appealing to their flesh, even though they do not really know what is going on, and so with an ungodly and simplistic glee they open themselves up to these new experiences and sensations that are seemingly making everyone around them happy. How fearful!!

C) Being Drunk In The Spirit

Now dear reader, let us move forward in our Biblical examination to the very prominent and commonly seen manifestation of being drunk in the Spirit. There is very clear videos of Katherine Ruonala, along with other well known speakers that are connected to her church, such as Rolland and Heidi Baker, who are very well known for expressing and claiming that this is a manifestation of the "Holy Spirit".

The word drunk (or connected words, such as drunken, drunkenness, or drunkard) is found in the Bible a total of 77 times, found in a total of 7 different contexts. Here is a list of the different kinds of "drunk" that are found in the Holy Scriptures:

- Accounts where **the word drunk or drunken is being used in the context of someone that has drank any kind of liquid**, whether it be alcoholic or non-alcoholic. For example, "We have drunken our water for money..." *Lamentations 5:4. (Lev. 11:34, Deut. 29:6, Judges 15:19, Ruth 3:7, 1 Samuel 1:9, 15, 30:12, 1 Kings 13:22, 23, 2 Kings 6:23, 19:24, Song of Sol. 5:1, Isaiah 37:25, Ezekiel 34:18, Daniel 5:23, Luke 5:39, 13:26, John 2:10, 1 Corinthians 11:21)*.
- Accounts where **the word drunk, drunken, or drunkard, is being used to expose the shame and folly of getting intoxicated on alcohol** (*Genesis 9:21, Deut. 21:20, 1 Samuel 29:36, 1 Kings 20:16, Job 12:25, Psalm 69:12, Psalm 107:27, Proverbs 23:21, 26:9, Ecclesiastes 10:17, Isaiah 24:20, 28:1, 3, Joel 1:5, Habakkuk 2:15, Romans 13:13, 1 Corinthians 5:11, 6:10, Galatians 5:21*).
- Accounts where **the word drunk is describing the outpouring of His wrath to slay the wicked** in making His arrows or sword drunk with blood (*Deut. 32:42*).

- Accounts **where the word drunk or drunken is being used by people who are deceived and not right with God to falsely accuse and attempt to shame true saints** that are right with God (*1 Samuel 1:13-14, Acts 2:13-15*).
- An Account **where the prophet Jeremiah compared himself to being as a drunken man**, in the context that **he was heart-broken, trembling, perplexed, and unable to continue in life soundly because of the terrifying revelation of the wrath of God** that was upon the supposed people of God that he was around (*Jeremiah 23:9*).
- Accounts where **the word drunk or drunken is being used to describe people that are impregnated with the judgments and wrath of God** (*Isaiah 46:25, 49:26, 51:17-22, 63:6, Jeremiah 13:13, 25:27, 49:12, 51:7, Lam. 3:15, Revelation 17:2, 6, 18:3*).
- Accounts where **the word drunk or drunken is used to describe spiritual plagues of Gods wrath** that will manifest in **making men, like drunk people, foolish, vain, deluded, unsound, vulnerable to danger, having false perceptions, blurry understandings, confused, falsely confident, and spiritually intoxicated** (*Deut. 29:19, Isaiah 19:14, Isaiah 29:9-12, Jeremiah 48:26, 51:39, 57, Lamentations 4:21, Ezekiel 23:33, Nahum 1:10, 3:11, Matthew 24:49, Luke 12:45, Luke 21:24, Ephesians 5:18, 1 Thessalonians 5:7*).

