



## WEEK 7 – “Try the spirits”

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PENTECOSTAL AND CHARISMATIC MOVEMENTS

“If you can separate people from their history, you can convince them of anything” – Karl Marx

#### IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

- First, we must understand that there are SAVED Pentecostal/Charismatic brethren who are absolutely **SINCERE** in their belief of the true gospel of Jesus Christ, who deeply love God, and believe the Bible is the word of God. Many of these brethren care for the lost and desire them to be saved, and they demonstrate their love for God and their belief in the gospel by living a life that is becoming to the Lord (**Philippians 1:27**). Therefore, we cannot include all Pentecostal/Charismatic believers into the same group; after all, we would not want anyone to do this to us as Baptists as there are “*Baptists*” with bad doctrine and some are even lost!
- The Pentecostal movement that first emerged in 1901 has spawned hundreds of American denominations (*mostly Charismatic by definition*). A majority of those who identify themselves as *classic* Pentecostals are adherents of one of seven main denominations. They are as follows: The Church of God (Cleveland, Tenn.), The Pentecostal Holiness Church, The Church of God in Christ, The Assemblies of God, The Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, The United Pentecostal Church, and the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. The Charismatic movement was **BORN** out of the Pentecostal movement in the 1930's.
- The term “*Charismatic*” is simply defined as a person or church that proclaims the spiritual gifts of the 1<sup>st</sup> century church (found in Acts) can be operated by Christians today. They believe they manifest the gifts of the spirit as found in the book of **1 Corinthians** including: specifically, speaking in unknown tongues, interpretation of unknown tongues, prophecy, and apostolic healing (called “**SIGNS** and **WONDERS**”). Although there are many denominations that are specifically “*Charismatic*” (including many so called non-denominational churches), there are others who have kept non-Charismatic denominational titles yet have *converted* to the Charismatic movement. These include Baptist, Mennonite, Protestant (Lutheran, Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopalian, etc.) denominations and Catholics worldwide. Although not always open, **MORMONS** claim to manifest these same “gifts of the spirit.”
- Although closely related, there are some doctrinal differences between the Pentecostals and Charismatics. Some Pentecostal groups believe that following *salvation* the *baptism of the holy spirit* with the *initial evidence of speaking in tongues* must happen to everyone (that is saved) in order to validate true salvation (*this is subtly **ANOTHER** gospel; see Galatians 1:6-9*). The larger Charismatic movement would not necessarily hold to this Pentecostal teaching, although they would whole-heartedly believe in *spirit baptism*, *speaking in tongues*, etc. Most Charismatics believe that a person can be truly saved and not experience the manifestation of sign gifts. The overall belief structure between the two groups is basically the same. *Any explanation given concerning doctrines and differences is a gross oversimplification.*

- From within Pentecostal/Charismatic beliefs has emerged a teaching called the **Word Faith Movement**. This movement is very similar to the Pentecostal/Charismatic movements but has some very definite UNBIBLICAL twists. This is perhaps the most dangerous faction of the Charismatic movement. When carefully studied, this group is NOT Christian...as defined by the Bible. They are a cult as their beliefs are so anti-Biblical.

## THE PENTECOSTAL AND CHARISMATIC MOVEMENTS

### The Founders

**Charles F. Parham (1873-1929)** – “American Pentecostal pioneer and author. He formulated classical Pentecostal theology in Topeka, Kansas, in 1901 and thus deserves recognition as the founder of the Pentecostal movement” (*Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements*; pg. 660). Converted to Christianity at the age of thirteen he believed God had called him to the ministry. He entered college at the age of seventeen. Shortly thereafter, he RECOVERED from a severe attack of rheumatic fever (he had an experience that drove his theology). This left him with the firm belief in the doctrine of divine healing. He left college three years later to assume the pastorate of a Methodist church. It was through this contact that he ultimately became enamored with the theology of the Holiness Movement. He left the Methodist church in 1895 to assume an independent ministry. He later married and began the Bethel Bible School. It was at this school that he developed the theology concerning speaking in tongues as the evidence of baptism in the holy spirit (*he originally believed them to be known foreign languages that thousands of missionaries would speak in order to evangelize the world before the second coming of Christ*). While the immediate impact of this theology was limited, it gained more acceptance several years later in a revival meeting held outside of Houston, Texas. From there **William J. Seymour**, a black holiness preacher convinced of the truth of Parham’s teachings, traveled to Los Angeles, California, to preach the new message. The ensuing revival at the **Azusa Street Mission** (1906-09) represented an anomaly on the American religious scene. In 1906 Parham’s prominence in the new movement (not yet known as Pentecostal) was coming to an end due to rumors and innuendo of him being a HOMOSEXUAL. In the summer of 1907, he was arrested on the charge of Sodomy. All charges were later dropped but the damage was already done. Because the Holiness movement taught a person could come to a point of sinless perfection and because Parham was a leader, his work was over.

