

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS

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Spiritual insecurity is caused by spiritual inferiority, which is the result of scriptural illiteracy. Scriptural illiteracy leaves open the door of the believer's heart to the invasion of the occult, satanic doctrine and demonic influence. Bible Doctrine opens wide the door to the marvelous light-world of Truth. The Bible closes the door to un-truth.

WHEN EXPERIENCE CONTRADICTS THE BIBLE, THEN SCRIPTURE MUST TAKE PRECEDENCE!

### INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

#### ACTS

The book of Acts is often referred to as the bridge from the Gospels to the Epistles because it covers the time between these two periods. Acts is extremely important because it is the only inspired account of the initial years of the Church after Christ ascended. Acts is the primary book for: missionary work and principles; the work of the Holy Spirit; Christian preaching; and the defense of the Christian faith against paganism and other false doctrines which infiltrated the early Church. Acts is written by Luke the physician who was the first historian of the early church. He apparently kept many notes perhaps a diary wherein he recorded much of the early Church record. Then in A.D. 60, Luke wrote Acts. Acts covers a period of more than thirty years from the ascension to Paul's imprisonment in Rome. Acts is often called the "Acts of the Holy Spirit" because the Holy Spirit is referred to more than fifty times. Luke was a close and nearly constant companion of Paul and so he witnessed firsthand many of the events recorded in Acts.

From a theological point of view, Acts was written to trace and reveal the development of the "Body of Christ" (the Church) during this one-generation transitional period. Although Judaism and Christianity are distinct, Christianity fulfills what Judaism would not – the Gospel message.

The Holy Spirit, as Jesus promised, came at Pentecost. As a result, the Apostles were transformed from fearful men into spiritual giants that turned the infant Church into a thriving worldwide Church. This transitional period, recorded in Acts, is followed by all the epistles. The book of Acts must be interpreted in the time period of the first century, taking into account the period before Christ to the period after Christ - the "Jewish Age" to the "Church Age." These different ages are called **dispensations**.

#### DISPENSATIONS – (Ephesians 1:10; Hebrews 1:1-2)

Interpreting Scripture in its historical context, in terms of the author's intent and the original audience, as well as in the light of the times, places and circumstances of the period, is imperative to proper interpretation of doctrinal content. Neither doctrine nor its application is the same in every time period of history because God has dealt differently with man in different circumstances.

Dispensations may be defined as “The Divine Outline of History.” The believer’s orientation to time is extremely important for understanding God’s Plan and God’s purpose in any given generation of history.

God clearly states through the Apostle Paul that, to be correctly understood, the Word of God must be “rightly divided” (2 Timothy 2:15). Dispensations are God’s timetable of history as He deals *differently* with Man, Israel and the Church:

*“That in the dispensation of the fullness of time (refers to the Millennial Kingdom which is yet future) God might gather together in one all things **in Christ** both which are in Heaven (believers who have passed away), and which are on earth (believers of all nations), even **in Him** (Christ) Ephesians 1:10.*

*“God, who at sundry times and in diverse manners spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir to all things, by whom He also made the worlds (creation) Hebrews 1:1-2. Please notice in these verses “fullness of time” which means an appointed time in the future, and “times past” which refers to different times in history. These exemplify dispensations.*

In (Acts 1:7) Jesus said: “It is not for you to know the “times or the seasons.” What exactly does our Lord mean by these two words – “times” and “seasons?” In the original language of the New Testament, which is “Koine” (common) Greek, the word for “times” is “chronos.” The Greek word for “seasons” is “kairos.” Both words refer to time; however, “chronos” from which we get our word chronology means a succession of events. “Kairos” means events organized by components of time broken into segments such as periods, eras, or epochs.

“Times and Seasons” refers to the history of Israel such as: the period known as the “Patriarchs” which goes from Abraham to Moses; and the period of the “Law,” from Moses to the Ascension of Jesus Christ. The “Church Age” is the time period in which we now live. Believers make up the Church, which is also called the “Body of Christ” (Romans 7:4; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 12:27; Ephesians 4:12), and the “Bride of Christ” (Revelations 21:19). There are also periods of time in the future such as “The Great Tribulation;” “The Millennium;” and “The Great White Throne Judgment.”

**So, dispensations are a necessary part of analyzing Scripture for the correct interpretation.** Denominations who deny the dispensational approach to the interpretation of Scripture cannot rightly divide the Word of Truth (2 Timothy 2:15).

#### NEW TESTAMENT CHRONOLOGY

The books of the New Testament were written during the period from about 45A.D. to around 96 A.D.