So out of the 7 different contexts of this word in the Bible, **5 are in reference to sinful conduct and the wrath of God**. Another **1 of these contexts is in reference to the clean and non-sinful practice of drinking any kind of liquid**, and the last context is the only context in which a saint is made to feel drunk in a clean and holy manifestation. Biblically, **this is the only kind of "holy drunkenness" that is found in the scriptures**. And the context of this "holy drunkenness", was the stand-alone prophet Jeremiah who was **seeing and perceiving such fearful and terrifying revelations of the wrath of God upon the disobedient "people of God", that he was staggering around in holy terror and fear, often weeping and travailing under the burden of God for such an ungodly nation**. What added to Jeremiah's holy terror, was that the false prophets were giving out promises of peace to the very people that he was called to prophesy of coming judgment and wrath, and so the people were confidently marching, under the influence of presumptuous and ignorant false prophets, to their destruction. Let us take a further look into this chapter to have a better idea of what was so deeply troubling this man of God:

"(the prophets)... **walk in lies**: they **strengthen also the hands of evildoers**, that none doth return from his wickedness; they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah. Therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts concerning the prophets; Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, and make them drink the water of gall: for from the prophets of Jerusalem is profaneness gone forth into all the land. Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: **they make you vain**: they **speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the Lord. They say still unto them that despise me, The Lord hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you.**"
Jeremiah 23:14-17

Here is some main points from Jeremiah 23 to help us understand what was so deeply troubling this stand-alone prophet:

- The **false prophets were strengthening, building up, and encouraging those to whom God was calling to humble themselves in repentance** for disobeying His Word (*vs. 14*).
- Because the **wicked people felt encouraged instead of humbled, they were not repenting** of the ways that they were not obeying Gods Word (*vs.17*).
- Jeremiah saw that these widely accepted "positivity" prophets that were not faithful to Gods Word **were under the wrath of God** (*vs.15*).
- The false prophets were **blind to detect the breaches causing Gods wrath on themselves, and others around them** (*vs. 16-17*).
- The false prophets were blind to the wrath of God kindled upon the people around them, **caused them to trust in a lie, and prophesied of peace and comfort to those that were on their way to Hell** (*vs. 17*).

With such fearful revelations that he was having, who would not be so deeply troubled! O, that God would raise up more men with this anointing of holy drunkenness! Please, O Lord God!! Raise up some Jeremiahs in this generation to rip the blindfolds off the deceived multitudes gleefully skipping on the broad way to eternal destruction!! Conclusion: There is absolutely no biblical evidence in all of scripture that exemplifies or justifies the commonly known manifestation of being "drunk in the spirit".

2) Are The Different Practices That Are Taking Place In The Modern Charismatic Movement?

A) Is It Biblical To Speak In Tongues Without An Interpreter At Church Services?

It is undeniable that in the Holy Scriptures, there is a spiritual gift/manifestation commonly referred to as "tongues", and there is overwhelming Biblical evidence to support this truth (*Mark 16:17, Acts 2:3, 10:46, 19:6, 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28-30, 14:2-40*). That being said though, it is important to search out through the scriptures to know if the ways that this "gift" is being used is indeed subject to Biblical truth. In many Churches that are connected within the Charismatic movement, it is extremely common to see "preachers" speaking in tongues in the pulpit, praying over souls in tongues, and even to see a majority of the congregation burst out into speaking in tongues corporately. If a person truly does fear God, they will realise how prone they are to error, and will therefore guide all of their affairs using the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. So, let us, in the fear of God, see what the scriptures have to say about this topic:

"Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, **what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?** And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? **for ye shall speak into the air.** There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification. Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, **I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me.**"

1 Corinthians 14:6-11

"Yet in the church **I had rather speak five words with my understanding**, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue. Brethren, **be not children in understanding**: howbeit in malice be ye children, **but in understanding be men.**"

1 Corinthians 14:19-20

"If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, **will they not say that ye are mad?**"

1 Corinthians 14:23

"If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and **let one interpret.** But **if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church**; and let him speak to himself, and to God... For **God is not the author of confusion, but of peace**, as in all churches of the saints... **Let all things be done decently and in order.**"

1 Corinthians 14:27-28, 33, 40

Here is the very clear and undeniable conclusions that the scriptures teach about this topic from 1 Corinthians 14:

- Unless people speak by revelation, knowledge, prophesying, or doctrine, **they are unprofitable** (vs. 6).
- Speaking in tongues without an interpreter in the Church is **speaking into the air** (vs. 9).
- Speaking in tongues without an interpreter in the Church **makes you look like a barbarian** (vs. 11).
- It is **better to speak 5 words with understanding** in Church than 10,000 words in tongues (vs. 19).
- **God compares people lacking understanding on this topic to immature children**, in comparison to those have sound understanding as mature men (vs. 20).
- Speaking in tongues as a congregation at a Church assembly **will make you look mad** and will be **a stumblingblock** to the unbelievers and unlearned (vs. 23).
- Speaking in tongues at the Church assembly is **only permissible with an interpreter** (vs. 27).
- If there is no interpreter, the tongue speaker is **called to keep silence** (vs. 28).
- **God brings clarity and peace**, and all things in the Church **should be done decently and in order** (33, 40).

Dear reader, there is a very clear and undeniable conclusion that can be drawn through a careful study of 1 Corinthians 14, and it is this: speaking in tongues without an interpreter in the Church assembly is NOT Biblical and it is a practice that is being shamed and rebuked by the Apostle Paul, who was under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. Consider when he says in the very same chapter, "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord" (vs 37). In other words, anyone that claims to be hearing from God, or is ministering the "Word of God", needs to subject themselves to the biblical truths that were being expounded upon in this chapter! This is not a light matter! This is the difference between **man made traditions of men** that are **led by the flesh** or **other spirits**, verses the **leading of the Holy Spirit** which is **always in subjection to the Word of**

God! This was the same error made by the priests **Nadab and Abihu**, who had offered a sacrifice to God that was **not in subjection to the way that God had ordained**, and the result was that **the Lord killed them**.

"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**. 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."
Leviticus 10:1-3

Keep in mind that this incident of God killing His people for disobeying His Word was not isolated to the Old Testament. **God killed many people in the Corinthian Church as well** (*1 Cor. 11:30*) because they **were not taking heed to the Word of God** and were taking communion in an unbiblical and ungodly manner, and the majority of the book of 1 Corinthians was a rebuke to the entire Church in an attempt to recover them from the various forms of apostasy that they were overtaken by, which was causing them to come under the judgments of God. **How Terrifying!!!!**

B) Is it Biblical For A Woman to Lead, Teach, Or Be A Pastor In A Church?

It is undeniable that in many Charismatic Churches, that women are the pastors, teachers, and leaders in the Church. Because this is such a common practice, many people will put the cart before the horse and will attempt to find scriptures to justify this practice, instead of doing the opposite, fearing God, and without bias or partiality, judging this matter in subjection to what the Word of God teaches. So dear reader, I plead with you, whosoever you are, that you would put aside your emotions, personal opinions, or even your desire to defend your dearest friends who are women in the role of Church officers, and let us have an unbiased look into what the Word of God teaches on this subject.

"Let your **women keep silence in the churches**: for it is **not permitted unto them to speak**; but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, **let them ask their husbands at home**: for **it is a shame for women to speak in the church**."

1 Corinthians 14:34-35

"Let the **woman learn in silence with all subjection**. But **I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence**. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but **the woman being deceived was in the transgression**. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety."

1 Timothy 2:11-15

In having a very careful and unbiased look into the 2 verses mentioned above, there is some very certain and clear conclusions that can be drawn:

- At the official Church meetings where both men and women are attending, **women are not permitted to speak and are called to keep silence** (*1 Cor. 14:34-35*).
- If women have questions about something that is being taught or spoken about at the Church assembly, they were **called to remain temperate and to ask their husbands at home** (*1 Cor. 14:35*).
- **It is a shame for women to speak openly during the official Church meetings** (*1 Cor. 14:35*).
- The Apostle Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost **would not allow a woman to teach or be in a position of authority over men in the Church gatherings** (*1 Timothy 2:11-12*).
- Biblically speaking, **women, as Eve was, are more vulnerable to being deceived by the devil** (*1 Timothy 2:13-14*).

