



Title/Date: 7/16/23 “Are there modern day Apostles?”

(Should we expect Apostolic signs, wonders, and miracles in the church today?)

Practical Application from Acts 5 – What do you believe about Continuationism vs Cessationism?

Key Biblical Texts: Acts 5:12, Matthew 16:4, 24:23-26, 1 Cor. 13:8, 2 Cor. 12:7-12, Rev. 2:2

Notes adapted from John MacArthur's sermon “Is this the age of miracles” 03/13/77 - <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/1368/is-this-the-age-of-miracles>

- 1. Miracles in the Bible** - Miracles in the Bible only occurred in three major periods of time: the time of Moses and Joshua, the time of Elijah and Elisha, and the time of Christ and the Apostles. Each of those periods is less than 100 years in all of human history. And it is during those three brief periods of time, and those alone, that the miracles proliferated, that the miracles were the norm, that the miracles were in abundance. Now, God can interject Himself into the human stream supernaturally anytime He wants, and we're not limiting Him, we're simply saying that He has chosen to limit Himself, to a great degree, to those three periods of time.
- 2. Four purposes for miracles:**
 - When there is an age of miracles, whether it's the Mosaic, or the prophetic age of Elijah and Elisha, or the New Testament Apostolic era, the first reason is to introduce a new era of revelation.
 - God used miracles to authenticate the messengers (prophets) of that revelation.
 - Miracles are to authenticate the message that is given.
 - Miracles were used to call the attention of those listening to hear the new revelation, to a response, to do something specific (i.e. repent and believe Jesus is the Messiah – the good news/gospel that Jesus alone offers us righteousness, forgiveness, and eternal life – **Mk. 1:15**)
- 3. Summary:** We are not running around looking for miracles today, because miracles had a unique purpose: to authenticate revelation, its messengers, its message, and to instruct those who heard to respond. And new revelation is not being given, and we are called not to seek miracles to authenticate an already authenticated word, we are called upon to believe by faith that this is the Word of God, and to respond to it.
- 4. 3 Things that are wrong/unbiblical about the Pentecostal/Charismatic Movement:**
 - Continuing Divine Revelation** (getting a new “prophetic word,” “dream,” “vision,” or any other “God told me” experience not only potentially adds to the Bible, is often treated with equal or greater authority with the Bible, but often contradicts the Bible). The problem is they still have ongoing revelation, they cannot confirm it's from God and not other sources (the Devil, Demons, or just the vain or lofty imaginations of man) and there's no end to the Bible or absolute closed canon/authority to weigh and discern truth from error, good from evil, and right from wrong.
 - Dangerous experiential hermeneutics/interpretation of Scripture** (Non-literal, non-contextual, non-grammatical, and non-historical, and non-total/panoply interpretation). Many wrongly interpret the Word of God first from and through their experiences instead of biblical hermeneutics (literal, contextual, historical, grammatical, total). They go from experience to the Scripture, read themselves into Scripture (which is a very self-centric rather than Jesus-centric approach) to find and twist the Scriptures out of context to validate their experiences or sometimes even sinful living and thus, they mishandle/misinterpret the Holy Scriptures. (Ex. recent female Pastor who defended female Pastors to Chad from her experiences – dreams/visions/voices - even though it contradicts multiple Scriptures)
 - UnBiblical Expectations, UnBiblical Roles, and UnBiblical Doctrines and Practices** - Rejecting the uniqueness of the original Apostles and the 1st Century apostolic era, and instead advocating that EVERYTHING in the book of Acts should be expected and accepted by the modern church including Modern Apostles (many who are preaching doctrinal heresies) and seeking/expecting regular supernatural miracles exactly the same as the early church in Acts (get your miracle, expect your miracle, believe for your miracle, receive your miracle, find your miracle is often how the “Word of Faith” movement verbalizes these beliefs.
- 5. Jmac's listed six reasons why there cannot be modern self-proclaimed Apostles like Bill Johnson, Lou Engle, Todd White, TD Jakes, and C. Peter Wagner** (even CJ Mahaney claimed to be an apostle at one time)
 - The church was founded on them. **Ephesians 2:20:** The foundation of the Scriptures is the prophets (inspired by God to write the O.T.) and Apostles (inspired by God to write the N.T.), the canon is closed, the foundation is already laid and not still being laid.
 - An apostle had to be an eyewitness of the resurrection, **Acts 1:21-22**
 - An apostle was directly chosen (commissioned) verbally by Jesus Christ. (**Mt. 10:1-4, Luke 9:1, Mark 3:13-14,6:7**)
 - The big A apostles (12 Jewish Apostles plus Paul) were authenticated by miraculous signs. (Jewish Apostles - **Acts 2:43, 4:30, 5:12**) (Paul as the Apostle to the Gentiles - **2 Cor. 12:12, Romans 15:18-19, Acts 14:3, 15:12**).
 - The big A Apostles had absolute authority as they were revelatory agents of God – ultimately recording the inspired writings of Scripture which we cherish today. (**Jude 17, 1 Cor. 14:37, 1 Peter 1:19-21**)
 - They have a unique place forever. In the New Jerusalem heaven, John in **Rev. 21:14** is looking at the New Jerusalem – the heavenly city “had 12 foundational stones with the names of the “12 apostles” written on them. Jmac concludes, “Forever, they're unique” (the 12 Apostles).
- 6. Chad's Summary:**
 - The 12 Jewish Apostles had to be with Jesus from the beginning of his ministry, and an eyewitness of the resurrection (**Acts 1:21-22**), and able to do signs and wonders (**Acts 2:43, 4:30, 5:12**).
 - Paul as the Apostle to the Gentiles also performed the supernatural signs of a true Apostle – signs, wonders, and miracles (**2 Cor. 12:12, Romans 15:18-19, Acts 14:3, 15:12**).
 - God confirmed His spoken and written Word to the inspired writers of the O.T. and N.T. by signs and wonders (Hebrews 2:4). **Hebrews 2:1-4 For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. ² For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, ³ how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, ⁴ God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.**
 - Churches are to test so called Apostles and when they can't do the stuff (miracles) they are to declare them to be false (false Apostles and false teachers) **Revelation 2:2 ² I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false;**

7. Chad's 7 dangers of Continuationism:

D _____ - changing or adding to God's Word – most often Personal Experience is placed over or equal to the Word of God. They are often feelings and experience driven rather than truth/Bible driven as they don't practice consistent hermeneutics (principles of bible interpretation). How do they know their dream, voice, or prophecy is from God and not from Satan or just from their own flesh that seeks to be seen as important or recognized as very spiritual or important by other believers? This allows for "new ideas" and "new revelation" which is a modern day Gnosticism (secret knowledge that is superior to the Bible) so that "God told me/spoke to me/revealed to me..." Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism, Muhammad, the founder of Islam were both continuationists who claimed the angel Gabriel gave them new revelation/Scripture (which I believe actually happened, but the angel of light that spoke to them was not from God as proven by the revelations because they contradicted the Bible, created a works based system of salvation, and denied critical truths about Jesus (His deity, humanity, sinlessness, sacrifice, resurrection, and return)

D _____ - not prioritizing truth/Doctrine – rather than progressively knowing and obeying what God commands in Scripture, they often emphasize signs, wonders, miracles and supernatural spiritual gifts rather than holy living, and knowing and living out the Bible.

D _____ - confusion and unbiblical/chaotic worship - They often participate in unruly, disorderly, and chaotic worship that is not from God as God would never seek worship, empower worship, or promote worship that goes against his word – multiple tongue speaking no interpreters as 1 Cor. 12-14 is clear tongues is a sign for unbelievers, to hear the gospel in their own language, and must always have an interpret be done with decency and order... and with prophecy there must be at the most 2 or 3. This is why TBC firmly believes that 1 Cor 12-14 is a warning about the abuse of spiritual gifts to draw attention to one self instead of edifying/building up the church in love as it says without love we are/have nothing. And we are cessationists because Paul makes it clear not to clamor or misuse these gifts because even three of the gifts - prophecy, knowledge, and tongues will cease when the *telios*/MATURITY of the church comes. And it clearly has ceased because I know of no so-called modern Apostle who can on command or with verification do what I call the "stuff" perform the signs of a true apostle – signs, wonders, and miracles. No one can do it – no Pentecostal/charismatic church avoided Covid, none of their Apostles went healed all the people dying of Covid, because they can't do the stuff and are false apostles.

D _____ - sordid, greedy Gain – deceit, greed, for Personal Profit – throughout our country and especially in Africa – "faith healers" so called "Apostles" are taking advantage of the poor and desperate – it sounds like this, if you just sow your seed of faith and give me your money, you are guaranteed for God to heal you, bless you financially, give you YOUR MIRACLE/so you will have your BEST LIFE NOW. Watch out for the preachers who say God told them they need a private leer jet and multiple mansions and especially to old people who have failing health to give their savings to them while promising God is going to make everything rich like them. This is nothing more than a devilish Ponzi scheme – so watch out for the Kenneth Copelands, Benny Hinns, Richard Tiltons, Creflo Dollars, TD Jakes, and Joel Osteens of our world, and almost all the preachers on TBN because their teachings do not line up with Scriptures and they are false teachers who are enriching themselves by bilking the poor.

D _____ - Deceptive Lies - False hope, False lies and false promises – not only are they enriching themselves through their fake miracles, they give false hope with multiple false promises, and ridiculous antics that makes the rest of the world think Jesus and Christians are not just freaks, crazy, but funny hilarious FAKES and FRUADS. One charlatan we saw in Africa while we were in Uganda was promising people God would give them a Lamborghini and park it next to his if they just gave everything/money they needed to feed their kids – to him. So sad/tragic how they are misrepresenting the real Jesus, distorting the Bible and the real gospel, and making real Christians look ridiculous – so I always tell people don't make your decision about Jesus and the Bible based on someone's poor or false representation but make your decision on Jesus himself by reading God's Word for yourself.

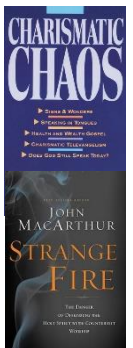
D _____ – many Charismatics/Pentecostals become disillusioned end of leaving the church all together after being totally disappointed and disenfranchised from the church – why? They eventually see the greed of their Pastors, or realize that their Pastors or healers can't really do the stuff - heal them or others, they don't get healed, they don't get rich, they modern church can't really do *everything* the Apostles or the early did what they read the book of Acts so some punt and throw away the faith altogether because to them it simply doesn't WORK as their leaders promised them. The modern church is still impacted by accidents, sickness, disease, tragedies, they still get Covid, they still get sick, their old and most faithful saints still die because of the curse of sin, some still get cancer and die without healing even though they enough faith that God would heal them or their loved one. But many are given unbiblical EXPECTATIONS and are not taught nor understand ALL that the Bible promises believers for this life... joy in the midst of persecution, perseverance/perspective in the face of pain/sorrow, fellowship/genuine love among believers in the midst of a hateful/selfish/sinful world, resurrection and entrance into the Kingdom AFTER we die or after the church is raptured, and that our best life is not NOW (this is the proving/testing grounds for those who love/follow Jesus and Lord in order to enter His future Kingdom) but LATER – when we rule and reign with Him for 1000 years and beyond in His Kingdom that will never end.

