

CONCERNING REVIVAL MEETINGS & ANSWERS TO COMMON QUESTIONS REGARDING REACTIONS TO THE MANIFEST (TANGIBLE) PRESENCE OF HOLY SPIRIT

INTRODUCTION: During the last 29 years, I have pursued, studied, experienced, many revivals, outpourings of the Holy Spirit, moves of the Holy Spirit, spiritual renewals or Holy Spirit meetings. These are all semantics for when God comes and tangibly touches us with His very self in a way that registers on our senses and many times others can perceive with theirs.

I have stumbled into learning a few things by experience and then found it in the scripture. Much has been learned in relationships with older and wiser men of God. Other things have been learned reading about the lives and ministries of those before us and Church history.

I. CORPORATE MEETINGS

A. GENERAL - There are many kinds of corporate meetings and each has specific purposes: Teaching meetings for discipleship and edification; Evangelistic meetings to reach the lost, those who do not know Jesus and are without Him; Prayer meetings; Worship meetings; fellowship meetings to eat with and love on each other. So our purpose dictates our order and that is the way it should be. Here I am discussing one type of meeting that is different from these, the “revival meeting” or other semantic mentioned above if you wish. Growing up the “revival meeting” that I attended as a child, was truly an evangelistic meeting though it was called a revival. Both believers and the lost were present however the focus was on the lost and the purpose of the meeting was for them to be saved. That purpose gives us an idea of what the order needs to be. The scope of this article is limited to a Revival meeting.

B. Revival - Normally revival meetings as I am referring to them, are primarily attended at first by believers with a few who have yet to believe ie. Who are lost. God ordains many times that a lost person come to this type of meeting and through what one sees, hears, and experiences, they have an encounter that leads to their salvation. The new birth or conversion, after all is a work of Holy Spirit. Many times as the meeting is extended it becomes more and more evangelistic in its result. This is awesome, yet not necessarily the goal in my thinking. My heart about it at this juncture, is that God gets to have His way and will in each meeting and the results He desires. Only He knows everyone and every need in each gathering. Moreover the meeting is certainly not always about us, our needs and even only about the lost in the room, but it is also very much about Him. What are we giving to Him and ministering to Him when He comes? What does Jesus get back when He comes and put His heart out there to us one more time?

My endeavor is to try to assist Him and facilitate what I believe and perceive He is wanting to say and do. This is no small task. It is part art, part science, part Him, part me, past experience can help to know what he is doing and which way He is going and other times it can be a hinder-

ance. An openness and willingness to embrace what He desires to do that I or others have not yet seen or experienced is equally important and at times a hinderance or an error.

Give your self a break. Give the minister a break, and Give Holy Spirit a break. Slow down, being slow to judge and certainly slow to speak is wise when the Almighty is at work. Remember at times we can all be like Jacob at Bethel. He said; “Surely the Lord is in this place but I knew it not”. So hang on, give your self and Holy Spirit some time. Let God and/or His angel wrestle with you. If you don’t understand something, don’t immediately object it and don’t immediately accept it. Just put it on the shelf, then when the Lord takes it off the shelf and hands it to you personally, receive it. When He shows you about it then you take it off the shelf.

C. Diffusing Controversy - Revival is controversial, messy if you will. Holy Sprit does not make a mess or think His ways are a mess but some times we make a mess of it and other times we think its a mess when in His mind it is divine order. We are exhorted by Paul do all things decently and in order. But is our order His? Many times our order is motivated by our fear of man rather than of God or even our desire to please men and make them comfortable rather than making Him comfortable. A good question to ask our self is who are we gathering together to honor, to worship, and to seek? Who is the center of our attention in the meeting? Ourselves? Our neighbors? The Worship leader? The speaker? Certainly the order we see in Paul’s day is often different from ours. Much of ours passed down over the centuries from those before us (traditions of man) but did not passed down from Holy Spirit. So we have our order and not His. Nice traditions but no power. But don’t fret because He is at work and the reformation continues on from Luther’s day to ours. If we set our hearts to make His name great and not ours, to bolster his reputation and not that of our church or organization, we will be in a good posture to honor Him and to receive Him. If we can humbly let go of our ego and grab hold of Him and His idea for us, trusting that he knows us our deepest need, better than we do, then we will receive the fullness of his spirit that comes from the self surrender that seeks His blessing.