The New Testament includes twenty-seven books written by eight different authors over a fifty-year period. They may be divided in four divisions:

- 1). The four Gospels;
- 2). The book of Acts which records the history of the beginning of the Church and the spread of Christianity throughout the Greco-Roman world at that time;
- 3). The twenty-one epistles (letters) beginning with Romans and continuing through Jude which show the development of the doctrines of the Church;
- 4). The book of Revelations is the last book and describes the ultimate triumph of Jesus Christ over evil (Satan).

#### "COSMOS DIABOLICUS"

The term “cosmos diabolicus” means: “characteristic of the devil,” or the "Devil's world." In the original Greek of the New Testament we find the word “world” many times such as in 1 John 2:15. The word for world is “kosmos,” from which, in English, we get “cosmic” or “cosmos,” usually translated world. Kosmos in the Greek describes an orderly, cohesive system or organization with a definite purpose, policy, and structured authority, **designed to subvert the thinking of the human race**. Cosmos is civilization functioning apart from God, which we also term “secularism.” Cosmos is the intellect of man that refuses to ascribe causativity to God. It is the anti-Christ sphere in which man lives. Lewis Sperry Chafer first coined “Cosmos Diabolicus” in his book “Systematic Theology” (Dallas Seminary press), 1947. Remember the believer is “in” the world, but not “of” the world. *“For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father but is of the world,”* 1 John 2:16. Worldliness is human! Human viewpoint is – cosmic viewpoint. Christianity through Biblical authority is Divine Viewpoint God’s heavenly point of view!

The Bible strongly admonishes believers to resist cosmic thinking: *“Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever,”* 1 John 2:15 (see also James 4:4). From birth to death we are all bombarded by Satan’s propaganda. God’s Truth is the believer’s defense mechanism against Satan’s diabolical system (John 8:32; 14:6).

#### SATANIC INFLUENCE IN THE WORLD

After the fall of Adam, Satan became the ruler of this world. His counterfeit philosophies of life and religions are his strategies to deceive and confuse believers and unbelievers alike. Satan has a counterfeit system for God’s Plan. Satan is anti-Christ and behind everything that is anti-God. He has a counterfeit plan for the ministry of the Holy Spirit which is the purpose of this detailed study. His plan is one of deceit and derailment. All of Satan’s strategies have one thing in common “arrogance.” Arrogance is anti-Christ. He is the most arrogant creature in the universe (Isaiah 14:12-14). Arrogance is preoccupation with self. (Do you know anybody who thinks the

world revolves around them?) Other characteristics of satanic deceit are antagonism, hatred, hostility toward grace and truth. Terrorism is definitely a satanic movement in these last days. Satan's time is running out and hate toward God's Church will and is intensifying just before the return of Christ.

Satan's world system has powerful influence over mankind because it appeals to man's human nature - greed, pride, lust and deceit. Satan's cosmic system embraces governments, education, culture and religion. It is hatred for Christianity and Christ. It is the evil politics of separation of Church and State. It is the mentality that kicks God out of Schools and attempts to erase any sign of God from our culture and the world. Americans especially believers are allowing Satan's influence to remove God from society. Satanic influence is very subtle. Our freedom and our rights in America are slowly being taken away from us because Satan has infiltrated every facet of our liberal society. Americans are so busy with self, blinded by the bright lights of deceit in a sensate culture.

## RELIGIOUS LEGALISM

Superficial human thinking is one of Satan's greatest weapons because he is able to use religious bullying and legalism such as the taboos of smoking, drinking, dancing, going to movies, or other activities that shock the legalistic Christians. He keeps the legalist focused on so-called "worldliness" involving taboos rather than the freedoms that accompany salvation. In other words he is very successful through human viewpoint legalism in counterfeiting **works** as the means of salvation. Hypocrites owe their snobbery and self-righteousness to their own inherent human nature. **Spiritual inferiority and spiritual superiority are manifestations of spiritual immaturity.**

Are you aware that every religion in the world promotes works and human merit for salvation? Do you understand that Christianity is not a religion? If you are a believer in Jesus Christ then your relationship with God has been provided by Christ's substitutionary death on the Cross. Christianity is a relationship with God whereby God does the work of salvation to save his creation. The result is every born-again believer becomes a child of God (John 1:12). Every other religion in the world attempts to credit man as responsible for his own salvation. Christianity is Grace (salvation) by faith. Religion is salvation by works.