For anyone that is honest with God and with the scriptures, it is very clear that this practice is not Biblical, but it is rather a man-made tradition that has been made to keep up with the modern culture that is becoming more and more feminized. Times have changed, but the Word of God has not changed. This was a practice that was shamed by God in the Old and New Testament Church, and Jesus, who is the same "yesterday, today, and forever" is still shaming this practice today! Not only is this practice something that is Biblically described as shameful, the Bible goes further to describe women ruling over men as the judgment of God.

"As for my people, children are their oppressors, and **women rule over them**. O my people, **they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths**."

Isaiah 3:12

Please note that this does not mean that women are not allowed to lead or teach at all in certain circumstances, because *Titus 2:3-5* gives specific exemptions.

"The **aged women** likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That **they may teach the young women** to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."

The exemption in scripture here is that the aged/older women are allowed to lead and teach younger women (and obviously children) the ways of God. But this is radically different from a woman playing the role of a Church officer over men in a Church. Conclusion: Women are not allowed to be Church officers in a Church, and any Church that does not heed these warnings is clearly disobeying the Word of God.

C) What Are The Biblical Standards For Church Purity To Be Maintained, And Is This Happening In The Modern Charismatic Movement?

Another topic that is very needful to speak about and to seek to bring clarity to, is the topic of Church purity and Church discipline. The problem with most Charismatic Churches today is not that they do not IN FORM seek to implement "church purity", and "church discipline" , but the problem is that their concept of these Biblical truths is taught by the tradition and precept of men, and it is not aligned properly with the truths of Gods Holy Word, which is as a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces. Dear reader, let us have a clear-eyed view at this doctrine of Church purity, and let God define for Himself what this entails as a standard for a Biblical Lampstand, how vital and of eternal significance this practice actually is.

"It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, to deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? Do not ye judge them that are within? But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person."

1 Corinthians 5:1-13

Upon reading this passage, many people are very swift to seek to point out the fact that the man described in verse 1, was in abnormally evil sin: an incestuous relationship with his mother. But what is often glanced over and forgotten, is how that the Apostle Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, was saying that anyone that is in any kind of sexually immoral relationship (fornication), or that gets drunk, is covetous (greedy), or is idolatrous (loving and exalting anything above Jesus Christ), or a railer, or an extortioner is in the same category of sin and deserves the same penalty as the man in the incestuous relationship. The Spirit of God through Paul was rebuking this church, because they were GLORYING in how loving they thought that they were being towards this man, thinking that by slacking church purity and judgment, they were being patient, kind, and Christ-like. Paul says that instead of GLORYING in what they thought was loving, they should be MOURNING that judgment and obedience to Christ has been slacked and delayed, and that this man had been greatly leavening the entire Church with his spiritual uncleanness. The Holy Spirit was warning them, that if they would not be faithful to love this mans soul IN TRUTH by executing Church discipline, or anyone else that was in the aforementioned categories of sin, in the context of *Matthew 18:15-20*, that the entire Church was going to come under the judgment of God. And just as God warned, this was already happening, and it would have led to even more fearful Church-Wide judgments, had not a Church-Wide repentance and godly sorrow been wrought, being evidenced by faithfulness and obedience to keep judgment (which by the effectual warnings of the