Most of the controversy and messiness is a result of our ignorance and misunderstanding of the ways of Holy Spirit and what the scriptures have to say about them. There is the word of God that leads us into the spirit and we can access many spiritual realities by the faith that the scriptures builds into our hearts. There is a converse reality of the Spirit taking us into the word. In His word there are many realities, blessings, gifts from God and promises that you will never hear, see, believe or receive unless Holy Spirit first gives you the experience of it. Then in the context of the experience you are having, you will see it in the word. YOU will find out for yourself that it is all through out the bible and you will then have the revelation of it from the word. Remember it was many years before the Church had the new testament. We should not replace the Holy Spirit they had with the new testament that they did not. We are to embrace both. We should be better off and further along than we are. Let me explain this just a little more.

We are in a bilateral relationship with God our Father, our Lord and savior Jesus and Holy Spirit. Just like I can initiate with my wife Julie and expect her to respond. By faith I can initiate

things with God and I expect him to respond. Why? Because He loves me, He has great EQ and is not socially retarded. Now on the other hand just like my wife initiates with me expecting response so Holy Spirit initiates with us expecting our attention and response. The difference is, He is a genius and I am, well you know. So, I really like it when He initiates.

D. Principals and Function - When God's presence is manifest to us or tangible in a corporate meeting there are some principles we need to understand. During these moments Holy Spirit is moving, it is normally a great error to stop and teach what the scriptures have to say about what he is doing and the way in which people react to His tangible manifest presence. It most often quenches the Spirit. It's rude to interrupt Him and some times doing so grieves Him. Especially when one knows better. Revival is normally not a teaching meeting, but some times that is the exactly the anointing present and exactly what He wants to do.

Think of it like this: You walk with your right and left legs a step at a time. If the word and teaching is the right we can certainly take a step. If the move of the Spirit and our response is the left we can certainly take a step. But we are not going very far with only one and not the other. We have had 47 years of a great move and emphasis on teaching. A big step forward. But we must allow the left to also move now, if we are to truly walk and advance. So God is moving the left in revival. If my left leg is moving or about to and simultaneously I try to move my right, then I am probably going to fall backward and bump my head or forward and smash my nose. Certainly forward progress is not likely. So let's permit God to work the left leg of revival in His body during these meetings and get the atrophy out of it and build the muscle in it. When you get home from the Holy Spirit meeting you can study these notes and teach others.

This outline is to provide some teaching and understanding regarding the ways of Holy Spirit and revival. It is in no way a tell all/know all resource, but designed to help relieve our confusion and tone down and diffuse the controversy. We can't normally stop and teach during the meeting it will frustrate and defeat His purpose. Furthermore, He is a God of signs and wonders, so some of His signs are designed to make you wonder and worship and be in awe of Him. So we will never cover it all. I don't want nor need a God that I can totally understand and have all figured out. Why? Because then He is not any bigger than me. I cannot help me, and I need the God that is bigger than me to help me.

E. Manifest presence and our Consciousness - God is of course omnipresent and omnipotent but we are not normally conscious of His presence and power. As we gather together in His name, Jesus promises us that He will be in our midst. This can be different in dynamics and function to the reality that He indwells each born again believer. It can be quite a contrast at first, to what it looks like when we are communing alone with Him. Today that may only be a monologue with you doing all the talking. After being touched in revival meetings it will become a dialogue and with Him initiating and you responding. It will become a time of not only talking and listening but a time of Him touching and you responding.

Our reactions to His manifest tangible presence whether we are alone or in a corporate meeting have commonly been referred to in Church History as manifestations. Jesus used the example of the wind to teach some things about Holy Spirit. You can't see the wind but you can see the manifestations. You can see the results of how natural things and man made objects react or respond when the wind touches them. We would say that what we see is the corresponding action or reaction of a tree bending or aluminum can blowing down the street. We do not see the wind though we feel, see and hear the reaction of to the wind. So we could say that manifestations are our corresponding reaction to the action of Holy Spirit when we come into contact with His action. I am not a physics major so I will leave it there.