D _____ – and for some and probably many in churches that don't preach the real gospel/good news of Jesus Christ – that don't explain His perfect life to impute perfect righteous standing with God, don't explain His sacrificial death for forgiveness of sins - specifically Jesus' blood as the payment to God to free us from God's coming wrath/perfect justice against all sin and every sinner, don't explain His victorious resurrection and ongoing intercession for us from heaven as our constant hope solace/peace when we continue to struggle with sin even after we are saved. Churches that don't preach or urge biblical repentance, faith, and willingness to follow Jesus as Lord with your whole life rather than through mere words or momentary spiritual experiences... will experience the most scary passage in the Bible and most worst words to ever be heard by the "religious but not saved" that Jesus describes in Matt. 7:22-23 ²² "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' ²³ "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

Blanks: Distortion, Distraction, Disorder, Dishonesty, Deception, Disappointment, Depart

8. Conclusion: So, should we expect the POWER of God in our lives and in our church – **absolutely YES!** – I believe God still heals people physically if He so chooses through the prayers of many (2 Cor. 1:11) and the prayers and anointing of the sick by oil by church Elders according to James 5:14-16. But not through a person with the gift of healing or by a leader's shadow or handkerchief as we see with Peter and Paul. I also believe God still frees people from demonic oppression and possession but not by modern Apostles or exorcists but through prayer and fasting by the church as Jesus explains in Mt. 17:21. So if we want more POWER – God's power in our lives and in our church we must pray much more with much more sacrifice, and much more obedience to the Holy Scriptures and ACTION POINTS prompted by the Holy Spirit. But should we EXPECT all of the same things in the early church, all of the same spiritual gifts, or all of the same power and miracles in the book of Acts? The answer is clearly NO – we should not expect anyone to get healed by our shadow, or demand or expect the angel of the Lord to free every Christian prisoner around the world, or expect us or anyone else to cast out demons or for everyone sick and every demon possessed – ALL to be healed as we just studied in Acts 5. The period of the Apostles/Apostolic age & history of the early church in Acts was a unique time to spread the gospel of Jesus as the Son of God and promised Messiah (Acts 1:8), a unique time to authenticate Jesus' Apostles who would form and lead the church (Acts 2) and later write the inspired New Testament (2 Peter 3:16), and a unique time to authenticate the Scriptures/especially the Gospel (good news) message that God by His grace has purposed to seek and save the lost, and promises that everyone who repents of their sins, believes/trusts in Jesus by faith, and asks Jesus to be their Lord... WILL be saved (Romans 10:9-13).

(For further study – read these 2 books by Jmac)



TBC's Position	Middle Positions	Other Positions
Religious/Monotheistic (Belief and worship of one true God)	Agnostic (The existence of God can't be proven nor disproven)	Atheist (there is no God)
Christian - Jesus is the Son of God, Savior of the World, and Lord of all (King of kings, Lord of lords). He is 100% God (Holy/perfect, sinless, eternal, all powerful, all knowing, all present) and 100% Human (Virgin Birth, Physical Body, our substitute/representative/mediator), He is the only way to God/source of salvation, source of truth, and source of eternal life (John 14:6)	Theist (God exists, but is not involved - left the world to run its course)	Other Religions (Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Judaism, New Age, etc.)
Protestant (5 solas of the Reformation) Christians are saved by grace alone (sola gratia), through faith alone (sola fide), in Christ alone (solus Christus), as revealed by Scripture alone (sola Scriptura), to the glory of God alone (soli deo gloria).		Coptic, Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic (R.C. Catechism, Tradition, Councils, Magisterium, 7 sacraments)
Low Church/Non-Liturgical - worship is not dictated or directed by traditions rituals and ceremonies that developed through Christian history but according to Scripture (truth) and from the heart (spirit).		High Church/Liturgical (Episcopal, Anglican, Lutheran)
Evangelical/Conservative/Gospel Driven Belief in primary/foundational doctrines (Trinity, Inspiration/Authority of the Bible, Salvation by grace through faith, Conversion/being Born Again, Witnessing/Evangelizing, Personal Faith - Christian morals, ethics, living, Return of Jesus/Heaven) as well as belief in evangelizing the world with the <u>Biblical gospel in order to save them from eternal separation from God in Hell/Lake of Fire</u>		Liberal/Cultural Driven Churches - building the church for the unbeliever or catering to the secular culture to give them what they want in church.
Biblicist/High View of Scripture Fundamentalist/Bible Driven (biblical inerrancy/sufficiency - importance of doctrine, usually dispensational/pro Israel, young earth creationism, exclusivity/deity/sinlessness, virgin birth, perfect life/imputation, sacrificial death/penal substitutionary atonement, resurrection/intercession of Jesus, specifics of Salvation - penal substitutionary atonement, emphasis on repentance receiving Jesus as Savior and Lord to avoid Hell, emphasis on the church priority and authority, emphasize eschatology - rapture, tribulation, 2nd coming, Mill. Kingdom, New Heavens/Earth. Morally Absolute positions on fornication, adultery, homosexuality, abortion, etc. Everything the church does or doesn't do has a Scriptural basis. mandate. backing/derived from the Bible.		Low View of Scripture, Ecumenical / Unity Driven/ Doctrinally Undefined (non specific in doctrine in order to appeal to the largest number of people possible or unify the greatest numbers of people)
Lordship Salvation - No works/deeds are required for salvation but true belief involves Biblical Repentance (confession and willingness to turn from sin), Faith (genuine belief/trust in Jesus alone to save from sin/God's wrath), and Lordship (commitment/covenant that promises to follow and obey Jesus as Lord) is required for salvation as they are not works/deeds but attitudes/actions of genuine faith/sincerely believing heart.		Non- Lordship (Grace Alone/Free Grace) No repentance is required for salvation - just faith/belief. And saving faith/belief may never produce any change or obedience, and repentance/willing to obey Jesus as Lord is a follow on commitment after salvation and part of sanctification, but not a condition for salvation.
Progressive Sanctification for EVERY true believer - Spiritual Disciplines (Prayer, Word, Fellowship, Witnessing), Holiness/Righteousness/godliness (living according to God's Word), and Obedience to Jesus's commands out of love because He is our LORD is NOT required to be saved but IS required and expected for everyone who has truly believed and truly been saved. Good works/deeds are the proof/evidence of salvation as the Holy Spirit produces it and promises Biblical change/obedience/progressive growth and sanctification/conformity to Christ in EVERY real believer (2 Cor. 5:15-21)		Just say the Sinners Prayer - because once saved always saved even if a person is living continually just like the wicked world. Obedience to the Bible/Jesus' Commands, Holy Living, and progressive sanctification is not to be demanded or expected in every true believer. Some only say the sinners prayer and add Jesus to their sinful life, but do not need to leave their life of sin.
Non-Denominational - Denominational affiliation is not essential and at times detrimental as people come to have negative views/perceptions of denominations that keep them from visiting affiliated local churches		Denominational affiliation is important. Main Line Protestant Denominations (Episcopal, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist, Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ/Christian Church, AME African Methodist Episcopal, Reformed Church in American/Dutch Reformed)
Historical Grammatical Interpretation/ Singular Meaning Hermeneutics: (Literal, Contextual, Grammatical, Historical, Total). We all are charged by God in 2 Tim. 2:15 to be an approved by God working hard to rightly handle/divide the word of God by taking the Bible literally (unless there is clear figurative/symbolic language, contextually (looking at the whole message or topic of the verse, chapter, and book), historically (the right meaning is what God intended to say through an inspired author to the original audience), grammatically (the lexicography - meaning of words, and syntax - structure of sentences in the original Biblical languages is important), and totally (the correct interpretation is in line with the whole of Scripture/all of what the Bible says about a matter/subject.)		Allegorical, Experiential, Personal, Multiple Meaning Hermeneutics/Interpretation - Ex. what does this verse mean to me, looking for hidden meanings or codes that can only be deciphered by the elite.
TBC holds a middle position on the Calvinometer - we believe in depravity, election, atonement, grace, and perseverance of the saints just not in the typical extra biblical definitions and their understanding of the modifying words - total, unconditional, limited, irresistible, limited)...so we believe in God's absolute Sovereignty and Goodness/Holiness, predestination based on love, grace, and foreknowledge that is a mystery to its particulars, the gracious planing, providing, and preaching of salvation/ drawing of men without which no man would be saved or can come to Jesus on His own, and the security of the believer - no one/nothing to reverse God's power in unborn, unseal/kick out the Holy Spirit/God's seal so that salvation can be lost if it was genuinely received through Biblical repentance, faith, and Lordship. So we also believe in man's responsibility to receive/respond to the gospel and how that works with God's sovereignty/election in salvation is a mystery (let the mysteries of God belong to God).	Calvinism (a.k.a. Reformed Theology) TULIP - 1. total depravity, 2. unconditional election, 3. limited atonement, 4. irresistible grace, 5. perseverance of the saints) (6. double election/reprobation, 7. God plans/will/ordains everything including sin/absolute determinism)	Arminianism Free Will or Human Ability: ability to choose or reject God's offer of salvation. Conditional Election: God's election or choice of individuals for salvation is based on His foreknowledge of their faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ's death on the cross was intended to provide salvation for all people, not just for a specific group of individuals predetermined by God. Conditional Election: the atonement is sufficient for everyone, but its benefits are applied only to those who exercise faith. Resistible Grace: God's grace, though necessary for salvation, can be resisted and rejected by individuals. Uncertainty of Perseverance: They are open to possibility for genuine believers to fall away from faith and lose their salvation. Wesleyan arminianism, while lauded for methods of holy living, also includes doctrines that TBC does not agree with especially - prevenient grace (God through the cross has given the ability to every man to come to Him on his own, you can lose and reaccept your salvation multiple times, and entire sanctification (mature Christians can come to a
Partial Cessationism (Apostolic sign gifts - signs, wonders, miracles, and 1 Cor 13:8-3 gifts - prophecy, knowledge, and tongues have ceased with the maturity of the church)	Total Cessationism - none of the spiritual gifts in Romans 12 and 1 Cor. 12 are for today - almost the anti-supernatural view of Thomas Jefferson as a Theist who removed all miracles/ and supernatural events from his Bible	Continuationism (all spiritual gifts are operational and are for today, we should expect everything in the book of Acts to happen today)
Nouthetic Counseling (Bible Only) The Bible is not only inerrant and infallible but is also fully sufficient - Scripture has everything we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). We are also warned not to be deceived/taken captive by man's philosophies, empty deceptions, and human traditions rather than according to Christ (Col. 2:8)	Integrationist Counseling (Mix Bible with Psychology of Philosophy)	Trust and dependence on Man's Knowledge (Psychology, Philosophy, Science, etc.)