Holy Spirit, happened by the time the 2nd epistle was written to the Corinthians). When you read *1 Cor. 11: 27-30*, it is made very clear that many people in the Corinthian Church were being overcome by sin, and that because they were a real Lampstand, with real converts, where Gods immediate presence dwelt, God was judging their sin and striking many in the Church with near-death sicknesses, and God even KILLED many of the believers. This is because Judgment starts at the house of God, not with false converts, and unbelievers (*1 Peter 4:17*). This biblical description of leaven, is not only exemplified in Gods judgment upon the Church of Corinth, but it is also clearly demonstrated how that the effects of unjudged and unpurged leaven had caused the entire Churches of Ephesus, Pergamos, and Laodicea to come under the judgment of God, while the majority of the Church of Thyatira and Sardis were under the judgment of God, whereby God was giving out fearful warnings if no repentance was found on a Church-wide scale (*Revelation 2-3*). Ephesus as a whole left their first love, the Church of Pergamos was being overcome by the leaven of immorality and heretical doctrine, the Church of Thyatira was being overcome by the leaven of a false prophet/prophets teaching heretical doctrine, and taking immorality lightly, the Church of Sardis was being overcome by the leaven of unfaithfulness, spiritual apathy, and unwatchfulness, and the Church of Laodicea was being overcome by the leaven of lukewarmness, complacency, and loving their lives. In each of these situations, where Church-wide leaven was prevailing because of a lack of inner purity and judgment from within, especially by the unfaithfulness of the Church officers/leaders, the result was fearful warnings from God where he threatened to remove a heavenly recognition of their church as a Candlestick in His sight (*Rev. 2:5*), to fight against them with the Sword of His mouth (*Rev. 2: 16*), to kill their children with death and cast them into great tribulation (*Rev.2:22-23*), to come upon them in judgment as a thief that comes unexpectedly (*Rev. 3:3*), and to vomit them out of His mouth (*Rev. 3:16*). The judgment of God that came upon these Churches did not happen overnight, it happened by a continuation of unjudged and unpurged leaven that was spreading through the congregation, rather than being stopped by the effectualness of judgment being kept, especially by faithful, diligent, watchful, and spiritually sensitive Church Officers that are near to the presence of God.

With all of this being said dear reader, it is very clear to anyone that has a discerning eye and knows the scriptures, that proper Biblical judgment and accountability is not being kept in most modern Charismatic Churches. Most of the "pastors" and church officers are not even converted themselves, and therefore do not have the ability to properly examine the testimonies of those in their congregation with spiritual eyes, and their congregations are packed with false converts. With that being said, how much less do they keep accountability in knowing who is walking in willful sin in their midst, and whether these individuals are actually converted and backslidden, or whether they are living lives of willful sin because they have never actually been converted! Oh, how confused and darkened are these places! How far they are from the presence of God! How often do these "pastors" wrongly think that all their congregation needs is more preaching on their "identity" in Christ to renew their minds against sin, when indeed the Spirit of God does not dwell in them, and they need to be seeking God as unconverted sinners, not as saints! How many wrong diagnoses are given out in these places, that prove to be temporarily comforting and yet eternally fatal! It is no wonder that God is not coming near to judgment to severely chasten or even KILL those that are taking communion unworthily, because these places are not true Lampstands of God, and therefore God does not come near to judgment to purge His house, because lo, it is NOT His house! How is it that people can come to these churches and take communion while having no victory over lust, pornography, fornication, amongst many other sins, and no one is smitten with plagues? How is it that so many false converts, and false Churches prosper in their sin? It is because God is NOT NEAR like He is in a true house of God.

It is also important to note, that a Church that is truly recognized in Heaven as a Lampstand/Candlestick, is granted what the Bible describes as binding and loosing powers. When the scriptures describe the process of Church discipline in *Matthew 18:15-20*, the context of this practice is obviously that this is a REAL church recognized in Heaven, that the members are REAL converts, and the Church is under the REAL leadership of the Holy Ghost through God-appointed Church officers, walking with the LIVING Christ. Therefore, if after Biblical due process is done, and a church member is still unrepentant and not finding a clearing, then when the Church excommunicates the individual (with the understanding that this judgment is done in love for their souls, that they may be ashamed and brought to true repentance and godly sorrow), then something happens simultaneously in heaven. Jesus Christ through His body on the earth, not by the decision nor will of man, actually delivers over this individual to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the Spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus (*1 Cor. 5:3-5*). This means that the individual has any hedges of Christs protection removed, and they God will allow evil spirits and Satan himself to severely buffet this individual that he may again be driven back to repentance and faith! And thus the heavenly binding and loosing powers are manifested in a Church that is under His Lordship. This power is not granted to any professing Christian or Church, only those Lampstands and the