F. Who is producing the manifestation? - In a Revival meeting there will be manifestations of the Holy Spirit. There will be people just manifesting themselves (the old timers called this getting into the flesh or being in the flesh). There will some times be manifestations of demons or evil spirits or wrong spirits, again semantics. We can't and will not always stop and deal with these other two because the devil likes to cause distraction to get us to react to him and stop the meeting and thus what God is doing. We will try to help those who are suffering privately and will sometimes assist them out of the general meeting to a private place so as not to embarrass them or allow distraction or confusion to others. Some times we have to let the wheat grow up with the tares, because if we try to take out the tares in that moment it will tear up the entire field and we will lose the entire crop or harvest in that meeting.

We are usually more direct and assertive with the flesh. We will and do call people down in the meeting because they can and will regain self control. This can also help teach that person and those present what is of the flesh and what is of the spirit.

In learning if it is God or you. Here is good clue. If at first you **want** to do it, say it, or express, it is probably you and **not Holy Spirit**. It's for sure you and **not God** if your motivation is to be seen, recognized, or have people think you are powerful and spiritual or in charge. Be assured it's your flesh. If God is moving inside you and inspiring you to do it and you do not want to then it is most likely Holy Spirit. Why? Because your spirit and heart want to do it but your head and ego don't. As a born again believer there are only two persons inside you - You and God. If you don't want to do it then it is an easy multiple choice test. So who is the only one left? Yeh! You got it right and you know the answer.

We all can certainly be emotional without being spiritual at times. But the converse is true, we can seldom be moved by Holy Spirit without becoming emotional. We are to seek Him, not emotions or experiences. However when we do so or when He seeks us, emotions and experiences happen. When someone is touched by God and voices emotions inspired by that touch, the sound and/or sight will touch others deeply often activating a connection within the witness with God inside of them. They will then normally receive a touch from God however the emotion can be the same or different. However it will be a heavenly sight or sound, having a divine quality and not merely human or earthly in quality.

G. Practical wisdom - Ultimately we must all learn how to discern the difference between these three manifestations. It can be difficult and it is a fine line at times. Here is a clue. If the manifestation draws your attention more toward God, blesses your soul or seemingly increases the level of anointing or tangible presence in the meeting then it is a person responding to Holy Spirit. If it draws your attention away from God and onto the person grieving your heart, interrupts the flow of the meeting, lessens the anointing or quenches the spirit, then it is the person manifesting their self (flesh). We can allow for some experimentation for someone who is new to all this and in good faith about it. But we cannot tolerate habitual offenders, who go from meeting to meeting and church to church only to be seen and heard.

If it draws your attention to the devil, evil, or darkness, causes fear or confusion or causes a sick feeling in your heart then it's a person reacting to a demon or evil spirit. They could be possessed or oppressed or just influenced. There is a continuum here. We don't have to understand the level of demonic influence in the moment. He at any level has no value or power. The devil is all smoke and mirrors. We just take authority and deal with it as Holy Spirit leads and move on. We love the person who suffering and want to help them with minimum distraction and confusion to others. The Devil action/reaction (manifestation) will not diminish the anointing, quench or grieve Holy Spirit. However the way we handle it can. Again give the person a break, your self and others in the meeting a break, and certainly the leadership a break, as they endeavor to deal with it. Please don't jump up in the meeting and be a spiritual Rambo and try to deal with it. That escalates confusion and can harm the person who the devil is already tormenting. Realize this person has been so traumatized and lied to that they are suffering severe oppression or maybe even possession. The enemy wants to get them out of the meeting and away from a safe place and those who can minister freedom. This is a time not to react, but listen to and respond to leadership. You can help by maintaining peace and staying connected in the meeting and to Holy Spirit. This may be that person's only or last chance for freedom. Let leadership deal with it. The rest of this article deals with specific manifestations of the Holy Spirit, both common ones and the uncommon.

II. MANIFESTATIONS OF THE SPIRIT ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST

A. On the day of Pentecost, 120 believers were filled with the Spirit and then experienced the manifestations of the Spirit, which included the sound of rushing wind, tongues of fire resting on each person, who spoke in a language that they did not previously know, and appearing as drunk.