**Agnes N. Ozman** – Though she did not found the Pentecostal Movement or develop any of its theology, she is assured a place in Pentecostal history. Agnes was the first person to speak in **UNKNOWN** tongues at Parham’s Bethel Bible School in Topeka, Kansas. Her experience is credited with validating Parham’s assertion that tongues speech evidenced spirit baptism. She later became an evangelist (experience is always first...)

**William J. Seymour** – Black Holiness preacher that founded the Azusa Street Mission in Los Angeles, California. It was there that the gift of spirit baptism emerged and spread abroad in a religious wildfire. The sign gifts of the Holy Spirit, understood by other denominations as having **CEASED** in the first century, had now been miraculously **restored**. Evangelistic tent meetings were used across the U.S. by Pentecostals to spread the word.

*Although Pentecostals and Charismatics claim that believers throughout the centuries spoke in tongues, they originally claimed these were known foreign languages used by missionaries to preach the gospel to foreigners. After decades of speaking in unknown tongues, Pentecostal theology was restructured and retrofitted to work with the obvious **experiences** of their followers. Now they claim believers throughout history spoke in unknown tongues –*

*Proverbs 5:6 **It is important to realize that most all Pentecostals and Charismatics do NOT know facts about Church History or facts concerning their own history...***

## The Authorities

- **The Bible** (*translations vary, though most modern groups today do not use the AV*)
- **The personal ecstatic experiences of each believer** – this is a fact they do not like to hear, but it is true! (By the way...Baptists do the same with Legalism issues...)

*Once a person has the “experience”, it is almost impossible to demonstrate to them that what they are doing is unbiblical. Therefore, they have elevated their **EXPERIENCE** over the clear teaching of the word of God, thus making their experience equal to or greater than the revealed canon of scripture.*

- **The words of knowledge spoken by various believers to other believers** – this is a fact they do not like to hear, but it is true!

*While they do **NOT** admit that their “words of knowledge or wisdom” are equal with the scriptures, they would say that it serves a valuable purpose – by revealing in one person what God is doing in another person. “God stirs up faith and allows someone to reach out more firmly for the gifts of healing, consolation, etc. that He is offering.” They often refer to this as the gift of discernment. The Bible says we get discernment from exercising ourselves “by reason of use” with the scriptures – Hebrews 5:14. **Because this gift is actually a form of revelation, it therefore is prophetic.** Because it is prophetic, it must therefore, logically, be **EQUAL** with scripture.*

- **The gift of prophecy**

*This message would not necessarily be a “foretelling” (as seen in sensationalized Hollywood movies poking fun at the so-called gift) but a “forth telling.” It is the conveyance of a message with or without the predictive element. They would tend to emphasize the nature of prophecy as spontaneous, though many would seem to allow for prophetic gifts to function in “anointed” preaching and in some inspired social commentary. They would basically believe this gift to be a benefit to the church as it faces the challenges of the new millennium. **The main dilemma faced by this so-called gift is how to verify whether it is from God or not.** A whole theological system has had to be developed in order to make this gift work, so to speak. This gives testimony to the fact that this gift is clearly no longer needed today. We have everything we need in a completed copy of scripture.*

### **Important Consideration**

***If it is not in the Bible, I do not need it; if it is in the Bible, I ALREADY have it! So, what is the purpose? God has laid out very plainly in His Word the fact that we can get clear answers to any and all areas of our life – 2 Peter 1:3-4.***

*Although the Bible clearly tells us not to judge anything by its appearance, but to make a righteous judgment – **John 7:24**, most Pentecostal/Charismatic believers that have experienced the manifestations of these gifts will **not** receive scriptural truth that comes against their false teachings – **All experiences are to be judged by the infallible standard that is GREATER than any experience** (see Week 1).*

### **Key Point**

*This is really the heart of the whole issue. The Pentecostal/Charismatic movements have more than one **AUTHORITY** (...false doctrines thrive on more than one authority...mark it down!) The main attack of Satan from the very beginning was an attack on the authority of the word of God. He (Satan) **questioned** the word of God (**Genesis 3:1**), he **contradicted** the word of God (vs. 4), and he finally **changed** the word of God (vs. 5). Then he left the woman to let her **EMOTIONS** work it out, the result is history (**James 1:13-15**). **You cannot have more than one final authority without the truth being corrupted (1 Peter 1:23).***

### **The Message(s)**

#### **Able to save...**

- Salvation by grace through faith in Christ **ALONE**.
- Salvation by grace through faith in Christ ALONE. Afterward, the believer will manifest at least one of the sign gifts found in 1 Corinthians 12. This gift will operate freely as the Spirit leads.