Expository Preaching (preaching through books of the Bible chapter by chapter, verse by verse) so as to preach the whole message of this life (Acts 5:20) and full counsel of the Word of God (Acts 20:27) so that our people are mature and complete lacking nothing and rooted, built up, and established in the faith (James 1:4, Eph. 4:13-16, Col. 1:23-29, 2:6-7, 4:12, Heb. 5:12-6:3) also able to pass the faith on to others/the next generation (2 Tim. 2:2)		Topical, Self-Help, Antecdotal Preaching - Ex. Often most of the sermon is human thoughts rather than divine words - this can be preachers who overly talk about themselves or share their thoughts/opinions vs reading, interpreting, explaining, applying Scripture/ what God said in the Bible.
Elder Led/Elder Ruled church government - a plurality of Elders makes the decisions of the church by prayer, the Word, and unanimity		Congregational Rule, Pastor Rule, Deacon Rule, Hierarchy Rule
God Sensitive/Bible Driven Churches - everything to please/glorify God - success is what God sees and what's - focus on equipping believers who comprise the church to reach unbelievers outside the church		Seeker Sensitive/Culture Driven Churches - church built around attracting unbelievers, success is what man sees (numbers, popularity, buildings, programs, etc.)
Believer's Baptism / We don't believe in infant baptism because it is not where in Scripture. Rather, we believe in believer's baptism because the example of John the Baptist and Jesus as well as every example of baptism in the book of Acts is by full immersion to show the start of something new (John - new repentance, Jesus - new ministry, Acts - new converts/followers of Jesus showing outwardly/symbolically what they believe inwardly as they obey the first thing Jesus commanded for new believers in Mt. 28:18-20. TBC has Anabaptist Roots (strong emphasis on believer's baptism, voluntary church membership, discipleship, and the separation of church and state. They advocate for a more radical interpretation of Christian teachings and often faced persecution for their beliefs.	Anabaptist groups/denominations and history: Mennonite, Amish, Grace Brethren, Hutterites are anabaptists - original anabaptists were greatly opposed or persecuted by the Roman Catholics, Anglicans/Church of England, Calvinist/Reformed/Presbyterians, and Lutherans for their anti/against infant baptism beliefs of believer's baptism as were labeled anabaptists or "rebaptizer" by their opponents. The teaching of Swiss Reformer Huldrych Zwingli on the authority of Scripture and criticism of the Catholic Mass led to the first "rebaptizers" - Conrad Grebel, Felix Manz and George Blaurock (formed the first Anabaptist congregation in Zurich, Switzerland, in 1525), Menno Simons, Baltasar Hubmaier, Wilhelm Reublin, and Michael Sattler were also early anabaptist founders. Its also important to note that not only did Jesus and the 1st century/early church practice believer's baptism, but also the 2nd century Montanists, and 3rd century Novatianists until it was "rediscovered" in the 16th century during the	Infant Baptism/Churches that baptize infants for salvation (removal of original sins like the Catholics or those who believe it's similar to circumcision in the Old Testament as a sign and seal of God's covenant relationship with families - so that it is a promise of God's grace, the congregations commitment to teach the child the knowledge and love of God, and a families/parents commitment to raise their child in the faith and that as the child comes of age they will respond favorably in time to God's grace and profess their faith in Jesus Christ.
Water Baptism is Evidence of salvation but not required for salvation as the first act/step a new Christian should do/take after repenting of their sins and placing their faith in Jesus as Lord - and baptism was the main way that people "joined" the early church as far as membership rite - but baptism in no way saves by the act itself, but is proof/evidence that someone is saved as they will want to do the first thing their new Lord commands after their confession that Jesus is Lord.		Baptismal Regeneration - someone is not saved until they are baptized in water, some believe they must speak in tongues and be baptized a certain way (mode) and in a certain church by certain people in order to be saved. Most Church of Christ and Oneness Pentecostals are examples of baptismal regeneration.
Complimentarian - men and women have equal value, but different/unique roles - men are to be the leaders of the church and home - husbands loving their wife as co-heirs, wives submitting to their husbands in everything as to the Lord.		Egalitarian (men and women do not have unique roles or positions - women pastors, women leaders, wives not submitting to husband, working outside the home even with young children, etc.
Blended Worship - TBC is both contemporary and traditional at times. We promote passionate, participatory, and theologically accurate songs in musical worship foremost for/unto God but also to edify believers - we have blended music - hymns, contemporary music, not opposed to drums, guitars, and other cultural styles of music as long as they genuinely are for the Lord and in line with truth/Bible.	Contemporary Music Only or music targeted to a specific group or genre	Traditional Music - hymns only, or Culture driven music where a style of music caters to a specific group/culture/subset of people
Full/Complete Gospel (life, death, resurrection, repentance, faith, Lordship) Bad News (Sin, Hell, God's Wrath) and Good News (God's love, grace, mercy in providing a solution for our sins) and Biblical Response (Repentance and Faith - willing to follow/obey Jesus as Lord - to learn and progressively obey all His commandments - Mt. 28:18-20) and believers/water baptism as proof/evidence as soon as possible (Acts 2:38)		Social Gospel, Easy Believism Gospel (God is love, no mention or explanation of sin/repentance, blood/substitutionary atonement, no urging of Lordship or leaving life of sin/selfishness by obedience like baptism, putting of former sins, discipleship/progressively knowing and obeying Scripture that conforms/lives more and more like Jesus.
Dispensational (difference Church and Israel, historical int. of O.T. and N.T., rapture, tribulation, real/literal 1000 year mill. Kingdom/reign of Christ on the earth, Great White Throne Judgment, New Heavens/Earth (Heaven proper)		Covenantal/Amillennial, Post Millennialism (Christianizing the world before Christ returns - u turn to take everyone to heaven)
Regular Communion , perhaps communion only to those who are members/good standing in an evangelical churches - where at least a church Elder has heard/confirmed their testimony	Open Communion - open to all believers, not just members in good standing	Closed communion - communion only served to members in good standing - no who just thinks/identifies as a Christian and no christians who are members of other churches
Memorial View of Communion - Bread and Wine/Juice are symbolic for remembrance (looking back - remembering the cross, looking inward - examining/confessing sin, and looking forward - proclaiming Christ dead as our hope/solution for sin, Satan, and death until He comes.	Modified View of Real Presence (Lutheran view of consubstantiation that the real presence of Christ is in with and under the elements)	Real Presence View of Communion (Roman Catholic View - Transubstantiation - at the command of a Priest, ringing of a bell, Christ comes down from heaven and the consecrated wafer and wine become the literal body and blood of Christ so that Christ is resacrificed, literally consumed, so that grace is literally infused into the worshipper (sacerdotal/sacramental view)
Eschatology Specific and Important - Pre trib rapture, pre millennial return of Christ, literal 1000 year reign, New heavens/New earth/New Jerusalem (heaven proper)		Eschatology Generic and Non-important - Vague, unclear, untaught, not emphasized or seen as important.
Creationism - Young Earth (trust the Bible) Taking the O.T. Literally and consistently (Ex. Moses the author of the Pentuch uses the Hebrew word for day is "yom" the same in Genesis 1 - morning and evening the first day, etc. as in Ex. 20:11 God made the heavens and earth in six days). Also, a literal view of Luke 3 who gives a genealogy of from Jesus back to Adam gives thousands not millions of years.		Creationism - Old Earth / Theistic Evolution (trust Science)
Traditional Marriage - God's instituted marriage in Genesis 2:24 which says for one man to leave his father and mother and be united to one wife/woman. Thus, Marriage is only between one biological man and one biological woman		Man's institution and redefinition of marriage /multiple definitions of marriage
Biological/Binary View of Gender Sex is determined by God and is confirmed multiple ways scientifically (chromosomely, hormonally, and physically - brain, body structure/features/ sex organs clearly show two sexes not many)		Non-binary view of gender / transgenderism

<p>Homosexuality is an Abomination to God and a curse on society - The Bible calls it unnatural, a perversion, and Sodomy for which God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. There is no question that it is medically dangerous (stds, lower life spans, etc.), but the Bible also list it as a clear sign of unbelievers who do not enter the Kingdom of God (Gal. 5, 1 Cor 6, Romans 1). It is not an unpardonable sin if repented - but dangerous sin because in pride people are even labeling themselves by their sin and proud of it despite its</p>		<p>LGBTQ+ are all accepted in the church (except for pedophilia and bestiality - but these will also likely be accepted in time) and people are accepted as Christians who are practicing all kinds of sexual immorality even though this goes against numerous passages (Gal. 5:19-21, 6:7-8, 1 Cor. 6:9-10)</p>
<p>Small Church/Church Planting - our goal is to be a church planting church rather than a large or mega church where it's much tougher to know, shepherd, and disciple people. Our goal is pass on our doctrinal statement and Biblical philosophy of ministry by planting/reproducing Biblically healthy churches that build their church and maintain their church solely on the blueprint of Scripture (what God wants) rather than the blueprint of culture (what people want).</p>		<p>Mega Church, large church philosophy - the goal is often a campus, buildings, and success is grade in what man sees rather than the true buildings/temples (each human soul) and grading success by what God sees/wants (new people saved, disciplined towards maturity - passing on their faith to the next generation)</p>
<p>1 to 1 Discipleship/ there are many ways to grow as a Christian - Congregation - 52 worship services/yr, Class (Bible Classes), Cell (Home Groups), but Comrade/1 to 1 discipleship/mentorship has been found by TBC to be one of the fastest ways to grow. 1 to 1 as well as the Christian themselves studying/intaking/saturating their minds with God's Word 7 days a week (not just on Sundays) seems to be the greatest way a Christian grow towards maturity. This is why TBC stresses Sunday School and home groups as means to grow as small groups are best to get to know people, make a closest friends from within the church, and practice the "one anothers" that are almost impossible to do someone is only coming to the <u>worship service on Sundays or interacting with other believers only in large groups.</u></p>		<p>Only Corporate / large group teaching or preaching is offered - no 1 to 1, limited small groups, and Pastors usually don't meet with their people privately as part of their shepherding</p>
<p>Lower Criticism - There is a place for Biblical scholarship that researches the Bible out of faith, love and obedience. Ex. Scholars who compare differences in the Biblical manuscripts as to what did God say in original manuscripts)</p>		<p>Higher Criticism (Scholars who approach the Bible only out of skepticism, critique, or mere academia. Ex. Jesus seminar "scholars" who tamper with Scripture - removing, denying, or ignoring Scripture with the approach that they are so smart they can determine if God or the historical Jesus really said something in the Bible)</p>
<p>Church Discipline is Practiced because Jesus commands so in Mt. 18 and also to protect the purity and holiness and accurate testimony of the church.</p>		<p>Church Discipline is never practiced - because either the Pastors don't know their sheep to know when sin needs to be confronted or there is a reluctance to cause anything that could offend or lead people to leave the church or upset others in the church (this is called closing the back door of the church - the door of any offense or controversial topic)</p>
<p>Military / Legal Arms Encouraged - Protecting our families (husbands armed), communities (law enforcement) and nation (military) is necessary and commanded by God</p>		<p>Pacifists - military or guns discouraged or seen as a sin</p>
<p>Benevolence with the gospel (always a both and to share the message of Christ along with the compassion of Christ by meeting physical needs)</p>		<p>Benevolence without the gospel /social gospel/ social justice</p>
<p>Diversity Welcomed and Encouraged but not forced (no prejudice, avoidance or lack of fellowship based on race, economics, social standing) (but no forced quotas or affirmative action - preference to any race or groups of people based on minority status nor discrimination based on perceived privileged status)</p>		<p>Diversity Forced or Mandated Reparations / Wokism / Affirmative Action. Some churches have created positions such as Pastors of Diversity or forcing/requiring their Leadership Boards to be diverse according to the percentage of the population in their area rather than looking for the most godly and faithful men in the church regardless of their race who meet all the Biblical qualifications of an Elder/Pastor according to Titus 1, 1 Timothy 3, and described by the examples of Peter in 1 Peter 5, and Paul in Acts 20.</p>
<p>Evidential Apologetics - God can use logic, philosophy, evidences to help convince and persuade men to follow Christ even though Scripture should be primary (Josh McDowell, Lee Strobel)</p>		<p>Presuppositional Apologetics - never appeal to man's mind but only to his conscience of what he already knows deep down is true (John Frame) - presuppose God exists never give evidences for God since that is putting God on trial with man</p>
<p>Church Primary over Para Church not a substitute but should compliment the church and be subject to the church not its own/independent authority but ranked under church Elders</p>		<p>Parachurch organizations that replace the church - rather than come alongside and support the church some people allow para church organizations to become primary or even a replacement of the church - taking on the role, responsibilities, and authority/commands that God has given to the church</p>
<p>Non-Isolationists - In the world but not of the world - among the world in order to witness and reach the world but different from the world with holy/righteous living</p>		<p>Isolationists - total separation from the culture (Amish and some Mennonite) but how can they reach the world and be faithful to the Great Commission if they completely separate themselves and hardly ever interact with unbelievers?</p>
<p>Gospel Activism and Good citizenship which includes voting, etc. but no hope in turning the world or country around through politics /political movements but through the gospel - converting people 1 at time as only Jesus will save and restore this country not a president, politician, leader, etc.</p>	<p>Political Activism is the main way or only way to save our country, change/turn our country around as some try to legislate morality.</p>	<p>Non-Political Involvement - political involvement is to be avoided altogether or viewed as sinful (vs. God wants believers at every level, industry, and every aspect of society - except of course involvement in sinful industries like prostitution, drugs, any job that goes against the laws and principles of Scripture)</p>
<p>Middle position as far as contextualization in missions - cannot pretend to be a Muslim in order to reach a Muslim and yet should not transfer American culture/traditions but transfer Christ/Biblical living. Complete assimilation to Jesus but retain native culture as long as it doesn't disobey/contradict the Bible.</p>	<p>Low Contextualization/high assimilation/acculturation in missions - requiring complete assimilation of people not only to your beliefs/the Bible but also to your culture and cultural practices.</p>	<p>High Contextualization/low assimilation or zero acculturation in Missions - Mixing of pagan or sinful culture with Jesus and even pretending or practicing false beliefs in order to gain an audience with those practicing other religions.</p>
<p>Faithful and Growing Church by New Converts - Our overall goal is to be faithful/successful in God's eyes - to hear those words, "Well done good and faithful slave." (Mt. 25:21-23) It's ok to be persecuted or not successful in man's eyes as long as we are faithful and successful in God's eyes.</p>		<p>Dying Church, Compromising Church - Churches that are Worldly/Tolerating Sin are warned in Revelation 2-3 for being lukewarm, tolerating evil, apathy, and leaving their 1st love (Christ).</p>