2 Suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the
3 whole house... There appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one flame sat upon each of one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues... 13.... The multitude...were confused...They were all amazed and marveled... and

perplexed...14... not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.” (Acts 2:1-15)

15 Others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.” But Peter...said...“These are not”

B. Those who observed them had various responses. Some were amazed and perplexed and others mocked the Spirit’s work in them. We see the same responses to the activity of the Spirit today. Some see the manifestations as the work of the Spirit and others get angry or confused. Many are skeptical, seeing manifestations only as fleshly behavior. We recognize that some fleshly mixture, imitation, or exaggeration does not invalidate the genuine work of the Spirit in others.

C. Throughout both biblical and church history unusual manifestations have been reported. There is biblical and historical precedence. Most revivals have had physical and emotional manifestations of the Spirit. Manifestations caused by the Spirit’s presence have been documented throughout the history of revivals in virtually every part of the Body of Christ. There are thousands of testimonies from history that substantiate this as an historical fact.

III. MANIFESTATIONS IN THE SCRIPTURE

A. Falling under the influence of the Spirit: This is often referred to as being “slain in the Spirit,” or resting in the Spirit, or being overcome in the Spirit. People feel lightness, often with a sense of joy. Some just lie down to receive more from God, such as emotional or physical healing, deliverance, or impartation of power for ministry.

1. Christians from every tradition have written of this manifestation through history, especially in times of revival. Some fell under conviction of sin, while others experienced an inner work of healing of their heart or received an impartation for ministry.

2. In the Bible there are many examples of people who fell as they encountered God’s presence. John fell down in the presence of Jesus’ glory (Rev. 1:17), as did the disciples (Mt. 17:6). The soldiers who arrested Jesus fell to the ground (Jn. 18:6). Saul fell on the road to Damascus when he encountered Jesus’ glory at his conversion (Acts 9:4-8).

3. Ezekiel fell down before the glory of the Lord (Ezek. 1:28; 3:23; 43:4; 44:4).

4. Daniel fell, had no strength, and even passed out, going into a deep sleep (Dan. 8:7-10, 17-18; 10:8-9). He was overwhelmed by God’s presence, having no strength to get up (Dan. 10:9, 17). Daniel could hear and was aware of His condition and surroundings.

5. Large numbers may be “incapacitated” by the power of the Spirit as occurred at the dedication of Solomon’s temple when the people saw the “glory cloud” (2 Chr. 5:13-14).

13The house of the Lord was filled with a cloud, 14so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house... (2 Chr. 5:13-14)

6. God’s glory was manifest in such power that the priests could not function or enter the temple because of God’s glory (2 Chr. 7:1-2). At times the presence of God is “heavy” and can be felt as

weight. People fall under it or gradually bend over until they eventually fall. The Hebrew word for glory is kavod, which means the “weight or heaviness” of God.

12

The glory of the Lord filled the temple. The priests could not enter the house...because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord’s house. (2 Chr. 7:1-2)

B. “Drunk in the Spirit”: those who were filled with the Holy Spirit appeared as drunk to people who did not understand (Acts 2:15). Many have reportedly been “drunk in the Spirit” as they appeared inebriated, staggered, laughed uncontrollably, spoke with slurred speech, and had a dizzy look in their eyes. Some have continued with these manifestations for days at a time! Paul spoke of being beside himself for God in contrast to being of sound mind (2 Cor. 5:13).

15 These are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. (Acts 2:15) 13If we are beside ourselves, it is for God; or if...of sound mind, it is for you. (2 Cor. 5:13)

C. Laughter: laughter that is sometimes “uncontrollable” and lasts for hours is the manifestation of the joy of the Lord. This is not dependent on personality type as even depressed persons may break out with spontaneous laughter. The kingdom is joy in the Spirit (Rom. 14:17). One fruit of a spirit-filled life is joy (Gal. 5:22). Joy is a deep state of contentment, yet it is not limited to that. It can have a physical expression. Some believe it is wrong for joy to be expressed with laughter in a church setting. The manifestation of many laughing at the same time seems irreverent to some. Joy, gladness, and laughter are sometimes connected in Scripture (Ps. 126:2-3) 23

Our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing... The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad. (Ps. 126:2-3)

D. Trembling: the fear of God fell on the people near Daniel as he received a vision (Dan. 10:7). Daniel trembled in the fear of God (Dan. 8:17-18; 10:7-11), as did the disciples (Mt. 17:6). The guards around Jesus’ tomb shook for fear when encountering an angel (Mt. 28:4).