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS

### JESUS BESTOWS CERTAIN GIFTS ON HIS CHOSEN APOSTLES

Matthew 10:1 *"And having summoned His twelve disciples, Christ gave them authority over unclean spirits [demons], to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness."* The twelve disciples thus went forth as messianic heralds **to the house of Israel**. Jesus warned them that they would be subject to political and religious opposition and even persecution. (Matthew 10:17-18; 23-26). Jesus encouraged them to persevere regardless of adversity (Matthew 10:19-31). These same exhortations apply to us today. These gifts were

temporary because they were designed *to affirm Messiah*. The Lord warned them not to become side tracked by the miracles, but to remain focused on their objective: *“Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven”* (Luke 10:20). **Salvation was more important than any of the gifts.**

## DEMON POSSESSION

Demon possession and influence was extremely active during the Age of Israel. It was still very active during the incarnation of Christ and immediately thereafter during the infancy of the Church. Satan was causing tremendous problems for new believers and the disciples everywhere they went to proclaim the Gospel – he still causes problems for the Church and believers today and he always will until Christ defeats him at the appointed time in the future.

## CASTING OUT DEMONS

Demons know who Christ is (Luke 4:41).

**Unique to the apostolic era**, the “casting out of demons” was characteristic of the authority and power of **Jesus Christ** over demons. This gift terminated by the end of the first century. No one since the first century has had the gift of casting out demons! Here is a very important point to remember: there is no verse of scripture in the Epistles containing mandates or examples for casting out demons. This occurred only in the four Gospels.

**The best solution for casting out demon possession in the unbeliever is faith in Jesus Christ for salvation!** At the moment of salvation the possessed person is instantly freed from any demon, simultaneously baptized by the Holy Spirit into union with Christ and indwelt by all three members of the Trinity. Satan and the Trinity do not occupy the same person. Therefore the demon is cast out permanently at salvation. Baptism of the Spirit is not a separate function from salvation because we are all baptized into one body (Christ’s) and sealed the split second we believe. The Holy Spirit, apart from any so-called second blessing, accomplishes this. Baptism of the Spirit is the sealing ministry of the Holy Spirit whereby He places the new believer in union with Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:12-13; 4:30).

**There are only three bona fide means for removal of demons:**

- 1). Satan’s personal intervention or trickery (Matthew 12:24).
- 2). Divine intervention (Mark 5:8).
- 3). When a person believes the Gospel message and is indwelt by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19).

**Please note:** The Disciple's ability to cast out demons was never available to every believer. It was just that – gifts from our Lord to the apostles and the seventy other disciples, at that time for that particular period in history. So, when you hear or see pastors or evangelists or anyone casting out demons, they are counterfeit in their actions and their claims. **They are not of the original disciples and are therefore false teachers and anti-Christ.** They are “pawns of

demons” and they think they are Disciples of Christ with special gifts from the Holy Spirit. They are well meaning but dead wrong.

#### CAN BELIEVERS FALL PREY TO DEMON POSSESSION?

**NO! ABSOLUTE NOT!** Only unbelievers are vulnerable. In every case of demon possession in the Bible without exception the possessed are **unbelievers**. Christians need never fear being **possessed** or controlled by a malicious spirit. If you have ever been exposed to a person who claimed to be a believer and at the same time claimed they were possessed by a demon, there is only one possible answer: impossible! Either the person was not a believer or not possessed! If the person foamed at the mouth and did horrible things, they were psychotic or possessed, **but they were not saved**. If they were saved, then they are psychotic and should seek psychiatric help.

#### TEMPORARY GIFTS

What is a spiritual gift?

A spiritual gift is defined by two words. The first is in 1 Corinthians 12:1 where Paul tells the Corinthians of his desire to dispel their ignorance concerning “spiritual gifts.” Note the word *gifts* is in italics, which means it has no counterpart in the original manuscript. The word *spiritual* is plural and translates *pneumatikon*. This emphasizes the source of the gift as the Holy Spirit. We may therefore, conclude that a spiritual gift is from the source of God, not man. A spiritual gift is a God-given ability to function in harmony as individuals in the body of Christ. Spirituality and spiritual gifts are not the same.

One of the temporary gifts bestowed by our Lord was the gift of Apostle, which included with it the ability to perform miracles as in Ephesians 4:11a. (See also 2 Corinthians 12:12.) “*The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.*”

**When the last apostle (John) died in A.D. 96 the gifts given to the apostles ceased.**

The Holy Spirit gave *spectacular gifts for the growth of the Church and to authenticate the disciples*. In 1 Corinthians Chapters 12-14, these gifts are “*spiritual enablements*” for specific service by believers for the Church and evangelism of unbelievers. In Ephesians 4:11 these gifts are “men” enabled by the Holy Spirit for service. So, the Holy Spirit bestows “gifts” for service to men, while Christ gives “gifted men” to the Church.