<p>Non-Tongues Speaking/Practicing Church - we do not practice speaking in tongues because 1 Cor. 13:8 clearly says the spiritual gifts of prophecy, knowledge, and tongues will cease when the maturity of the church comes. Additionally, we know of no modern church that is practicing tongues as the Bible/Holy Spirit commands - a sign for unbelievers (ability to speak in foreign languages without studying resulting in unbelievers getting saved because they hear the gospel in their own language), at the most 2 or 3, always with an interpreter so everyone knows what is being said (everything in decency and in order), and always as the <u>prompting of the Holy Spirit and not by the prompting or practice of a person.</u></p>		<p>Tongues Speaking/Practicing Church or private prayer language view</p>
<p>Gracious Speech/Gracious Gospel - Christians are to Speak the Truth in Love, with Gentleness and Respect, and be wise and bold Witnessing in making the most of every opportunity.</p>		<p>Non Gracious Speech - Hell Fire and Brimstone Gospel, No love or grace, God Hates You Street Preaching that is viewed or received as harsh overly judgmental</p>
<p>Submission to human government but also Obey God rather than Men even if it brings suffering/persecution - submission to human government authority is commanded by God but also willingness to be persecuted and civil disobedience warranted in limited situations where authorities force us to go against God's Word or our conscience. The Bible says the godly WILL be persecuted - and to pursue/store up <u>eternal rewards (best life later in heaven)</u></p>		<p>Always Obey authorities and government, civil disobedience never valid or legitimate for Christians or churches. Often compliance is not to obey God/Scriptures but a fear of man or a desire to be comfortable Christians who remain safe, prosperous, and not persecuted.</p>
<p>Thankful, Humble, Joyful, Content regardless of circumstances. Godliness with contentment is great gain, God opposes the proud but exalts the humble, we <u>are to pray always with thanksgiving, and be joyful/hopeful because of Christ.</u></p>		<p>Health, Wealth, Prosperity Gospel (best life now on earth) God wants and enables everyone to be rich, successful - or as they say healthy, wealthy, and wise.</p>
<p>No Modern Apostles or Prophets - no one can do the stuff (signs, wonders, miracles ceased when original Apostles died and the early church matured)</p>		<p>Modern Apostles and Prophets are for today and all the spiritual gifts are for today. Expectation that the modern church can be just like the early church in the book of Acts.</p>
<p>Divorce and Remarriage only for Adultery and Abandonment, separation only for physical danger and only for a time</p>		<p>Divorce and Remarriage or separation for any reason - including boundaries, bitterness, trusting your own heart, ok to want and get someone better than your spouse etc.</p>
<p>Progressive Holiness (righteous/godly living) not optional for the true believer - Zero/no sexual immorality policy - no fornication sex before marriage, adultery - sex outside your marriage, homosexuality, transgenderism, pedophilia , bestiality allowed in the church</p>		<p>Non-judgmental and Tolerance, no holy living promoted or required within the church, often allowing secrecy of sin and ongoing sin to allowed, open, or left unconfessed within the church</p>
<p>All forms of Murder are Sin: Abortion/euthanacia, infanticide, suicide not justified for ANY reason - but not an unpardonable sin - the only side that is unpardonable is rejecting the gospel - Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.</p>		<p>Abortion, Euthanacia, Suicide is not murder and justified in all cases or in certain cases and situations</p>
<p>Dispensational Eschatology / Doctrine of Imminency - We believe and are waiting for a Pre Tribulational Rapture that is imminent (the belief that Jesus can rapture His church to heaven at any time) is important not only for our hope but also for our holiness.</p>	<p>Mid-Tribulational Rapture or Pre Wrath View of the Rapture</p>	<p>Post Tribulational Rapture</p>
<p>Pro Israel - we love the Jewish people not only because our Messiah/Savior is Jewish, but also because the calling/promises to Israel as God's chosen people are irrevocable, but also because in the future all the nation of Israel will be saved and we will enter the Kingdom with them as Israel will be the new and lone superpower of the world led by King Jesus, as well as sharing eternity (new heavens, new earth, new Jerusalem) with Jews who love and trust Jesus for salvation.</p>	<p>Israel Neutral</p>	<p>Anti-Israel</p>
<p>Distinction between the Church and nationalistic Israel until the Kingdom. We are in the church age, but the church will soon be raptured from the earth leading to a terrible Tribulation and age/time of Jacob's trouble (70th week of Daniel for God's chosen people Israel) whom God will protect and ultimately save from the coming Anti-Christ. <u>After Jesus returns, we will be one people of God in the Millennial Kingdom (Eph. 2)</u></p>		<p>The Church is the new Israel</p>
<p>2nd Coming of Christ to earth (Pre Millennialism) to save Israel from physical annihilation from the Anti-Christ, forgive Israel as they join the New Covenant, and return with all the church saints and Israel to judge the world in absolute justice and establish His <u>eternal Kingdom.</u></p>		<p>Post Millennialism - the world will be Christianized before Christ comes back and takes all believers to heaven.</p>
<p>Dispensational - Consistent Historical Interpretation- God has raised up various (probably 7 distinct ages/administrations: 1. Innocence (Genesis 1:1—3:7), 2. Conscience (Genesis 3:8—8:22), 3 Human Government (Genesis 9:1—11:32), 4. Promise (Genesis 12:1—Exodus 19:25), 5. Law (Exodus 20:1—Acts 2:4), 6. Grace (Acts 2:4—Revelation 20:3), and 7. The Millennial Kingdom (Revelation 20:4—6). Consistent historical interpretation of O.T. (not reading O.T. through the N.T. lens</p>	<p>Progressive Dispensationalism, Progressive Covenantalism</p>	<p>Covenant Theology, New Covenant Theology</p>
<p>Literal 1000 Millennial Kingdom/Reign of Christ on the earth. Jesus will return at the end of the Tribulation to establish His promised Kingdom on earth - Himself as King of nationalistic Israel and ruler over the entire World (Psalm 2), ruling and reigning with the saints from Jerusalem on the throne of David. During this time Satan and demons are bound, creation is restored to be like Eden/curse removed, and only believers enter it and enjoy it.</p>		<p>The Millenium is not a literal 1000 years but just a long period of time (Ex. many covenantalist believe we are in the millenium now as to them it's the time period from Christ's ascension till now. Also they believe Jesus is ruling and reigning from heaven but will never to return to the earth to reign and rule here - he will return only to take us to heaven (U turn theology).</p>
<p>2 resurrections, 2 judgments, 2 timings of glorified bodies (beginning of millenium- believers, after millenium Great white throne - unbeliever), also different timing of resurrection of believers - O.T. saints raised after Trib. Before millenium, n.t. saints raised at rapture.</p>		<p>There is only one return of Christ (no rapture just 2nd coming), only one resurrection (of both N.T. and O.T. saints), and only one judgement (both believers and believers will stand before God at the Great White throne judgment - some to everlasting life and some to everlasting contempt. (Daniel 12:2, Rev. 20:11-15)</p>
<p>New Heaven, New Earth, New Jerusalem - known as the eternal state, at the end of the 1000 year Millennial Kingdom, after one last final rebellion by Satan and his followers, the old earth will be dissolved and believers/saints will be transferred to a New Heaven, New Earth, and New Jerusalem (heaven proper/personal dwelling place of God)</p>		<p>Jesus eternal Kingdom is now - not future or in two stages (1000 years on earth, then eternity in the New Heaven, Earth, Jerusalem) but only one - He is already in His Kingdom - reigning from heaven and then in the future returning to the earth to take believers/saints to heaven.</p>

TRUTH BIBLE CHURCH



FOLLOWERS OF JESUS SEEKING TO...

LOVE GOD SUPREMELY

Matthew 22:37-38 ³⁷ And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND." ³⁸ "This is the great and foremost commandment.

SERVE PEOPLE SINCERELY

Matthew 22:39 ³⁹ "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

John 13:34-35 ³⁴ "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

REACH THE LOST URGENTLY

Matthew 28:19-20 ¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Acts 5:12

¹² At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's portico.



Matthew 16:4, 24:23-26

Matthew 16:4 ⁴ "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and a sign will not be given it, except the sign of Jonah."

Matthew 24:23-26 ²³ "Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There *He is*,' do not believe *him*. ²⁴ "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ "Behold, I have told you in advance. ²⁶ "So if they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go out, *or*, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe *them*."



1 Corinthians 13:8-10

⁸ Love never fails; but if *there are gifts of prophecy*, they will be done away; if *there are tongues*, they will cease; if *there is knowledge*, it will be done away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part; ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.