7The men who were with me did not see the vision; but a great terror fell upon them, so that
8No strength remained in me; for my vigor was turned to frailty in me, and I 9 11
they fled...retained no strength... I was in a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground...
While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling. (Dan. 10:7-11)

E. Shaking: some shake, slightly or violently. Quakers were known for this and, thus, received their name. There are many examples in Scripture of those who shook or trembled in the fear of God. When Moses received the Ten Commandments, the people shook, along with the mountain (Ex. 19:16-18). Sometimes even buildings shook in God’s presence (Acts 4:31; Isa. 6:4).

F. Speechless: Daniel was speechless because of his encounter with God (Dan. 10:15-19). Some have an inability to talk because of losing the physical ability or mental concentration to speak. They may be conscious but cannot talk for a period of time (Ezek. 3:26; Lk 1:22).

26I will make your tongue cling to the roof of your mouth so you shall be mute... (Ezek. 3:26)

G. Weeping: many have tears of joy, or the tenderness of feeling loved by God, or love for God, or weep in repentance or mourning over sin or spiritual dullness (2 Chr. 34:27; Hos. 12:4; Mt. 26:75; Lk. 19:41; Rom. 2:4; 2 Cor. 7:10; Rev. 5:4). Some weep as the result of an inner healing and others because of a burden in intercession (Heb 5:7). Sometimes weeping suddenly turns to laughter.

H. Trances: Peter and Paul fell into trances, allowing them to see and hear into the spirit world (Acts 10:10, 22:17). Balaam fell into a trance, or received an open vision (Num. 24:3-4).

I. "Pockets of power": the report of small "pockets" of heightened activity of the Spirit is common in times of revival. When people walk into a specific area like this, they experience the Spirit's presence in an intensified way. They may fall, laugh, shake, cry, or receive a healing. An example of this dynamic occurred when Saul and his men went near a group of prophets (1 Sam. 19). When they came near the prophets, the Spirit came on Saul's men and they also prophesied. When Saul sent more men, they prophesied. Saul sent a third group who also prophesied (19:20-21). Finally Saul went and the Spirit came on him, and he prophesied (19:22-24).

J. Caught up in or away by the Spirit: some like Philip have been physically taken by the Spirit to another place (Acts 8:39-40). Others, like Ezekiel, go to another place in a vision (Ezek. 3:14; 8:3; 11:24). Some are taken on a journey after falling down by the Spirit's power. They might be out of body or in a vision or dream-like state. Some have the sense of God taking them to heaven or to various places on earth. Paul and John went to heaven (2 Cor. 12:1-4; Rev. 4:1)

39 40 The Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away...Philip was found at Azotus. (Acts 8:39-40)

K. Fire: The believers in the upper room saw fire resting on each person (Acts 2:3). God's fire fell from the sky in the Old Testament (Lev. 9:24; 1 Kgs. 18:38; 1 Chr. 21:26). In the end times there will be signs of blood, fire, and smoke (Joel 2:30-31). Fire will come from the sky in the first, second, third, and sixth trumpets and fourth bowl (Rev. 8:5-10; 9:17-18; 16:8). The two witnesses and the False Prophet will call fire from heaven (Rev. 11:5; 13:13).

19I will show...signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapor of smoke... (Acts 2:19)

L. Many manifestations could be listed, such as a talking animal (Num. 22:28), walking on water (Mt. 14:29), wrestling or traveling with angels (Gen. 32:28; 2 Kgs. 2:11), bones that raise the dead (2 Kgs. 13:21), shining faces (Ex. 34:30), visiting heaven (2 Cor. 12:2-3) and much more.

IV. MANIFESTATIONS NOT SPECIFICALLY RECORDED IN THE SCRIPTURE

A. The Bible does not record all the possible experiences that the Spirit gives. It records examples of experiences that point to broader categories that are typical of how the Spirit works. John wrote of this principle, explaining that all the works of Jesus were not recorded in Scripture (Jn. 21:25). Manifestations that are not written in Scripture do not necessarily contradict the things written! Some are an expansion of the things Jesus did which were written in Scripture.