In 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, these gifts were wisdom, knowledge, healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues and interpretation of tongues. In 1 Corinthians 12:29-30 they were gifts of healing, miracles, prophesy, discerning of spirits, tongues, apostles, teachers, helps and administration. In Romans 12:6-8 these gifts were prophesy, teaching, leadership, and ministry; encouraging, giving, and showing mercy. In Ephesians 4:11 they were apostles and prophets; evangelists and pastor/teachers.

In Hebrews 2:4 we read, “*God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders* (Acts

2:43; 2 Corinthians 12:2), and with diverse miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.” God always answers prayer according to His will! In this verse we read that God gave these spectacular gifts to authenticate the Disciples. (See also Mark 16:20 & Acts 2:22.)

**It is extremely important to keep in mind that Jesus Christ Himself was the revelation of Grace because He fulfilled the law (John 1:17). Jesus Christ as Deity is the personification of Grace.**

In Hebrews 2:4 the revelation of Grace is in contrast to law, which is something totally new to the Jew (Israel) who had always lived under the law because no one had ever fulfilled the obligations of the law – but our wonderful Savior did and that is why mankind can now be saved. The Holy Spirit during this transitional time confirmed the authority of the disciples by “signs and wonders.” Prophecy and miracles; healing and tongues; and casting out demons, were **temporary** (1 Corinthians 13:8-10; 14:21-22).

#### THE PRIMARY REASON FOR THE GIFT OF TONGUES

The apostles and disciples, in order to witness the Gospel of Christ, had to be able to speak the diverse **gentile languages** of the Jews who were gathered from many countries to celebrate the feasts of “Passover,” “Unleavened Bread” and “First Fruits.” “Pentecost” was the Jewish name for “The Feast of Weeks” which celebrated harvest time each year (Exodus 3:16). Thousands of Jews came to worship. So, the Holy Spirit empowered the disciples to speak in foreign tongues, which they did not know. The Holy Spirit also gave the gift of interpretation so that those who did not speak a particular language could understand what was spoken (1 Corinthians 14). An interpreter, who interpreted so everyone could understand, regulated tongues. Tongues in Acts are human languages, whereas in 1 Corinthians tongues are either heavenly or angelic languages. In either case “tongues” were languages. In Acts 2:4 the Greek word translated tongues is *dialectos*, which is the word for language – known language. It is our word dialect.

**Tongues in Scripture is always a foreign, human language, never ecstatic speech.**

Paul stressed again in 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, as he did in 1 Corinthians chapters 12 & 14, that there were amongst the believers in the church at Corinth “deceitful workers” imitating the apostles, appearing as angels of light when in reality they were Satan’s ministers in counterfeit. We have exactly this same false practice occurring today just as in the first century - “deceitful workers” imitating the disciples. Unfortunately well-meaning believers are involved in demon influence or psychotic suggestion. Some are religious **unbelievers** “possessed” by demons.

Please note: The gift of Tongues in 1 Corinthians 12 was also a sign of God’s impending judgment on the Jews at Jerusalem (Leviticus 26:14-29; Acts 2:14-41).

#### SUMMARY OF TONGUES

1). Prophecy of tongues is found in Isaiah (28:8-11).

A). a warning to the Jews of pending judgment of God unless they repent from idolatry and immorality (Leviticus 26:14-39; Acts 2:14-41).

B). Purpose of the warning: to turn the coming judgment from God into blessing if the Jews would turn from idolatry, apostasy and hypocrisy. Note: Sin was paid for by the Messiah on the Cross, and regeneration was available to both Jew and Gentile. The Jews had rejected their Messiah and now they were rejecting His Truth as presented by the Apostles. Therefore, God would bring judgment (destruction) in 70 A.D.

2). The initial fulfillment of the prophecy of Tongues is found in (Acts 2:11).

3). Fulfillment interpreted (1 Corinthians 14:21, 22).

4). Tongues were to be temporary (1 Corinthians 13:8-10).

5). The regulation of tongues (1 Corinthians 14; especially verse 33).

6). Tongues were being abused. This is one of the reasons why Paul wrote First Corinthians (1 Corinthians 1:1-18 and Chapter 12). The same apostasy exists today which is why this study is being written. History definitely repeats itself because human nature is the same in every generation.

