

THE FATAL FLAWS OF CHARISMANIA – Fatal Flaw #10: Substituting the Objective Truth of God’s Word with Our Flawed Personal and Subjective Experience

Sin has had a devastating impact upon our earthly existence. Physically, we suffer, grow old and die. Emotionally, we are vulnerable to sorrow and hopelessness. Psychologically, who among us can say that they are completely normal? Mentally, our search for truth falls short in a multitude of personal opinions. In spite of it all, God has shown us mercy in the midst of our lost and fallen condition. First, He has provided us with a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who has accomplished our redemption. Second, God has given us His Word, so that we can know and understand His plan and purpose for our lives. So, how dare we trust in the unreliable subjectivity of our personal experience? Or, have we forgotten the admonition of the prophet in Isaiah 55:8-9?

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ declares the Lord. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.’”

Our innate ability to discover truth has been so corrupted by sin, that the chasm between subjective experience and objective truth is as wide as the distance between heaven and earth. So, what have Pentecostals and Charismatics done to bridge the gap? When their personal experience doesn’t square with the Word of God, they pervert and twist the Scriptures in order to validate their personal experience. On those occasions where their personal experiences deteriorate into delusional fantasies which cannot be harmonized with the Bible, the Pentecostal/Charismatic solution is simple. They contrive this sham of a reality, whereby God is giving fresh revelation to His people by means of a new generation of apostles and prophets; completely ignoring Ephesians 2:19-22; Jude 3, as well as the warning issued in Revelation 22:18-19. The admonition of Jeremiah 14:14 has never been more applicable than here and now –

“Then the Lord said to me, ‘The prophets are prophesying falsehood in My name. I have neither sent them nor commanded them nor spoken to them; they are prophesying to you a false vision, divination, futility and the deception of their own minds.’”

While it is true that the promise of the Holy Spirit indwelling every believer means that we, as Christians, will be guided into all the truth (John 16:13); that guidance will never contradict the Word of God, which has been authored by the very same Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21). If your subjective spiritual encounters, in thought, word or deed, are not in harmony with the Bible, then those personal experiences do not have their source in God, no matter how emotionally attached you may be to those events. These subjective experiences have caused many in this movement to turn away from a relationship with God based on sound doctrine. They have gone astray from the objective truth of Scripture, in favor of a subjective reality of their own making.

This is **“FATAL FLAW #10**, which has taken hold of the Pentecostal/Charismatic perspective. It virtually guarantees the negative direction of this movement into ever-worsening heresies of belief and practice. If you have never embraced Pentecostal/Charismatic doctrine and practice, be encouraged! You are not a second-class citizen in the kingdom of God. If you have left this movement in favor of a relationship with God based on sound doctrine, rest assured. You, along with many others, have made the right decision. On the other hand, if you are still engulfed in a flood of false teaching, it is time for you to ENGAGE with your common sense (Isaiah 1:18), ESCAPE the snare of the devil (2 Timothy 2:26), EXIT spiritual childhood (1 Corinthians 13:11), and ENTER into the spiritual adulthood which God desires for every Christian (Ephesians 4:14-16).