(The word “perfect” is τέλειος *teleios*: having reached its end, complete, mature) (better translated “when the maturity comes” because the context is not Jesus’ return, nor the completion of the canon, but the maturity of the church)



2 Corinthians 12:12

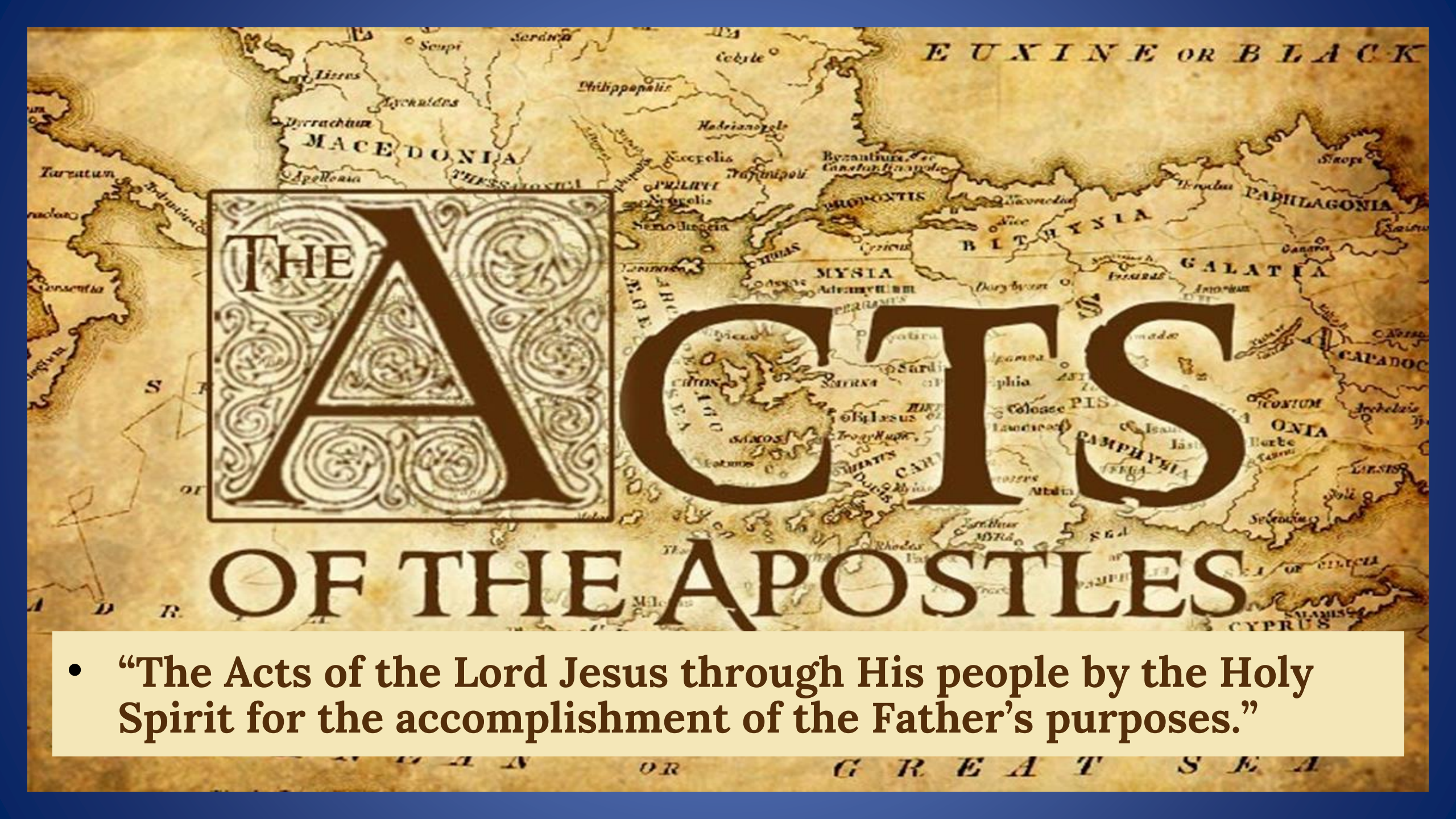
¹² The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.



Revelation 2:2

² 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them *to be false*;





THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

- “The Acts of the Lord Jesus through his people by the Holy Spirit for the accomplishment of the Father’s purposes.”

Acts 5:1-42 – 7 Priorities of a Biblical Church

(what should we EXPECT a Biblically healthy church to focus on to be like in terms of its priorities and practices?)

Lord help TBC to be...

1. A God Fearing and Glorifying Church

Acts 5:11 ¹¹ And great fear came over the whole church, and over all who heard of these things.

2. A Unified by Truth/Doctrine/Bible Church

Acts 5:12 they were all with one accord in Solomon's portico.

3. A New Convert Growing Church

Acts 5:14 And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to *their number*,

4. A Biblical Membership Church

5. A Full Gospel Preaching Church

Acts 5:20 ²⁰ "Go, stand and speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this Life."

6. A New Covenant, Holy Spirit driven, and Obeying Church

Acts 5:29 ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men.

Acts 5:30-32 ³⁰ "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. ³¹ "He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. ³² "And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."

7. A Bible Preaching and Teaching Church that is focused on Jesus and willing to be persecuted for obeying His commands!

Acts 5:41-42 ⁴¹ So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for *His* name. ⁴² And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

SO WHAT?

Application



TRUTH Jesus the Chief Cornerstone

1 Timothy 3:15-16 *I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.* ¹⁶ By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.

TBC's Position	Middle Positions	Other Positions
Religious	Agnostic	Atheist
Christian	Theist (God exists but can't be known)	Other Religions (Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Judaism, New Age)
Protestant (5 solas of the Reformation)		Coptic, Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic (R.C. Catechism, Tradition, Councils, Magisterium, 7 sacraments)
Low Church/Non-Liturgical		High Church/Liturgical (Episcopal, Anglican, Lutheran)
Evangelical/Conservative/Gospel Driven (Trinity, Inspiration/Authority of the Bible, Salvation by grace through faith, Conversion/being Born Again, Witnessing/Evangelizing, Personal Faith - Christian morals, ethics, living, Return of Jesus/Heaven)		Liberal/Cultural Driven Churches
Biblicist/High View of Scripture Fundamentalist/Bible Driven (biblical inerrancy/sufficiency - importance of doctrine, usually dispensational/pro Israel, young earth creationism, exclusivity/deity/sinlessness, virgin birth, perfect life/imputation, sacrificial death/penal substitutionary atonement, resurrection/intercession of Jesus, specifics of Salvation - penal substitutionary atonement, emphasis on repentance receiving Jesus as Savior and Lord to avoid Hell, emphasis on the church priority and authority, emphasize eschatology - rapture, tribulation, 2nd coming, Mill. Kingdom, New Heavens/Earth. Morally Absolute positions on fornication, adultery, homosexuality, abortion, etc. Everything the church does or doesn't do has a Scriptural basis, mandate, backing/derived from the Bible.		Low View of Scripture, Ecumenical / Unity Driven/ Doctrinally Undefined (non specific in doctrine in order to appeal to the largest number of people possible or unify the greatest numbers of people)
Lordship Salvation - No works/deeds are required for salvation but true belief involves Biblical Repentance (confession and willingness to turn from sin), Faith (genuine belief/trust in Jesus alone to save from sin/God's wrath), and Lordship (commitment/covenant that promises to follow and obey Jesus as Lord is required for salvation as they are not works/deeds but attitudes and actions of genuine faith/believing heart.		Non- Lordship (Grace Alone/Free Grace Position) No repentance is required for salvation - just faith/belief. And saving faith/belief may never produce any change or obedience, and repentance/willing to obey Jesus as Lord is a follow on commitment after salvation and part of sanctification, but not a condition for salvation.
Progressive Sanctification for EVERY true believer - Spiritual Disciplines (Prayer, Word, Fellowship, Witnessing), Holiness/Righteousness/godliness (living according to God's Word), and Obedience to Jesus's commands because He is LORD is NOT required to be saved but IS required and expected for everyone who has truly believed and really been saved. Good works/deeds are the proof/evidence of salvation as the Holy Spirit produces it and promises Biblical change/obedience/progressive growth and sanctification/conformity to Christ in EVERY real believer (2 Cor. 5:15-21)		Just say the Sinners Prayer - because once saved always saved even if a person is living continually just like the wicked world. Obedience to the Bible/Jesus' Commands, Holy Living, and progressive sanctification is not to be demanded or expected in every true believer. Some only say the sinners prayer and add Jesus to their sinful life, but do not need to leave their life of sin.
Non-Denominational - Denominational affiliation is ok but not essential and at times detrimental as people come to have negative views/perceptions of denominations that keep them from visiting affiliated local churches		Denominational affiliation is important and beneficial / Main Line Protestant Denominations (Episcopal, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist, Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ/Christian Church, AME African Methodist Episcopal, Reformed Church in American/Dutch Reformed)
Historical Grammatical Interpretation/ Singular Meaning Hermeneutics/ (Literal, Contextual, Grammatical, Historical, Total)		Allegorical, Experiential, Personal, Multiple Meaning Hermeneutics/Interpretation
TBC holds a middle position on the Calvinometer - we believe in depravity, election, atonement, grace, and perseverance of the saints just not in the typical extra biblical definitions and their understanding of the modifying words - total, unconditional, limited, irresistible, limited)...so we believe in God's absolute Sovereignty and Goodness/Holiness, predestination based on love, grace, and foreknowledge that is a mystery to its particulars, the gracious planing, providing, and preaching of salvation/ drawing of men without which no man would be saved or can come to Jesus on His own, and the security	Calvinism (a.k.a. Reformed Theology) TULIP - 1. total depravity, 2. unconditional election, 3. limited atonement, 4. irresistible grace, 5. perseverance of the saints) (6. double election/reprobation 7. God plans/will/ordains	Arminianism Free Will or Human Ability: ability to choose or reject God's offer of salvation. Conditional Election: God's election or choice of individuals for salvation is based on His foreknowledge of their faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ's death on the cross was intended to provide salvation for all people, not just for a specific group of individuals predetermined by God. Conditional Election: the atonement is sufficient for

<p>Partial Cessationism (Apostolic sign gifts - signs, wonders, miracles, and 1 Cor 13:8 gifts - prophecy, knowledge, and tongues have ceased with the maturity of the church)</p>	<p>Total Cessationism - none of the spiritual gifts in Romans 12 and 1 Cor. 12 are for today - almost the anti-supernatural view of Thomas Jefferson as a Theist who removed all miracles from his Bible</p>	<p>Continuationism (all spiritual gifts are operational and are for today, we should expect everything in the book of Acts to happen today)</p>
<p>Nouthetic Counseling (Bible Only) The Bible is not only innerrant and infallible but is also fully suffiecient - has everything we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3)</p>	<p>Integrationist Counseling (Mix Bible with Psychology of Philsophy)</p>	<p>Trust and dependence on Man's Knowledge (Psychology, Philosophy, Science, etc.)</p>
<p>Expository Preaching (preaching through books of the Bible chapter by chapter, verse by verse)</p>		<p>Topical, Self-Help, Antecdotal Preaching</p>
<p>Elder Led/Elder Ruled church government</p>		<p>Congregational Rule, Pastor Rule, Deacon Rule, Heirarchal Rule</p>
<p>God Sensative/Bible Driven Churches - everything to please/glorify God - success is what God sees and whats - focus on equipping believers who comprise the church to reach unbelievers outside the church</p>		<p>Seeker Sensative/Culture Driven Churches - church built around attracting unbelievers, success is what man sees (numbers, popularity, buildings, programs, etc.)</p>
<p>Believer's Baptism/Anabaptist Roots (strong emphasis on believer's baptism, voluntary church membership, discipleship, and the separation of church and state. They advocate for a more radical interpretation of Christian teachings and often faced persecution for their beliefs.</p>	<p>Anabaptist groups/denominations and history: Mennonite, Amish, Grace Brethren, Hutterites are anabaptists - original anabaptists where greatly opposed or persecuted by the Roman Catholics, Anglicans/Church of England, Calvinist/Reformed/Presbyterians, and Lutherans for their ana/against infant baptismism beliefs of believer's baptism as were labeled anabaptists or "rebaptizer" by their opponents. The teaching of Swiss Reformer Huldrych Zwingli on the authority of Scripture and criticism of the Caholic Mass led to the first "rebaptizers" - Conrad Grebel, Felix Manz and George Blaurock (formed the first Anabaptist congregation in Zurich, Switzerland, in 1525), Menno Simons, Baltasar Hubmaier, Wilhelm Reublin, and Michael Sattler were also early anabaptist founders. Its also important to note that not only did Jesus and the 1st century/early church practice beleiver's baptism, but also the 2nd century Montanists, and 3rd century Novatianists until it was "rediscovered" in the 16th century during the Protestant Reformation.</p>	<p>Infant Baptism/Churches that baptize infants for salvation (removal of original sins like the Catholics or those who believe it's simliar to circumcision in the Old Testament as a sign and seal of God's covenant relationship with famlies - so that it is a promise of God's grace, the congregations commitment to teach the child the knowledge and love of God, and a families/parents commitment to raise their child in the faith and that as the child comes of age they will respond faviorably in time to God's grace and profess their faith in Jesus Christ.</p>
<p>Water Baptism is Evidence of salvation but not required for salvation as the first act/step a new Christian should do/take after repenting of their sins and placing their faith in Jesus as Lord - and baptism was the main way that people "joined" the early church as far a membership rite - but baptism in no way saves by the act itself, but is proof/evidence that someone is saved as they will want to do the first thing their new Lord commands after their confession that Jesus is Lord.</p>		<p>Baptismal Regeneration - someone is not saved until they are baptized in water, some believe they must speak in tongues and be baptized a certain way (mode) and in a certain church by certain people in order to be saved. Most Church of Christ and Oneness Pentecostals are examples of baptismal regeneration.</p>
<p>Complimentarian - men and women have equal value, but different/unique roles - men are to the be leaders of the church and home - husbands loving their wife as co-heirs, wives submitting to their husbands in everything as to the Lord.</p>		<p>Egalitarian (men and women do not have unique roles or positions - women pastors, women leaders, wives not submitting to husband, working outside the home even with young children, etc.</p>
<p>Blended Worship - TBC is both contemporary and traditional at times. We promote passionate, partipatory, and theologically accurate songs in musical worship foremost for/unto God but also to edify beleivers - we have blended music - hymns, contemporary music, not opposed to drums, guitars, and other cultural styles of music as long as they genuinely are for the Lord and in line with truth/Bible</p>	<p>Contemporary Music Only or music targeted to a specific group or genre</p>	<p>Traditional Music - hymns only, or Culture driven music where a style of music caters to a specific group/culture/subset of people</p>