7). The Jewish Age was ending and would end with the destruction (judgment of the Jews) of Jerusalem by the forces of Titus in A. D. 70. Therefore, tongues were discontinued after the fall of Jerusalem (1 Corinthians 13:8-10).

#### APOSTASY PREDICTED

Our Lord warned that during the period, **while the Church is being formed and all through the Church Age**, many would reject His Gospel. Many others would pretend to believe (without true conversion) and would become a source of corruption and hindrance. (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-40, 47-49). See Paul's exhortations in 2 Thessalonians 2:5-8; 1 Timothy 4:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:1; 4:3-4. See also: 2 Peter 2:1-2; 1 John 2:18-20.

**More and more believers today are becoming disoriented to Truth because they are not being taught Truth from God's Word. Scriptural Truth gives the believer Divine Viewpoint by which un-truth is exposed! When God's Truths are not consistently proclaimed from the pulpit and metabolized by the believer, apostasy and doctrines of demons inevitably fill the void!**

Many believe we are now living in the "last days" and they cite the increase of false doctrine, the resurgence of tongues, false healing, slain in the spirit, demon possession, immorality and apostasy as their reasons. In 2 Timothy 3:1-13, Paul describes the people we find in our generation today. Be sure to read these verses and think about the present generation of young people - teenagers in particular. How many do you know personally, today, that are self-centered, lazy, high minded (bound and determined to do things their way), proud, lovers of pleasure, disobedient, trucebreakers (liars), corrupt minded (con-artists, deceiving and being

deceived), having a form of godliness but denying the power of God by refusing to submit. *“For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul,”* Mark 8:36.

We all tend to think we have plenty of time before we die especially young people. But, think about this: every day the average person inhales about 25,000 times. The average heart beats about 100,000 times. There is no guarantee of the next breath or the next heart beat. If you are ever going to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, maybe you better do it now. Trust His suffering death in your place and be saved (John 3:36).

In Ephesians 4:27 Paul tells us not to *“give place to the devil.”* The devil is real! His messengers are real! False prophets and false healers are real! **From such stay away!**

Paul then exhorts us as believers to learn Truth in Ephesians 4:15-6:20. In fact all of Paul’s teaching centers around instruction in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

### ECSTATIC EXPERIENCES AND EMOTIONALISM

People who live by their emotions are especially susceptible to demonic influence and psychotic suggestion. These same emotional well-meaning people want a sign (proof) that they are saved or spiritual. They want it so much, that they become either their own victim by self-induced hypnotic suggestion or the victim of satanic deceit or both. Psychotic suggestion is a very strong urge that causes the mind to trick or deceive itself. It opens the door to demon-influenced activity of believers and demonic possession in religious unbelievers.

Both immature believers and unbelievers become prime candidates for ecstatic experiences. For example: those who practice or have experienced the laying on of hands and praying with the anointing of holy oil may have been involved in an ecstatic experience that went something like this: “the Holy Spirit came upon me;” “the Holy Spirit gave me peace that went through my whole body;” “I was zapped and when I realized what happened I was lying on the floor unable to speak;” “the Holy Spirit was there, I know He was there, I could feel Him.” Sound familiar? No matter how real it was; or how good you felt; or how much peace filled you; or how horrifying it was; the experience was psychotic or demonic or both!

#### **Here is why:**

- 1). *God does not operate by emotion or ecstasies no matter how many people prayed over you.*
- 2). *Ecstasies is counterfeit to the Gospel of Christ and especially the filling of the Holy Spirit.*

Demons can be very tricky and very misleading because **they are masters of deceit and delusion. Satan hooks the well-meaning and unsuspecting by the bait of deceit.** The tragedy is that from these experiences people become totally convinced that the Holy Spirit came upon them and no one will ever change their mind. Listen, the Holy Spirit doesn’t come upon you! **The Holy Spirit is in you if you are a believer.** If you are not a believer, then it is demonic influence or even possession that has come upon you. The Holy Spirit will never leave you and He doesn’t zap you or prove Himself to you. You do not need proof of the Holy Spirit - **you need faith!**

When experience contradicts the Bible then the Word of God must take precedence!

