

THE FATAL FLAWS OF CHARISMANIA – Fatal Flaw #1

Failing to Understand How Jesus Christ Has Been Building His Church

In the construction of a building, the process begins with laying a strong and solid foundation. Once that is established, the structural aspects of the building project can proceed. Even if the edifice in question requires twenty floors, one thing is certain, the foundation of that building only needs to be laid once. When the apostle Peter makes his profession of faith in Jesus as Israel's Messiah, it is followed by an awesome promise from our Lord in Matthew 16:17-18 –

“And Jesus said to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.’”

Jesus was announcing the existence of what would become a new spiritual entity, serving as God's instrument in fulfilling His redemptive purpose for our world. Most will agree that the birth of Christ's Church occurred on the day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2. It was a new beginning in God's plan of salvation for the entire world (Acts 11:15-18); commonly referred to as the Church Age. Yet, those who are of the Pentecostal/Charismatic persuasion have overlooked the basic fact that the Church Age has always consisted of two phases. The “foundational” phase initiated the process, which in turn laid the groundwork for the “structural” phase. What is true for the building of a physical structure is equally true for the building of Christ's Church. As a result, there is no need whatsoever for a new foundation to be laid upon twenty centuries of spiritually structural growth. This important distinction is confirmed to us by the apostle Paul in Ephesians 2:19-22 –

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the FOUNDATION (emphasis added) of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you are also being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.”

Paul doesn't stop there. Recognition of this building principle is also critical in our service for Christ. He warns every individual in Christian ministry about taking care to contribute to the building project of Christ's Church in a specific manner. So that in 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, he writes: **“According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”** Our service for Christ must be carried out in conjunction with our Savior's redemptive work. It is the one and only foundation for the building of His Church. Apart from that basic premise for Christian ministry, Paul doesn't hesitate, in v12, to label any other service as wood, hay and straw.

FATAL FLAW #1 of Pentecostal/Charismatic teaching, consists of their failure to recognize this all-important distinction within our Savior's building project known as the Church Age. God's plan of salvation was fulfilled by Jesus Christ's death, burial and resurrection on behalf of a lost and fallen human race. It was then followed up by the apostolic era of ministry during the first century, for confirming the validity of what Jesus has accomplished for us all, as indicated in Hebrews 2:3-4 (cf. Matthew 9:1-8). This has become the never to be repeated FOUNDATION for the building of Christ's Church, and the advancement of the cause of our Savior throughout our world, ever since.