25 There are many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. (Jn. 21:25)

B. On the day of Pentecost, those in the upper room were filled with the Spirit and experienced manifestations of the Spirit which included rushing wind, tongues of fire, speaking a language that they did not previously know, and apparent drunkenness (Acts 2:1-15). Under the inspiration of the Spirit Peter proclaimed, "This is what was spoken of by Joel!" Yet when we study Joel 2, we do not find any of the manifestations that occurred on the day of Pentecost. Joel did not mention rushing wind, speaking in tongues or appearing as drunk. Peter did not defend the specific manifestations that were occurring, he simply said, "This is what Joel spoke of!"

13 14 15 Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine." Peter...said to them, "Men of Judea...16 will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh..." (Acts 2:11-17)

17 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel... I

These are not drunk, as you suppose...

C. Joel spoke of a future empowering by the Spirit (Joel 2:28), without describing all that would occur when his prophecy began to be fulfilled on the day of Pentecost. Peter could not produce "proof-texts," but that did not mean that the manifestations of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost were non-biblical.

D. As long as manifestations do not contradict the purpose of Scripture they should not automatically be disregarded as non-biblical. Some wrongly conclude that all manifestations are non-biblical unless we can find an exact description of it in the Bible. We do not conclude that God can heal only diseases mentioned in Scripture.

E. Are manifestations of the Spirit biblical? Yes. Are there specific proof texts for each one? No. We cannot verify every experience with an exact description in the Bible. However, they are experiences that are in accordance with clear biblical precedents and principles. Not every manifestation has an exact meaning but there are patterns that are common too many. The Spirit continues to do things that are in agreement with His character and the principles seen in the Bible.

1. For example, uncontrollable laughter is not in the Scripture but inexpressible joy is! You rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory... (1 Pet. 1:8)

2. Ezekiel fell down, was unable to speak, and was taken away by the Spirit to another city (Ezek. 1:28; 2:2; 3:12-14, 23-26; 8:3, etc.). Ezekiel's experiences legitimize other similar phenomena that may not look exactly his experience.

F. We cannot assume that manifestations are false because we do not find an exact biblical description for each experience. Why? It was not necessarily the purpose of the biblical writers to provide a comprehensive list of the manifestations of the Holy Spirit.

G. The principle is that whatever manifestation is not disallowed in Scripture or contradictory to Scripture is allowed as long it bears godly fruit in the lives of those who experience it. This is not contradictory to sola scriptural (Scripture alone) because it upholds the purposes of God as set

forth in Scripture. We are not required to proof-text every manifestation. There is no reason to assume they are contradictory to the Bible as long as they are in line with encounters of God throughout “salvation history.” In the 16th century some reformers destroyed church organs because they “were not found in the Bible.” However, Psalms has many references to musical instruments being used while worshiping God, without specifically mentioning the organ.

V. MANIFESTATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN COMMONLY REPORTED IN CHURCH HISTORY

A. Manifestations that have been commonly reported in meetings throughout the world and throughout church history include falling, laughing, weeping, shaking, “drunkenness,” inability to speak normally, staggering, feeling lightness or heavy weight of glory, loss of strength, eyes fluttering, lips trembling, screaming, groaning, heavy breathing, or sparkly substance on people’s faces, the sensation of wind, heat, electricity, tingling or pain on one’s body to indicate the presence of the Spirit or as tokens of how to minister to people.

B. Eyelids fluttering or moving rapidly is a common manifestations indicating the presence of the Spirit. Dancing in the Spirit is distinguished from choreographed dancing. Instances of dancing in the Spirit, as seen in the 20-century Pentecostal revival involved one dancing with their eyes closed without bumping into anyone or anything, being under the direction of the Spirit.

C. Some bend over backward or forward, blow or puff strongly, uncontrollably jumping up and down or hopping, rolling (i.e., holy rollers). Smelling or tasting good or evil presences (the gift of discerning of spirits listed in 1 Cor 12:10 often operates this way) as well as hearing audible voices, receiving prophetic utterances are also experienced.