individuals therein, whose names are written in the Lambs book of Life, who are known of in Heaven, and feared of in Hell! This is a REAL Church, dear reader! O, how lamentable is the condition the 21st century "churches" that are so steeped in the traditions of men! O how fearful and lamentable it will be when God tries every man's work as by fire, and God reveals how much of the labour and activity in these large congregations are simply towering piles of wood, hay, stubble, and earth, that seemed large and eye-captivating in this life, only to be revealed in eternity that there was nothing of enduring silver, gold, precious stones and pearls (*1 Cor. 3:11-15*) that can abide the everlasting burnings of God's presence! Do not be deceived dear reader! May God have mercy on these false churches, and the individuals therein, that are so numb to the righteous judgments of God!

3) Biblically Speaking, Are All Signs And Wonders From The Holy Spirit, And If Not, How Can I Know The Difference?

A) Are All Signs And Wonders From The Holy Spirit?

Dear reader, for anyone that has read all of the Bible, Old and New Testament, it becomes ever so undeniably clear that there are signs and wonders that follow the God of the Bible. All throughout the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, you will hear about Jesus healing people, casting out devils, raising the dead, prophesying, and doing many other kinds of signs and wonders. There is entire chapters in the New Testament, such as *1 Corinthians 12-14*, that give clear guidelines about the use of spiritual giftings that are promised to be given to those that are truly converted. Not only this, but it is very clear that in some charismatic Churches like Glory City Church, there seem to be certain kinds of legitimate miracles and signs and wonders happening in the Church. In this section of the letter, we are going to be examining if all signs and wonders are from God, and how to know the difference between what is true and false:

- In *Acts 16:16-18*, it is made very clear that there was a woman who had **a spirit of divination** who would prophesy certain things to her masters which helped them to receive gain.
- In *1 Samuel 28:8-20* a woman who had **a familiar spirit** was able to summon the spirit of Samuel from the dead and received accurate divine revelation.
- In *Deuteronomy 13:1-5* the Lord made it very clear that people **could perform signs and wonders** and **have accurate prophetic dreams while not following God in truth and being led by another spirit** to lead people away from God.
- In *1 Kings 22*, there was 400 "prophets" that were **all hearing at the same time the same exact prophetic word**, thinking that it was from God, but **it was actually a lying spirit** that God sent into their midst to deceive and punish them, but especially King Ahab, for forsaking the Word of God.
- In *Matthew 24:24* and *Mark 13:22*, The Lord Jesus Christ warns us that false prophets in the last days will be able to **perform signs and wonders through the power of other spirits** that will try to seduce the elect saints.
- In *2 Thessalonians 2:9-12* the scriptures speak very plainly that the devil in the last days will come **with all power, and lying and signs and wonders** to **deceive multitudes of people into believing in "another christ"**, because people did not want to receive the Biblical Christ.

Conclusion: There is overwhelmingly undeniable Biblical evidence that supports the fact that **there are many signs and wonders that can be performed through the power of spirits of divination, familiar spirits, lying spirits, other spirits, and the devil himself.**

B) How Can I Know If the Signs And Wonders Happening Around Me, Are of God?

This is a very important question to know, because we are warned by the Lord Jesus Christ that in the last days many will be deceived and led astray by another Christ, and through this peculiar avenue of lying signs and wonders (*Matt. 24:24, Mark 13:22, 2 Thes. 2:9-12*). By the sovereign mercy and grace of God, He has given to us through the Holy Scriptures certain gauges and means to know if we are being led astray, and also to know under what conditions we are qualified to be led astray. The first gauge we will look at, is from *Deuteronomy 13:1-4*:

"If there **arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or the wonder come to pass**, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, **Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them**; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: **for the Lord your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul**. Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him."