#### **A false gospel...**

- Salvation by grace through faith in Christ followed by the baptism of the holy spirit with the initial evidence of speaking in tongues.
- Salvation by grace through faith in Christ followed by the baptism of the holy spirit with the initial evidence of speaking in tongues. Afterward, the believer will manifest at least one sign gift found in 1 Cor 12. This gift will operate freely as the Spirit leads.
- Experience all God has for you. God does not want to give you a rock or a serpent to eat. He has real food to offer that will satisfy all the days of your life, and throughout eternity. Come and receive the gifts of the Spirit that God wants to give you (**health, wealth, success, prosperity, etc.**)

*These represent the basic messages proclaimed by the Pentecostal/Charismatic churches. The message will differ from person to person, from church to church, and from group to group, as seen above.*

*Error begets error. It is like target shooting, the farther from the target the greater the chance of error. The movements spawn more **ERROR**. **While there are some groups that hold fast to the true gospel, other groups have a watered down version; still other groups have another gospel – false and unable to save one's soul (2 Corinthians 11:3-4).***

*Overall, this movement ultimately attacks the authority of the word of God. **The word of God generates new life in a lost man. The further from the word of God, the further from new life in Christ, it is as simple as that.** The gospel that Paul preached is found in the very book the Charismatic movement derives its false teachings – **1 Corinthians 15:1-4.***

## The Ordinances

### - Believer's Baptism

### - The Lord's Supper

*Although they would say that baptism does not have anything to do with a person's salvation, baptism would be viewed, in many circles, as the time a person receives the gift of the Holy Spirit (they have developed an entire theological system to explain how you can get saved, but not get the Holy Spirit). Many testimonies from Pentecostal/Charismatic churches explain how converts often come up out of the baptismal waters speaking in **UNKNOWN** tongues. If a person is being baptized for this purpose, it is not biblical believer's baptism, and it is therefore not biblical water baptism ...*

*In some Pentecostal circles, the Lord's Supper will be followed by a **FOOT**-washing ceremony and would be considered by some as an additional ordinance of the local church.*

*In this movement, it goes from one extreme to another. Some churches place no importance on water baptism yet may practice it... varying from church to church...group to group.*

## The Structure

### - **Governmental** (some groups) – connected to a “controlling” head or leadership structure

### - **Independent**; self governing; self-propagating (some churches and groups)

*Some churches are under similar governmental systems developed by mainline Protestant denominations which can be ultimately traced back to the RCC. Other churches are independent, self-governing, and self-propagating (which is biblical).*

## The Officers

**NOTE** Not all are present in every church. Some may have a combination while other officers may work for the governmental structure...some may just assume the titles! Some may be Biblically ordered!

- Apostles
- Pastors
- Bishops
- Prophets
- Evangelists
- Elders
- Deacons

*All of the above offices vary from church to church or from group to group. In most churches the offices of pastor, bishop, and elders are different and separate from one another (which proves that they do **NOT** compare scripture with scripture to define these terms or have no final authority; see **Titus 1:5, 7; Acts 20:17, 28; Eph. 4:11**). In some Charismatic churches (very few) they are in their proper biblical order with only two offices – pastor and deacon.*

*Because they believe in “**CONTINUED** REVELATION” (though some would deny this), they would see the historical purpose for apostles and prophets as necessary for today. Although not all churches consider these as offices, most agree as to their need.*

## The Purpose

- To win the lost to saving faith in Christ (sounds good...but) ... to be accomplished by UNIFYING all "Christian" denominations together as one through **signs and wonders**.

*In other words, as long as a person speaks in "tongues they are OKAY with us." "After all, who are we to argue with the Holy Ghost?" To most individual Charismatics, anyone who even talks about Jesus is a "Christian," especially those who have the "GIFTS." The themes of their retreats and meetings are almost always the "signs and wonders" propaganda. A few years ago, there was a huge meeting of Charismatic leaders. The meeting was located at the Oral Roberts College auditorium. The banner that was stretched out over the large stage read: "We are united together by Signs and Wonders" ... What about the person of Jesus Christ and sound doctrine?!? (Revelation 6:9; 20:4)*

*In the book "Azusa Street" written in 1925 by eyewitness Pentecostal, Frank Bartleman, he states that the "new Pentecostal movement" will be used of God to **UNITE** all the denominations of Christendom. "With all of the doctrinal differences, will anything be able to bring them together in one as Jesus prayed in John 17:21? Nothing seems possible if it were not for the gifts of the spirit. The gifts of the spirit will bring all together as one in Christ." The title of this chapter is, "A plea for UNITY".*