D. Because some manifestations are in the Scripture, they are repeatable, yet without necessarily being normative. We are not to teach these manifestations as the “main and plain” commandments of Scripture. We are not to teach these as something all must do to be a mature believer. We seek God and His presence not manifestations how ever he said: when you seek me you shall find me when you seek me with all of your heart. So connection is inevitable and when He touches you there may be a tangible result that registers on your five senses and that others can see.

F. We are not to teach that specific manifestations are normative experiences that all should seek after. Some manifestations were special acts of the Holy Spirit rather than being normal occurrences. A mighty rushing wind or a building shaking is not common

VI. PURPOSES OF THE MANIFESTATIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. The fruit of manifestations: is seen in the lives of believers. They are greater intimacy with God; impartations of love, peace, joy and the fear of God; freedom from bondages (fear, anger, bitterness, pain, lust, etc.); physical healings and emotional healing; empowering for ministry (healing the sick, prophesying, intercession, etc.); refreshment. This leads to more evangelism.

B. Enlarging of spiritual capacities: inner bondages overcome, tenderized emotions, empowering for ministering to others, impartations of love, peace, joy, sensitized to receive more prophetic impressions, the fear of the Lord, “Pain killer” as the Spirit does a deep work on the heart, etc.

C. Manifestation as signs: God sometimes uses a manifestation as a sign to others so that we will pay attention to what the Spirit is saying. When the Spirit gives signs, we ask what that specific sign means. How is the Spirit using it to build up the Church? The signs point to our need for a deeper connection with the Spirit. Manifestations, healing, and other spiritual signs are like a billboard that declares that God is working. A manifestation is a sign only if it signifies something that helps spread the gospel and builds up the kingdom or the lives of people.

VII. HOW DO WE EXPLAIN THESE PHENOMENA?

A. Manifestations are human responses to encountering God’s immediate presence. Manifestations are a physical or emotional response to the Spirit’s activity rather than being directly caused by the Spirit. People can react to the presence of the Spirit in a similar way to how they react to touching an electric wire! When our all-powerful God touches our weak human frame it impacts us physically, emotionally, and spiritually. For example, falling under the power of the Spirit occurs when our physical control is temporarily suspended by encountering the Holy Spirit.

B. When God touches the natural world there is often a reaction that is “super” or “above” nature— it is supernatural. Our frail bodies are sometimes powerfully affected by God’s presence. The glory of God affects the physical body beyond its capabilities with spiritual encounters resulting in strange physical behavior. Physical manifestations occur when God increases the release of His manifest presence.

C. Martyn Lloyd-Jones said: “The Holy Spirit affects the whole person. Man is body, soul, and spirit, and we cannot divide these. Man reacts as a whole. It is folly to expect that he can react in the realm of the spiritual without anything at all happening to the rest of him, to the soul, and to the body. These phenomena are indications of the fact that a very powerful stimulus is in operation, that the very physical frame is involved.” He argued that such strange phenomena are a means that God uses to get our attention. God shakes us to wake us up (Eph. 5:14).

VIII. TESTING MANIFESTATIONS

A. We must test all things by looking at the fruit or how it affects our lifestyle. We must all examine everything in the light of Scripture. We test all things to discern if these reactions are from

God, the flesh, or the devil. We test it by seeing whether it honors the Scripture and bears godly fruit in people's lives. Test all things; hold fast what is good. (1 Thes. 5:21)

You will know them by their fruits-Every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears Therefore by their fruits you will know them. (Mt. 7:10-20) They [the Bereans] received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. (Acts 17:10-11)

B. We are exhorted to test the spirits or to discern the spirit behind a teaching and its fruit. Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. (1 Jn. 4:1)

C. In 1741 Jonathan Edwards wrote *The Distinguishing Marks of a Work of the Spirit of God*. He called his readers to evaluate the awakening by looking past the enthusiastic behavior to see the fruit. He wrote of five distinguishing marks of the Spirit's work. He stated that Satan would not counterfeit activities that led to these responses. If we can answer yes to these then we should regard the manifestation as genuine even if it is unfamiliar to us.

1. Does it bring honor to the person of Jesus Christ?
2. Does it produce a greater hatred of sin and a greater love for righteousness?
3. Does it produce a greater regard for Scripture?
4. Does it lead people into truth?
5. Does it produce a greater love for God and man?