cultural styles of music as long as they genuinely are for the Lord and in line with truth/Bible.		
Full/Complete Gospel (life, death, resurrection, repentance, faith, Lordship) Bad News (Sin, Hell, God's Wrath) and Good News (God's love, grace, mercy in providing a solution for our sins) and Biblical Response (Repentance and Faith - willing to follow/obey Jesus as Lord - to learn and progressively obey all His commandments - Mt. 28:18-20) and believers/water baptism as proof/evidence as soon as possible (Acts 2:38)		Social Gospel, Easy Believism Gospel (God is love, no mention or explanation of sin/repentance, blood/substitutionary atonement, no urging of Lordship or leaving life of sin/selfishness by obedience like baptism, putting of former sins, discipleship/progressively knowing and obeying Scripture that conforms/lives more and more like Jesus.
Dispensational (difference Church and Israel, historical int. of O.T. and N.T, rapture, tribulation, real/literal 1000 year mill. Kingdom/reign of Christ on the earth, Great White Throne Judgment, New Heavens/Earth (Heaven proper)		Covenantal/Amillennial, Post Millennialism (Christianizing the world before Christ returns - u turn to take everyone to heaven)
Regular Communion , perhaps communion only to those who are members/good standing in an evangelical churches - where at least a church Elder has heard/confirmed their testimony	Open Communion - open to all believers, not just members in good standing	Closed communion - communion only served to members in good standing - no who just thinks/identifies as a Christian and no christians who are members of other churches
Memorial View of Communion - Bread and Wine/Juice are symbolic for remembrance (looking back - remembering the cross, looking inward - examining/confessing sin, and looking forward - proclaiming Christ dead as our hope/solution for sin, Satan, and death until He comes.	Modified View of Real Presence (Lutheran view of consubstantiation that the real presence of Christ is in with and under the elements)	Real Presence View of Communion (Roman Catholic View - Transubstantiation - at the command of a Priest, ringing of a bell, Christ comes down from heaven and the consecrated wafer and wine become the literal body and blood of Christ so that Christ is resacrificed, literally consumed, so that grace is literally infused into the worshipper (sacerdotal/sacramental view)
Eschtology Specific and Important - Pre trib rapture, pre millenial return of Christ, literal 1000 year reign, New heavens/New earth/New Jerusalem (heaven proper)		Eschtology Generic and Non-important - Vague, unclear, untaught, not emphasized or seen as important.
Creationism - Young Earth (trust the Bible)		Creationism - Old Earth / Theistic Evolution (trust Science)
Traditional Marriage - God's Institution of Marriage is only between one biological man and one biological woman		Man's institution and redefinition of marriage /multiple definitions of marriage
Biological/Binary View of Gender Sex is determined by God and is confirmed mutlipe ways (chromosomely, hormonely, and physically - brain, body structure/features/ sex organs)		Non-binary view of gender / transgenderism
Homosexuality an Abomination to God as it is unnatural, a perversion, medically dangerous, and clear sign of unbelief because people are labeling themelves by their sin and proud of it.		LGBTQ+ are all accepted in the church (except for pedophilia and beastiallity - but these will also likely be accepted in time) and people are accepted as Christians who are practicing all kinds of sexual immorality even though this goes against numerous passages (Gal. 5:19-21, 6:7-8, 1 Cor. 6:9-10)
Small Church/Church Planting		Mega Church, large church philosophy
1 to 1 Discipleship/ Mentorship/Accountability Critical and small groups are important to Christian Growth		Only Corporate / large group teaching or preaching is offered - no 1 to 1, limited small groups, and Pastors usually don't meet with their people privately as part of their shepherding
Lower Criticism (Scholars who compare differences in the Biblical manuscripts as to what did God say in original manuscripts)		Higher Criticism (Scholars who tamper with Scripture - removing, denying, or ignoring Scripture with the approach that they are so smart they can determine if God or the historical Jesus really said somethime in the Bible)
Church Discipline is Practiced because Jesus commands so in Mt. 18 and also to protect the purity and holiness and accurate testimony of the church.		Church Discipline is never practiced - because either the Pastors don't know their sheep to know when sin needs to be confronted or there is a reluctance to cause anything that could offend or lead people to leave the church or upset others in the church (this is called closing the back door of the church - the door of any offense

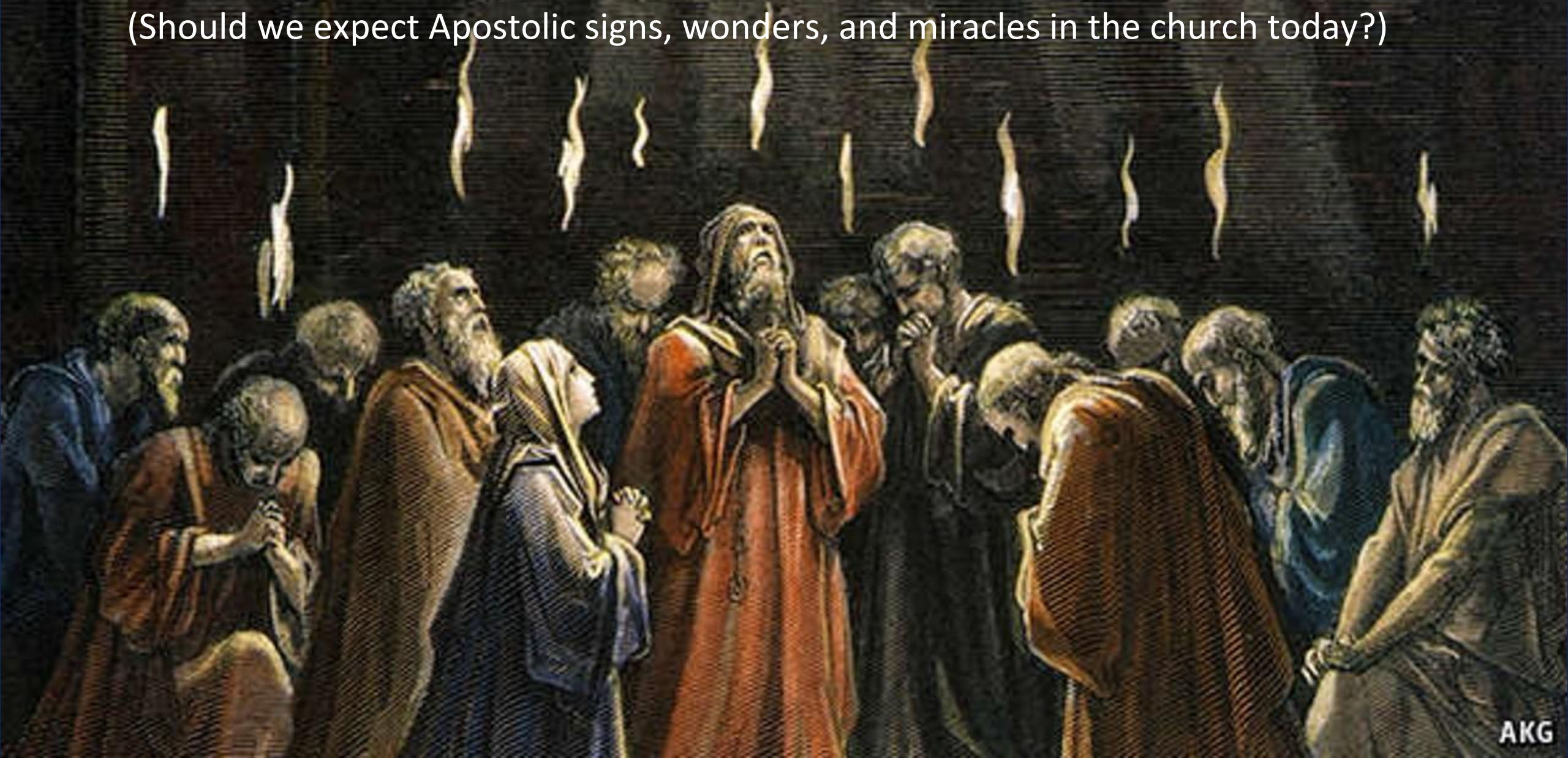
		the church (this is called closing the back door of the church - the door of any offense or controversial topic)
Military / Legal Arms Encouraged		Pacifists - military or guns discouraged or seen as a sin
Benevolence with the gospel (always a both and to share the message of Christ along with the compassion of Christ by meeting physical needs)		Benevolence without the gospel /social gospel/ social justice
Diversity Welcomed and Encouraged but not forced (no prejudice, avoidance or lack of fellowship based on race, economics, social standing) (but no forced quotas or affirmative action - preference to any race or groups of people based on minority status nor discrimination based on perceived privileged status)		Diversity Forced or Mandated Reparations / Wokism / Affirmative Action. Some churches have created positions such as Pastors of Diversity or forcing/requiring their Leadership Boards to be diverse according to the percentage of the population in their area rather than looking for the most godly and faithful men in the church regardless of their race who meet all the Biblical qualifications of an Elder/Pastor according to Titus 1, 1 Timothy 3, and described by the examples of Peter in 1 Peter 5, and Paul in Acts 20.
Evidential Apologetics - God can use logic, philosophy, evidences to help convince and persuade men to follow Christ even though Scripture should be primary (Josh McDowell, Lee Strobel)		Presuppositional Apologetics - never appeal to man's mind but only to his conscience of what he already knows deep down is true (John Frame) - presuppose God exists never give evidences for God since that is putting God on trial with man
Church Primary over Para Church not a substitute but should compliment the church and be subject to the church not its own/independent authority but ranked under church Elders		Parachurch organizations that replace the church - rather than come alongside and support the church some people allow para church organizations to become primary or even a replacement of the church - taking on the role, responsibilities, and authority/commands that God has given to the church
Non-Isolationists - In the world but not of the world - among the world in order to witness and reach the world but different from the world with holy/righteous living		Isolationists - total separation from the culture (Amish and some Mennonite) but how can they reach the world and be faithful to the Great Commission if they completely separate themselves and hardly ever interact with unbelievers?
Gospel Activism and Good citizenship which includes voting, etc. but no hope in turning the world or country around through politics /political movements but through the gospel - converting people 1 at a time as only Jesus will save and restore this country not a president, politician, leader, etc.	Political Activism is the main way or only way to save our country, change/turn our country around as some try to legislate morality.	Non-Political Involvement - political involvement is to be avoided altogether or viewed as sinful (vs. God wants believers at every level, industry, and every aspect of society - except of course involvement in sinful industries like prostitution, drugs, any job that goes against the laws and principles of Scripture)
Middle position as far as contextualization in missions - cannot pretend to be a Muslim in order to reach a Muslim and yet should not transfer American culture/traditions but transfer Christ/Biblical living. Complete assimilation to Jesus but retain native culture as long as it doesn't disobey/contradict the Bible.	Low Contextualization/high assimilation/acclturation in missions - requiring complete assimilation of people not only to your beliefs/the Bible but also to your culture and cultural practices.	High Contextualization/low assimilation or zero acculturation in Missions - Mixing of pagan or sinful culture with Jesus and even pretending or practicing false beliefs in order to gain an audience with those practicing other religions.
Faithful and Growing Church by New Converts , or Faithful and Persecuted Church - Success in God's Eyes		Dying Church, Compromising Church - Churches that are Worldly/Tolerating Sin are warned in Revelation 2-3 for being lukewarm, tolerating evil, apathy, and leaving their 1st love (Christ).
Non-Tongues Speaking/Practicing Church		Tongues Speaking/Practicing Church or private prayer language view
Gracious Speech/Gracious Gospel - Speak the Truth in Love, Gentleness and Respect, wise and bold Witnessing that makes the most of every opportunity.		Non Gracious Speech - Hell Fire and Brimstone Gospel , No love or grace, God Hates You Street Preaching that is viewed or received as harsh overly judgmental
Submission to human government but also Obey God rather than Men even if it brings suffering/persecution - submission to human government authority is commanded by God but also willingness to be persecuted and civil disobedience warranted in limited situations where		Always Obey authorities and government , civil disobedience never valid or legitimate for Christians or churches. Often compliance is not to obey God/Scriptures but a fear of man or a desire to be comfortable Christians who remain

