

THE FATAL FLAWS OF CHARISMANIA – CONCLUSION

Several critics of Charismania have described the Pentecostal/Charismatic perspective as “truth mixed with error.” I whole heartedly agree! In writing this extensive critique, it has not been my intention to impugn the validity of any individual’s conversion experience within the Pentecostal or Charismatic movement. When Paul confronted the false and heretical teachings of Philetus and Hymenaeus in 2 Timothy 2:14-18, he mitigated his indictment of them in 2 Timothy 2:19 –

“Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, ‘The Lord knows those who are His,’ and ‘Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.’”

There are undoubtedly many genuine followers of our Savior within this movement, as with any other Evangelical group. In so many ways, their love for the Lord is manifestly evident. However, this does not excuse the obvious lack of discernment (Philippians 1:9), that has characterized individuals caught up in this perspective. There is a sense in which they have **“. . . a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge”** (Romans 10:2). Perhaps this is why more and more sincere Christians are leaving Pentecostal and Charismatic churches. Many have become disillusioned with the priority given to emotion at the expense of reason and common sense. Yet, when personal experience, rather than the Word of God, becomes the primary barometer for determining what is true, such a compromise of one’s intellect becomes inevitable.

In regard to the issue of the miraculous signs and wonders of the apostolic era ceasing to be normative for the remainder of the Church Age, there is an exception to that rule. Namely, the sovereignty of God in orchestrating the events of this world in manner which He deems best. So, if our Lord, in order to further His cause, in building His Church, at a specific moment in time, in a particular area of our world, temporarily manifests signs and wonders among a people who are in need of His salvation, who am I to question that? Yet, that does not change the fact that an over-all cessation of those normative manifestations, has taken place in concluding the apostolic era. Any non-normative and occasional expression of those signs and wonders, should be viewed as the exceptions which prove that very rule. This truth cannot be overlooked or misunderstood. Those signs and wonders have ceased to be “normal” occurrences, as in the days of the apostles.

My sincere desire in this study has consisted of questioning the doctrinal integrity and spiritual discernment of those who are the primary proponents of these flawed teachings. Hopefully, this examination of Pentecostal/Charismatic belief and practice will serve the purpose of providing confirmation for some who have made a decision to leave that community of believers for their lack of sound doctrine. Perhaps this analysis will also assist others who are still in that circle of influence, and are beginning to see the error of those ways. At the very least, I am certain this work will be an encouragement to those who are not at all a part of this movement, but have been intimidated into believing they are second class citizens in the kingdom of God; for not embracing the aberrant practices of the Pentecostal/Charismatic belief system. As a child of God, you are nothing of the kind. We all possess a perfectly equal standing in the sight of God, solely based on our position in Christ. And that position in Christ has its source in the unconditional love, unmerited grace and undeserved mercy of God, which you received as a free gift, when you placed your trust in Jesus Christ and His redemptive work on your behalf.