## EXORCISM

Acts 19:11-16 God exposes the pagan ritual of exorcism by an itinerant band of unbelieving Jewish exorcists who were using oaths to adjure or implore demons. Religious incantations are not only pagan they are demon trickery. Jesus and His followers never exorcised a demon! Jesus “cast out” demons by His **command** and so did the disciples. The original Koine of the New Testament uses two different words to describe “exorcism” and “to cast out” **and the Greek word for exorcism is never used when referring to Christ or the disciples.** False teachers using the name of Christ were performing counterfeit exorcisms based on pagan rituals of incantation in the first century of the early Church. False teachers have been around since that time deceiving and being deceived, but their deceit caught up with them in Acts 19:11-19. *“And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; **but who are you?**”* Demons know who Christ is - do you? Demons know who the true Disciples of Christ are such as Paul – do you? If you are looking for proof of your faith – there is none because you have none (faith)! If you are looking for signs that you are saved or spiritual, stop looking and believe! Be warned if you need a sign – you are looking for proof! Satan has an army of false prophets and demons with counterfeit proof. You need to get away from these ecstatic experiences before something really bad happens to you and those involved in these ludicrous activities.

## EXORCISM IS NOT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!

The illegitimate practice of exorcism by both believers and religious unbelievers is Satanic. Believers caught in this trap by their own seemingly very real experience **become pawns** of demon influence and they are either afraid to tell anyone what happened or they become witnesses for the devil – “Devils Witnesses.” If you witnessed a demon leaving another person, it was not the work or power of the Holy Spirit! It was counterfeit demonic trickery or psychotic suggestion. If a person who claims salvation by faith in Christ performs one of these so called Holy Spirit miracles, or is involved in any way with so called exorcism they are out of line with Scripture. From such stay away! Get away! Stay away! You are involving yourself with demons.

**Sometimes well-meaning people, after they have experienced one of these ecstatic phenomena’s, come down from the high of ecstasies and become so depressed that they just want to take their own life. Other people have had mental problems and some have lost their minds because of the traumatic effects and the roller coaster emotional ecstasies of demon influence. When you mess with phenomena beyond your knowledge of Scripture you are headed for serious trouble. Demonism is real! No matter how well intended people are, they can end up dead wrong!!**

Every believer is commanded to remain on the defensive against Satan and his demon army. However, nowhere in scripture are we told to go on the offensive and get involved in false anointing, exorcism or zapping (slain) by the Spirit.

## ANOINTING

Anointing in the Bible, or pouring of oil on a person's head, was a common practice in Bible Times among Jewish people. A person was sometimes anointed to set him apart for a particular service. King Saul was anointed as King (1 Samuel 8:4-22; 10:1). Samuel anointed David as King (1 Samuel 16:1-13). Solomon was anointed as David's successor in (1 Kings 1:39). Prophets acting on God's behalf anointed these kings, called "anointed ones". During anointing, the person usually knelt as oil was poured on the head. The oil was usually olive oil, myrrh, or sweet cinnamon.

Jesus was God's "anointed one" which meant "Messiah." Jesus was the one foretold by Prophets in the Old Testament (Psalms 45:7; Isaiah 61:1). Mary of Bethany anointed Jesus with perfume on His head before He went to the Cross (Mark 14:3-19). This was a sign that Jesus had fulfilled His purpose as God's special messenger to Israel and the world and now He would give His life for the people He loves so much – you and me. In the New Testament anointing was frequently used in connection with healing (Mark 6:13; James 5:13-16). Prayers for healing, with or without the anointing of oil, are answered (in a positive or negative way) by God. God always answers our prayers, but not necessarily when we want, the way we want, nor at the time we want. All prayer must be in the will of God (1 John 5:14). God does not always think that it is best to be healed (cf. 2 Corinthians 12:8; 2 Timothy 4:20). Here the healing is dependent on confession of sin. Anointing for the believer since the first century is not necessary because the believer is anointed at salvation.

## FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Confession of sin (1 John 1:9) is the mechanics for the filling of the Spirit (not indwelling, but filling). The results of being filled with the Spirit are the fruit of the spirit. *"For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth proving what is acceptable to the Lord and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things, which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light (of scripture); for whatever doeth make manifest is light (doctrine is light), Ephesians 5:9-13. The true manifestations of the filling of the spirit are not ecstasies, but, rather, "the fruits" of the spirit found in Galatians 5:22).*

God's answer to false doctrine and doctrines of demons is the "whole armor of God" Ephesians 6:10-18). Therefore you must learn Bible Doctrine every day. Study, study, study!

## SPIRITUAL WARFARE

We are warriors in spiritual warfare and the adversary (Satan) is a superior enemy, crafty in strategy and shrouded in mystery. Ephesians 4:22-23; 6:13-17. See also James 4:6-7 and 1 Peter 5:8-9a. Remember, the battleground of spiritual warfare is the soul. Your very soul is under attack and therefore, when you mess with demon-influenced activities looking for a sign of the

Holy Spirit **you are stepping into darkness** (Ephesians 5:11).