<p>demands force us to go against God's Word or our conscience. The Bible says the guilty will be persecuted and to pursue/store up eternal rewards (best life later in heaven)</p>		<p>Health, Wealth, Prosperity Gospel (best life now on earth) God wants and enables everyone to be rich, successful - or as they say healthy, wealthy, and wise.</p>
<p>Thankful, Humble, Joyful, Content regardless of circumstances. Godliness with contentment is great gain, God opposes the proud but exalts the humble, we are to pray always with thanksgiving, and be joyful/hopeful because of Christ.</p>		
<p>No Modern Apostles or Prophets - no one can do the stuff (signs, wonders, miracles ceased when original Apostles died and the early church matured</p>		<p>Modern Apostles and Prophets are for today and all the spiritual gifts are for today. Expectation that the modern church can be just like the early church in the book of Acts.</p>
<p>Divorce and Remarriage only for Adultery and Abandonment, separation only for physical danger and only for a time</p>		<p>Divorce and Remarriage or separation for any reason - including boundaries, bitterness, trusting your own heart, ok to want and get someone better than your spouse etc.</p>
<p>Progressive Holiness (righteous/godly living) not optional for the true believer - Zero/no sexual immorality policy - no fornication sex before marriage, adultery - sex outside your marriage, homosexuality, transgenderism, pedophilia, bestiality allowed in the church</p>		<p>Non-judgmental and Tolerance, no holy living promoted or required within the church, often allowing secrecy of sin and ongoing sin to be allowed, open, or left unconfessed within the church</p>
<p>All forms of Murder are Sin: Abortion/euthanacia, infanticide, suicide not justified for ANY reason - but not an unpardonable sin - the only side that is unpardonable is rejecting the gospel - Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.</p>		<p>Abortion, Euthanacia, Suicide is not murder and justified in all cases or in certain cases and situations</p>
<p>Dispensational Eschatology - Pre Tribulational Rapture) doctrine of imminency</p>	<p>Mid-Tribulational Rapture or Pre Wrath View of the Rapture</p>	<p>Post Tribulational Rapture</p>
<p>Pro Israel</p>		<p>Anti-Israel</p>
<p>Distinction between the Church and nationalistic Israel until the Kingdom</p>		<p>The Church is the new Israel</p>
<p>2nd Coming of Christ to earth (Pre Millennialism) to save Israel from physical annihilation from the Anti-Christ, forgive Israel as they join the New Covenant, and return with all the church saints and Israel to judge the world in absolute justice and establish His eternal Kingdom.</p>		<p>Post Millennialism - the world will be Christianized before Christ comes back and takes all believers to heaven.</p>
<p>Dispensational - Consistent Historical Interpretation- God has raised up various (probably 7 distinct ages/administrations: 1. Innocence (Genesis 1:1—3:7), 2. Conscience (Genesis 3:8—8:22), 3 Human Government (Genesis 9:1—11:32), 4. Promise (Genesis 12:1—Exodus 19:25), 5. Law (Exodus 20:1—Acts 2:4), 6. Grace (Acts 2:4—Revelation 20:3), and 7. The Millennial Kingdom (Revelation 20:4—6). Consistent historical interpretation of O.T. (not reading O.T. through the N.T. lens</p>	<p>Progressive Dispensationalism, Progressive Covenantalism</p>	<p>Covenant Theology, New Covenant Theology</p>
<p>Literal 1000 Millennial Kingdom/Reign of Christ on the earth. Jesus will return at the end of the Tribulation to establish His promised Kingdom on earth - Himself as King of nationalistic Israel and ruler over the entire World (Psalm 2), ruling and reigning with the saints from Jerusalem on the throne of David. During this time Satan and demons are bound, creation is restored to be like Eden/curse removed, and only believers enter it and enjoy it.</p>		<p>The Millennium is not a literal 1000 years but just a long period of time (Ex. many covenantalist believe we are in the millennium now as to them it's the time period from Christ's ascension till now. Also they believe Jesus is ruling and reigning from heaven but will never to return to the earth to reign and rule here - he will return only to take us to heaven (U turn theology).</p>
<p>2 resurrections, 2 judgments, 2 timings of glorified bodies (beginning of millennium-believers, after millennium Great white throne - unbeliever), also different timing of resurrection of believers - O.T. saints raised after Trib. Before millennium, n.t. saints raised at rapture.</p>		<p>There is only one return of Christ (no rapture just 2nd coming), only one resurrection (of both N.T. and O.T. saints), and only one judgement (both believers and believers will stand before God at the Great White throne judgment - some to everlasting life and some to everlasting contempt. (Daniel 12:2, Rev. 20:11-15)</p>
<p>New Heaven, New Earth, New Jerusalem - known as the eternal state, at the end of the 1000 year Millennial Kingdom, after one last final rebellion by Satan and his followers, the old earth will be destroyed and a new earth will be created. The New Heaven, Earth, Jerusalem will be the eternal state.</p>		<p>Jesus eternal Kingdom is now - not future or in two stages (1000 years on earth, then eternity in the New Heaven, Earth, Jerusalem) but only one - He is already</p>

Sermon Title:

Are there modern day Apostles?

(Should we expect Apostolic signs, wonders, and miracles in the church today?)

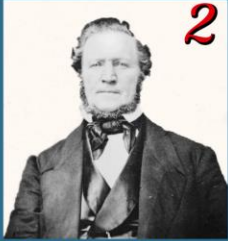




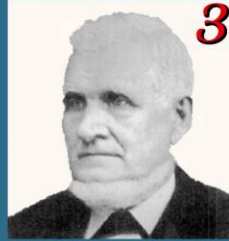
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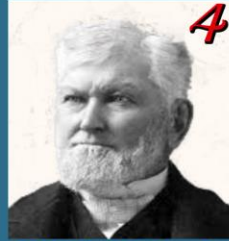
Joseph Smith



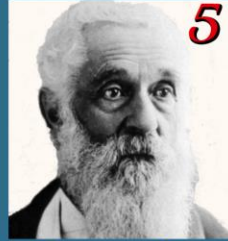
Brigham Young



John Taylor



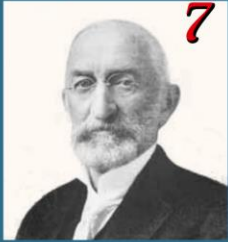
Wilford Woodruff



Lorenzo Snow



Joseph F. Smith



Heber J. Grant



George A. Smith



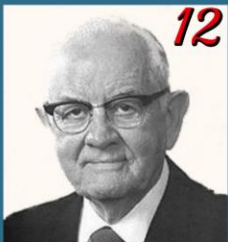
David O. McKay



Joseph Fielding Smith



Harold B. Lee



Spencer W. Kimball



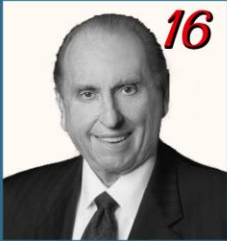
Ezra Taft Benson



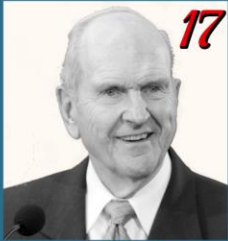
Howard W. Hunter



Gordon B. Hinckley



Thomas S. Monson



Russell M. Nelson



Joseph Smith: "I Will Be A Second Muhammad"