*After the **RAPTURE** of the church, when all truly saved Pentecostal/Charismatic brethren have met the Lord in the air, they will have left an illegitimate legacy on earth... the "signs and wonders" system that **LOST** so-called "CHRISTIANS" will have been participating in all along. This Charismatic system will then be propagated with real and amazing **lying signs and wonders (2 Thess. 2:9)**, performed by the false prophet (**Rev. 19:20**) under the leadership of the Devil (**Rev. 12:9**) and brought under the safe religious umbrella of the **RCC (Rev. 17:5)**, who has been working these same basic signs and wonders for centuries before the Pentecostals and Charismatics ever thought of it ...*

**NOTE** Consider how very similar these "religious" organizations are:

- 1 – RCC has always conducted services in **unknown languages** to people (Latin)
- 2 – RCC has always **cast out devils/demons**, performed so-called **healing signs**
- 3 – RCC **speaks prophetically** through the pope (i.e. through "councils")

## The Finances

- **Free will tithes and offerings**

*They would believe that a person should give cheerfully, not grudgingly, or of necessity (2 Co. 9:7). This is certainly biblical. However, some fringe groups would believe that if you **GIVE** more you will **RECEIVE** more money in return... they would give in order to get! This is often referred to as "sowing and reaping".*

**NOTE** It is supposed to be a matter of the heart!

## The Atmosphere

- Exuberant; loving; sensual; CHAOTIC (during specific meetings) – not all meetings, but some (usually calm by day and wild by night)

*Most churches are very sensual. You will often get a feeling of being spiritually **HIGH**. This, they say, comes from the presence of the Holy Spirit. By in large, their services are filled with praise and worship to God through song and through the manifestation of what they would call the “gifts of the spirit.”*

### **Key Point**

*When a man and woman are initially attracted to each other, what is the attraction usually centered upon? ...The way they look at each other – their body, as it were. If a man and woman are married on this premise, they will later learn things about their spouse that they had no idea of. The excitement is gone, disappointment rules.*

***This is the same attraction that this movement has to its new followers. They join because of the atmosphere and fall in love with it. However, later they need more and more sensual **EXPERIENCES** to keep the feeling alive (much like many marriages). **Because they do not rely on the Spirit of God working through the word of God, they need an emotional/spiritual fix, so to speak. It is almost like a junkie needing his drugs. That is exactly why they have continuous revival meetings that last for days, weeks, and even years. Though they say they meet as the Lord leads, it is in reality the appeasement of their emotional/spiritual addiction. They are really prisoners to this false, **CARNAL** system.*****

***The word of God is the only thing that can make them free – John 8:32.***

**NOTE** When speaking to former Charismatics, many will say they are afraid they will no longer be able to worship God if they leave the Movement. They admit they need more and more, but it never lasts! It really can be *intoxication*... it is false!

**Col 2:10** – “we are complete in Him” ...

**1 Cor 16:15** – God says we should be “addicted” to **the ministry of the saints!**

## The Doctrine

Political; sensual; BLASHEMOUS; DECEPTIVE; UNBIBLICAL

*It is political in the sense that they spearhead many anti-government movements, busying themselves with sideline issues to try to change laws to make our country “Christian.” Although these things are not bad things, they do take away from the purpose of the local church, to glorify God...by making disciples (many Baptists do this too!)*

*It is sensual in the sense that their doctrines, like that of the RCC, make you feel, superficially, really good about your **RELIGION**. However, they leave you with nothing of any real biblical substance.*

Mainly their doctrines are blasphemous, deceptive, and unbiblical because they take that which was meant for, and given to the Jew, and adopt it for themselves, while all along proclaiming that God will restore the Nation of Israel (**Rev 2:9; 3:9**). Most Pentecostals and Charismatics do **NOT** realize how subtly unbiblical their teachings really are. **When they read the Bible, they see truth through the false doctrines they have been taught.**

To try to explain the plethora of unbiblical doctrines purported by the Pentecostal/Charismatic movements and then deal with the biblical refutation of each point would literally take up the pages of a large book, if not several books. It is recommended that you systematically identify each doctrine, as needed, and then work through the scriptural refutation point by point. However, a **BASIC** understanding of fundamental biblical truth is absolutely necessary.

**These fundamentals are preached from our pulpit, taught in our Bible studies and Bible Institute classrooms, and detailed in our one-to-one discipleship ministry.**

### **Key Point**

**Remember a key factor when dealing with any of their false doctrines: The Devil's purpose is to diminish and ultimately remove the authority of the Word of God from the Pentecostal's and Charismatic's life.**

**The enemy's attack against our misguided brethren is, as usual, an attack on the words and WORD of GOD - Yea, hath God said...? - Genesis 3:1.**

So...how do you get out?

### **REPENT**

Read **Psalm 119:59**

**Psalm 119:59 – I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.**

- ✓ Tell someone for accountability's sake...
- ✓ Keep it simple...stick with what the Bible says...
- ✓ Tell God your behavior was wrong!
- ✓ Ministry begins by learning how to follow...so get disciplined...
- ✓ Following begins by getting saved if you are not...