In this example given, the Lord is warning His people that He will allow people to be able to perform signs and wonders in their midst by the power of the devil, to test and prove their love and devotion to Him. **If anyone has any kind of ungodly lust in their heart to exalt signs and wonders above the Word of God, then they will be deceived and led astray by these kinds of false prophets.** The conditions to the person and the signs and wonders not being of God, is that the one who is performing them is enticing those listening to him to serve other gods. It could also be considered, that they would **entice Gods people to supposedly be following Him, but in actuality by the unbiblical words and practices that they manifest, they would be leading Gods people away from Him in truth, to follow another spirit.**

Next, let us have a look at *2 Thessalonians 9-12*:

"Even him, whose coming is **after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,** And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness **in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth,** that they might be saved. And **for this cause God shall send them strong delusion,** that **they should believe a lie:** That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but **had pleasure in unrighteousness.**"

This passage of the New Testament lays out a very clear guide for us to understand who is going to be made the targets of this major world-wide deception of a false Christ. **Those that did not receive a love of the truth, those that did not believe the truth of Gods Word, and those that had (willful) pleasure in unrighteousness.** This means that individuals that hear the true Words of God presented to them, and do not want to receive them and humble themselves to it, and those that willfully are delighting in sin, will be the vulnerable culprits to be led astray by this deceptive Anti-Christ spirit that is going to masquerade as the Holy Spirit and even have signs and wonders following it in these last days that we are living in. It does not matter how smart you are, it does not matter how gifted you are, it does not matter how famous you are, it does not matter how strong you are, if you meet any one of the above conditions, even if you do not know you do, then you will have no power to withstand this strong outpouring of the Anti-Christ spirit in the last days and will be deceived by his false signs and wonders.

Our Concluding Statements And A Plea For Radical Reformation, Repentance, and Obedience!

Dear reader, with all that has been written in this letter, and with all of the ways that we have sought to graciously condescend the truths of the written word of God to your conscience, there is now an enormous responsibility put upon you by the Lord to take heed to the light that God has given to you and to **respond.**

"Walk while ye have the light, **lest darkness come** upon you"
John 12:35

"And that servant, which **knew his lord's will,** and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, **shall be beaten with many stripes.** But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For **unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required:** and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more."
Luke 12:47-48

"If I had not **come and spoken unto them,** they had not had sin: but **now they have no cloak for their sin.**"
John 15:22

This letter which has been written in the fear of God, and in subjection to the truths of Gods Word make it ever so abundantly clear that many other of the modern charismatic churches are forsaking the TRUTH of the written word of God in exchange for man-made traditions and men pleasing practices, and that because they have forsaken the Word of the Lord, they have opened themselves up to other spirits that are performing signs and wonders keeping the people bound in **well-deserved** delusions and deceptions. It is fearful and terrifying to consider this, and it is indeed the **undeserved** mercy and grace of God that you have read this letter to plead with you that your eyes may be opened to the truth. The Lord can have mercy upon you, dear reader, **if you will repent of all known willful sin in your life, repent for not exalting the Word of God, repent for honoring people above the Lord Himself, and humble yourself in the sight of the Lord. You need to flee unbiblical churches and find true saints that fear God that honour His Word.** All of the brethren in our Church are flooded with spiritual compassion and charity for people in this movement (which has driven us to go to such great lengths to help open your eyes!) and are willing to lay down our lives to help you and minister to you further.

Please check out the resources listed below and contact us through one of the means provided below if you want help!

With brokenness, tears, and a desire for your eternal well-being,
David Sester

On Behalf of all of the Brethren from the Church of Brisbane.

Videos Made On This Topic:

A Biblical Examination Of Glory City Church: Katherine Ruonala And The Charismatic Movement Exposed:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pqe8REOFNWO>

The Righteous Judgment Of God Upon The Modern Charismatic Movement:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8S01i1q_UQ

The Faithful Execution Of Gods Judgment And The Compromises Of Them:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uwr7YXNUSSA>

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