#### LOVE – THE MOTIVATING FACTOR OF THE SPIRIT FILLED LIFE

Addicts Need The Love Of God! You Need The Love Of God!

We All Need The Love Of God!

Believers can express their love for one another by holding hands or placing their hands on one another. There is however no special power in so doing. God does not answer prayer because we place our hands on one another or hold hands. **God answers prayer based on His Integrity, His Plan and His Will!** The believer is already anointed by the Holy Spirit at the point of salvation. But just as baptism by water on the head or by immersion does **not** save, so oil has no special power. When immature or apostate believers and religious unbelievers get involved they often change the intended meaning of Scripture into an unintended practice.

#### ADDICTIONS

In Ephesians 5: 7-13 (NASB) Paul exhorts the Ephesians; *“Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness (before salvation), but now (after salvation) you are light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things, which are done by men in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.”* In verses 17-18 Paul adds, *“So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Holy Spirit.”* The believer is filled with the Holy Spirit by naming their personal sins as commanded in I John 1:9. When the believer is filled with the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit controls and empowers us to do God’s will.

The soul of man is designed to receive God’s Love! Addiction is the frantic search for God’s Love by the inner man. It is the soul searching for its soul-maker in all the wrong places. Drugs, alcohol, ecstasics, etc., are the sub-conscious attempt to fill the love-void in man’s soul.

Drunkenness, drugs and ecstasics take control from you and from God, therefore, they are subversion. ***They counterfeit the filling of the Holy Spirit.*** Drunkenness, drugs and ecstasics are addictive. The best high and the best addiction you’ll ever experience are Christ and filling of the Holy Spirit. Be addicted to the filling of the Holy Spirit and the habitual study of God’s Word and you will never again need any other addiction. To stay in control - stay in fellowship!

All addictions are manifestations of a deep hunger and inherent need in man’s soul for God. If you know an addict then you know a person who is frantically searching for God and probably doesn’t even know it or doesn’t care to know it. He is filling the void in his life with all the wrong stuff. The addict is living a pseudo-life, deceiving himself and being deceived. The addict needs Christ! The prisoner in prison needs Christ! The world needs Christ! *“Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us (Trinity)?’ Then I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’”*

If an addict receives Christ as Savior and then eventually falls back to drugs it is because He has not taken enough dosages of God's Word and has not remained filled with the Spirit long enough to learn the joy of the fruit of the Spirit. He has not become intimate with the Lord and the Lord's Word. He has not learned to relax in the spirit. Salvation is the first step. Confession of sin everyday is the second step. Learning God's Word is the third step. The fourth step is the same as the first three steps, over and over and over. This becomes the new addiction. Christ becomes the fulfillment of the soul. We all must stay positive (addicted) to God our Savior! This is God's authorized addiction for humanity. Love is addictive! It takes time to undo years of bad habits and addiction to self. But, over time, in His perfect time, God by His wonderful Word will give you inner happiness. We can only be happy by inner happiness from God, which is produced by the Holy Spirit as fruit for the soul (Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 5:9). The result of fruit is inward to the soul and outward to a lost and dying world. If you are a recovering addict you need the daily support and fellowship of other believers; a good local church with strong Bible teaching from the pulpit. Most of all you need the Love and forgiveness of God through Jesus Christ. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31a).

#### TEMPORARY GIFTS SUMMARY

- 1). The Gentile or Church Age began with the coming of the Holy Spirit. This was a pivotal, transitional period in the history of God's dealing with man. It was a "changing of the Guard" (if you will) after the Jews rejection of Messiah (Acts 2:3-11; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 19:2-7).
- 2). Satan was very active during this transitional period just as he was during the Incarnation, Cross, Resurrection and Ascension of Christ. This is when the Holy Spirit gave the spiritual gifts (Ephesians 4:8). They were given on the Day of Pentecost to begin the Church Age (Acts 2). He will increase his activity to this same and even greater intensity just before the return of Christ. This is why Tongues and miracles and healing are on the increase today 1 Thessalonians Chapter 2).
- 3). Temporary gifts (pre-canon) such as apostleship, prophecy, healing, laying-on of hands and miracles were removed (circa A.D. 96), (Acts 19:11, 12) compared with Philippians 2:27; 2 Timothy 4:20). They were necessary to take up the slack in the initial period of the infant Church until God completed the canon of scripture in A.D. 96. Today, the Tongues Movement and the Baptism of the Spirit movement are false doctrine and counterfeit to the Gospel of Christ and the Spirit filled life of the believer.
- 4). Permanent gifts of teaching, administration and evangelism are still in effect today Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:31). The purpose of these gifts is delineated in (Ephesians 4:11-13). The authority is established in Hebrews (13:7 &17).
- 5). Spiritual gifts are necessary and vital for each believer so that the Body of Christ in each local community can function under the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit (Act 2:4; 1 Corinthians 1:13; 12:27-31). Every believer has at least one gift from the Holy Spirit so that each of us can do our part together in the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:11. At the point of salvation the

Holy Spirit gives spiritual gift (s) to the new believer. The gift of Pastor/teacher, for example, is given at Salvation. Pastor means leadership. Teacher means teaching God's Word by intense preparation in study.