D. In other words, what helps us determine a manifestation as the work of the Spirit is what results from it. It's not whether we fall down but rather what happens after we get up. Manifestations are not in themselves marks of spirituality, nor do they in themselves guarantee spiritual growth. The confirmation that a manifestation is of the Spirit is seen in the spiritual growth it brings. Is there a new love, humility, and holiness? Is there more fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness? Is there good fruit in the overall ministry or is the leader's focus on exalting Jesus or getting money, or trying to showcase how much power they have? Are people receiving training in the faith? Is there pastoral oversight? Are people growing in the fruit of the Spirit?

IX. HOW TO RESPOND TO THE MANIFESTATIONS

A. God has chosen foolish and despised things as the context for releasing power (1 Cor. 1:27-28). Therefore, we are not to automatically disregard a manifestation because it is strange or because we are unfamiliar with it. God has specifically chosen things despised by men to manifest power.

27God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, (1 Cor. 1:27-28)

B. We respond by expressing gratitude with humility for the present grace of God while being hungry for more; by being humble "learners" instead of proud "experts" in our approach to the things of the Spirit; by being humble and patient with others in our differences of perspective; by making room or giving opportunities for the Spirit to manifest Himself, yet within the boundaries of biblical restraints to show love to others; by being open to freely receive from God without striving to "make something happen."

C. We can be closed in our spirit when we are afraid. We fear what we cannot understand. We fear the unknown, the unfamiliar, and the unpredictable.

X. SOME FALSE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT MANIFESTATIONS

1: If a manifestation is genuine it will always bring lasting fruit and change. Scripture has many examples of people who stumble after encountering God in a powerful way.

2: If you are sensitive to the Spirit you will be touched in the ways others are. Yes, some people quench the Spirit because of being closed with unbelief, fear, and pride. It is also true that many with fear, pride, or unbelief have encountered the Spirit in powerful ways.

3: If the Spirit touches you then you will not have any control over your actions. Sometimes the Spirit touches someone in a physical way that is beyond their control. However, usually He works within the context of human responses. In other words, if the person continues to yield, more will usually happen. For example, a person who is laughing as a result of being touched by the Spirit can usually choose to stop or continue. There is usually an element of control on the human side, but, even still, there remains an ability to "pull out" of the experience. There are exceptions to this general rule.

4: If I were more committed to Jesus I would receive more manifestations. Receiving manifestations of the Spirit is not a sign of commitment or spiritual maturity. The manifestations of the Spirit are freely received by faith, not by earning them.

5: Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? (Gal. 3:5)

5: If you do not fall down then you are unspiritual or resisting the Spirit.

XI. DANGERS REGARDING THESE MANIFESTATIONS

A. Imitation: Some will imitate the manifestations through the power of suggestion or the desire to be seen as more spiritual than others. Some continue with a fleshly imitation after they have

had a true manifestation of God's presence. We are to embrace the Spirit's touch on our emotions without emotionalism, which speaks of the exaggeration and manipulation of our emotions.

B. Exalting outward manifestations: Some exalt outward manifestations above the inward work of the Spirit in one's heart. Transformation into the image of Jesus is the Spirit's highest goal in His work. We must keep our focus on Jesus rather than on outward manifestations which are merely signs of His presence. We do not seek manifestations in themselves but a deeper life in God.

C. Pride: We must avoid the proud, or narrow, judgmental thinking of the haves and have nots.

D. Fanaticism: Some get carried away into excesses of unbiblical behavior and ideas. A true move of the Spirit will always be attended by some "wild fire." We must not lay aside all restraints in the name of "the liberty of the Spirit."

E. Neglect: Some neglect foundational issues in our faith because of giving undue attention to the manifestations themselves. For example: our prayer life, serving others, building our families and honoring our parents, loving our enemies, helping the poor, going to work, paying our bills, resolving relational conflicts, and being faithful friends.

F. Exalting people: Overly exalting the weak human vessels that God anoints in His work. We must honor leaders without undue adulation of them.

Much of sections II-XI was found in IHOP-KC Missions Base www.IHOP.org Free Teaching Library www.MikeBickle.org - an excellent resource.