6). The true function of spiritual gifts is love (1 Corinthians 12: 1-14, 40).

### THE PERFECT WORD OF GOD

In the original language, in 1 Corinthians 13:10 "That which is perfect" – is a nominative singular, NEUTER GENDER, indicating a "thing" not a person. Some scholars believe "that which is perfect" is referring to Christ, but because of the grammatical usage in the original Greek signature this assumption is erroneous. Therefore, the reference is to "The Perfect Word of God" and refers to the replacement of the temporary gifts by God's Word now written in Gentile language (the Koine Greek).

### CLOSING ARGUMENTS

Anyone who claims to possess the gifts of apostleship, prophecy, miracles, healing, slain in the spirit, exorcism or tongues, etc., **is apostate and reversionistic**. They are tampering with demonic forces and satanic influence. The forces of evil are real!

*"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord,' did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles? And then I will declare to them, I never knew you; depart from Me, ye who practice lawlessness,"* (Matthew 7:21-23).

God's Word exposes false doctrine, which so easily besets the immature believer who looks for an emotional experience as a sign of spiritual maturity or divine guidance.

### **An ecstatic experience does not make one spiritual and is not an indicator of the Holy Spirit's leading!**

Some pastors who have experienced the "slain in the spirit" phenomenon believe it is of the Holy Spirit. They have forgotten that God does not operate by emotion or ecstasies. God is the aggressor – we are the responders. Our soul is designed to respond to God and Bible Doctrine. By response we are talking about appreciation and compassion not ecstasies.

Slain in the spirit is never God's answer to prayers and God does not lead us by zapping us! God leads us by His Spirit through Bible Doctrine in the soul. If you were slain in the spirit and thought for sure this was God's leading you to a particular ministry or calling you are wrong. The experience may have been coincidental and therefore you viewed it as a spiritual affirmation from God, but in reality it was not God's leading. Scripture, no where states that God will zap you by His Spirit so that you can know that he has called you to a particular ministry or that you

are being healed!

## EXHORTATIONS

In Ephesians 4:14, Paul states, *“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, by which they lie in wait to deceive.”* Paul is speaking about emotion and pettiness and our lack of knowledge of God’s word. He is exhorting us to grow up in the Lord by learning Bible Doctrine. Your emotions change from moment to moment (this is the “tossed to and fro”). Therefore, emotional thinking is wrong. Emotional thinking causes your faith to waver becoming like a ship at sea tossed to and fro. Emotion is designed by God to respond to God. If you are emotional, you have great capacity to respond to God. But you must learn to control your emotion so the Holy Spirit can control your thinking through metabolized doctrine.

Ecstatic experiences are demonstrations of a **lack of faith** not **proof of faith**. You must learn Truth to recognize un-truth! Understanding what the scripture teaches enables the believer to avoid illegitimate and sensational practices. Therefore your best weapon to combat evil and your own human nature is Bible Doctrine (Ephesians 6:10-17).

## ALWAYS BE CROSS-MINDED

Stay near the Cross – always be Cross-minded! Stay filled with the Spirit by self-judgment. Self-judgment is the conviction of the Holy Spirit based on Bible Doctrine in your soul. You must stay in fellowship by application of 1 John 1:9! Stay in God’s Word! Stay away from ecstatic experiences.

In Ephesians 4:1– 6:20 listen to the Holy Spirit and the love expressed through the exhortations of Paul for believers. **We must have love or we have nothing. We must have hope or we have nothing. We must have Christ or we have nothing!**

Our closing exhortation is found in 2 Timothy 4:1-18 where we read the heart-felt love of Paul. Paul was God’s faithful servant to the very end. He knew his time on earth was ending and he faced death with inner peace. You can face life with this same inner peace. Read these verses until you know them by heart and go to them all your life in your soul whenever things get tuff.

If you do not hunger for the Word of God it can only be because you do not have room in your heart for Christ. There is only the world apart from Christ? Amen!

Happy Studying!