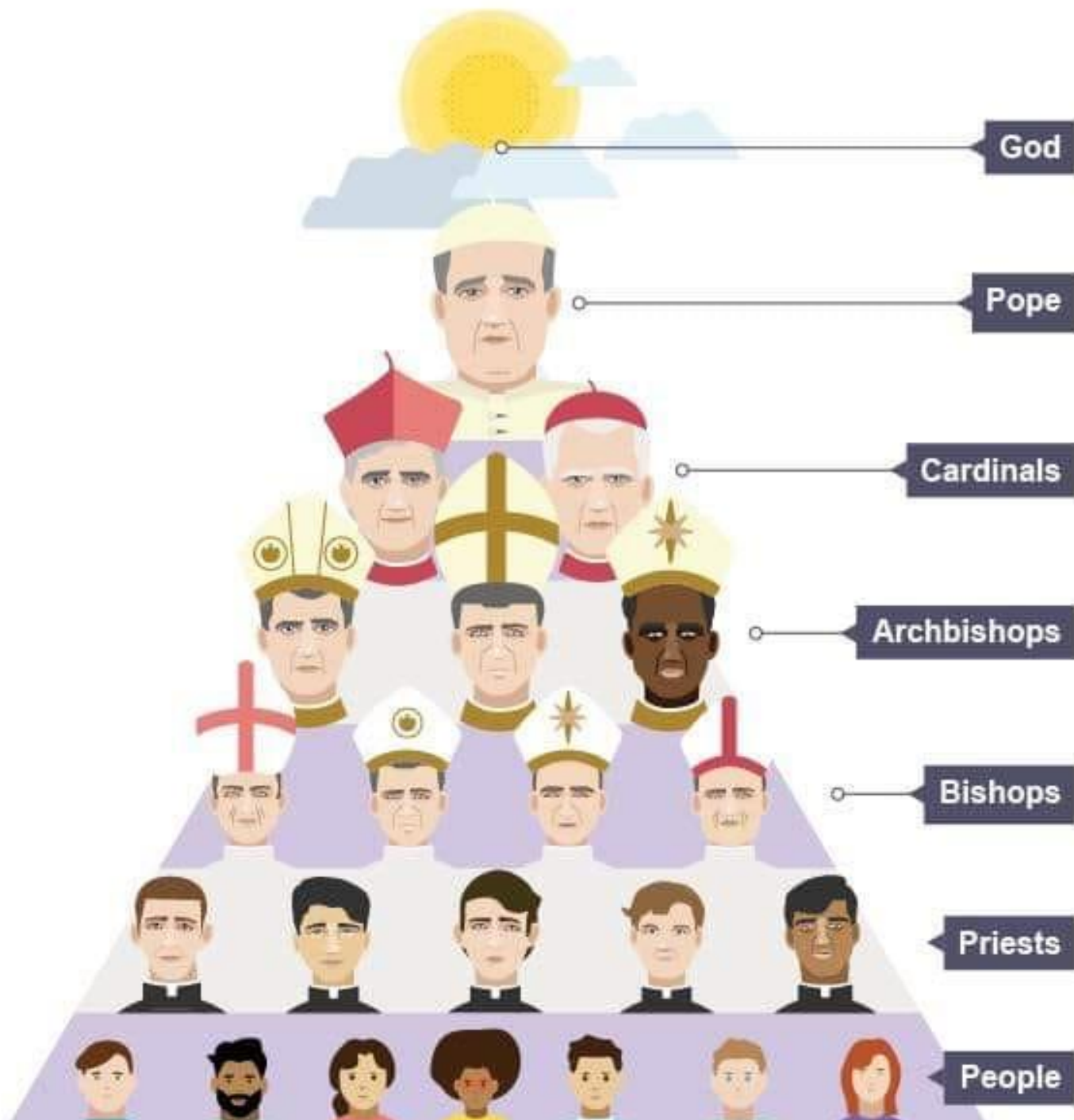


First photograph of Joseph Smith

In the heat of the Missouri "Mormon War" of 1838, Joseph Smith made the following claim:

"I will be to this generation a second Muhammad, whose motto in treating for peace was 'the Alcoran [Koran] or the Sword.' So shall it eventually be with us — 'Joseph Smith or the Sword!'"[1]

It is most interesting that a self-proclaimed Christian prophet



Heirarchy of the Roman Catholic Church

Pope's living quarters



Supreme pontiff (pope)
Elected by College of Cardinals



Cardinal
Chosen by pope, usually from among the bishops



Archbishop
Highest-ranking bishop, heads archdiocese or province

Bishop
Heads diocese (large number of parishes)



Monsignor
An honorary title

Deacon
Parish cleric

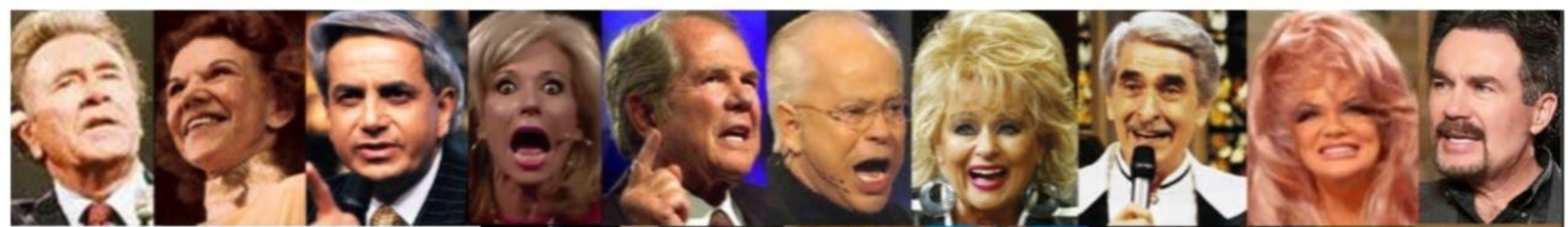
Pastor
Head of parish

Abbot
Superior of a monastery

Parish priest
Administers Mass

5 The camerlengo announces on the balcony of the Vatican; "Habeum papam!" ("We have a pope!") and the new pontiff appears and gives his blessing to the waiting world.

**Are there
modern day
prophets &
apostles?**



“Go and sell everything you own and give it to the poor, so you will have treasure in Heaven. *Then come, and follow me.*” –Matthew 19:21



**Joel Osteen – Net Worth
\$40 Million**



**Creflo Dollar – Net Worth
\$27 Million**



**Benny Hinn – Net Worth
\$42 Million**



**T.D. Jakes – Net Worth
\$150 Million**



**Joyce Meyer – Net Worth
\$25 Million**



**Kenneth Copeland – Net
Worth Unknown; boasts
that he is a billionaire**

2 Peter 2:1-9 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. ² Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; ³ and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. ⁴ For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; ⁵ and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; ⁶ and *if* He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing *them* to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly *lives* thereafter; ⁷ and *if* He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men ⁸ (for by what he saw and heard *that* righteous man, while living among them, felt *his* righteous soul tormented day after day by *their* lawless deeds), ⁹ *then* the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,

FBI



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Is the Word of Faith movement biblical?



Commentary on Acts 5:1-12-32

1. **5:12a** - Acts 5:12 ¹² At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people;

Many Miracles happening through the Apostles (unique gifts and miracles through the Apostles)

2. **5:12b** Acts 5:12 and they were all with one accord in Solomon's portico.

One accord/Unity as they met in Solomon's portico to hear the Word of God/Apostle's teaching (N.T. truth/doctrine). The source of the unity/togetherness was not miracles but truth.

The Twelve Disciples



Peter



James



John



Andrew



Philip



Bartholomew



Matthew



Thomas



James



Thaddaeus



Simon the Zealot



Judas Iscariot

GENERAL INFORMATION • PERSONALITY AND CHARACTER
ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS • SCRIPTURE REFERENCES
KEY LESSONS • STORIES

Lists of Disciples of Christ in the order listed by the writers

Matthew 10:2-4		Mark 3:16-19	Luke 6:12-19	Acts 1:13
Simon	brothers	Simon	Simon	Peter
Andrew		James	Andrew	James
James	brothers	John	James	John
John		Andrew	John	Andrew
Philip		Philip	Philip	Philip
Bartholomew		Bartholomew	Bartholomew	Thomas
Thomas		Matthew	Matthew	Bartholomew
Matthew		Thomas	Thomas	Matthew
James son of Alphaeus		James son of Alphaeus	James son of Alphaeus	James son of Alphaeus
Thaddaeus		Thaddaeus	Simon the Zealot	Simon the Zealot
Simon the Cananaean		Simon the Cananaean	Judas, son of James	Judas, son of James
Judas Iscariot		Judas Iscariot	Judas Iscariot	

What should we EXPECT in the church today?

5. **5:15** Acts 5:15 ¹⁵ to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them.

The extent of the miraculous Powers where they even by faith carried sick people to be healed by Peter's shadow (similar to Jesus merely touching people, or speaking the word that they would be healed)

6. **5:16** Acts 5:16 ¹⁶ Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed.

All these healing brought not only the physically ill to Jerusalem to be made well but also the spiritually oppressed & possessed people to be healed of their Satanic oppression or demon possession... and amazing words – they were ALL healed.



Are Elijah's Mantle, Peter's Shadow, and Paul's Apron for Today?



Continuationism
vs.
Cessationism





Introduction: What is the difference between continuationist and cessationists like us? Continuationists believe all the spiritual gifts of 1 Cor 12 continue and are for today) vs Cessionists believe that certain gifts - the gifts specific to the Apostles - signs, wonders, miracles, and the gifts of 1 Cor. 13:8 prophecy, knowledge, and tongues" have ceased. BUT its important to note that we believe 9 remaining gifts from Romans 12 and 1 Cor 12 ARE still for today - so don't think that TBC believes all the gifts have ceased, rather we urge you to identify, train, and fully utilize your spiritual gifts in order to edify/make the most beautiful and fruitful and successful in the Lord's eyes as possible .

Miracles in the Bible

- Miracles in the Bible only occurred in three major periods of time: the time of Moses and Joshua, the time of Elijah and Elisha, and the time of Christ and the apostles. **Each of those periods is something less than a 100 years in all of human history.** And it is during those three brief periods of time, and those alone, that the miracles proliferated, that the miracles were the norm, that the miracles were in abundance. Now, God can interject Himself into the human stream supernaturally anytime He wants, and we're not limiting Him, we're simply saying that He has chosen to limit Himself, to a great degree, to those three periods of time.

Get
your
Miracle
today!

Expect a Miracle Today...
They do happen for those who ask...



RECEIVE
YOUR
MIRACLE
TODAY!

FIND
YOUR
MIRACLE

believe
for your miracle



BELIEVE YOUR
MIRACLE
IS
COMING

God is still in the
miracle business

HEBREWS 13:8

He's the same
yesterday, today
and forever.

EXPECT YOUR
MIRACLE TODAY!



**EXPECT
YOUR
MIRACLE
TODAY!**

*If you believe,
you will see the*

**Glory
of God**

John 11:40



There are 4 elements in all miracles that help us to understand why there were so many miracles at certain times in the Bible

(Four purposes for miracles...)

1. When there is an age of miracles, whether it's the Mosaic, or the prophetic age of Elijah and Elisha, or the New Testament apostolic era, the first reason is **to introduce a new era of revelation.**
2. God used miracles **to authenticate the messengers (prophets) of that revelation.**
3. Miracles are **to authenticate the message that is given.**
4. Miracles were used **to call the attention of those listening to hear the new revelation, to a response**, to do something specific (i.e. repent and believe Jesus is the Messiah/good news/gospel – Mark 1:15)

Summary:

- We are not running around looking for miracles today, because miracles had a unique purpose: to authenticate revelation, its messengers, its message, and to instruct those who heard to respond. And new revelation is not being given, and we are called not to seek miracles to authenticate an already authenticated word, we are called upon to believe by faith that this is the Word of God, and to respond to it.

3 Things that are wrong/unbiblical about the Pentecostal/Charismatic Movement:

1. **Continuing Divine Revelation** (getting a new “prophetic word,” “dream,” “vision,” or any other “God told me” experience not only potentially adds to the Bible, is often treated with equal or greater authority with the Bible, but often contradicts the Bible). The problem is they still have ongoing revelation, they cannot confirm it’s from God and not our sources (the Devil, Demons, or just the vain or lofty imaginations of man) and there’s no end to the Bible or absolute closed canon/authority to weigh and discern truth from error, good from evil, and right from wrong.

3 Things that are wrong/unbiblical about the Pentecostal/Charismatic Movement:

2. Dangerous experiential hermeneutics/interpretation of Scripture (Non-literal, non-contextual, non-grammatical, and non historical, and non total/panoply). Many wrongly interpret the Word of God first from and through their experiences instead of biblical hermeneutics (literal, contextual, historical, grammatical, total). They go from experience to the Scripture, read themselves into every Scripture (which is a very self-centric rather than Jesus-centric approach) to find and twist the Scriptures out of context to validate their experiences or even sinful living and thus, they mishandle/misinterpret the Holy Scriptures. (Ex. recent female Pastor who defends female Pastors from experience even though it contradicts multiple Scriptures)

3 Things that are wrong/unbiblical about the Pentecostal/Charismatic Movement:

3. UnBiblical Expectations, UnBiblical Roles, and UnBiblical Doctrines and Practices - Rejecting the uniqueness of the original Apostles and the 1st Century apostolic era, and instead advocate that EVERYTHING in the book of Acts should be expected and accepted by the modern church including Modern Apostles (many who are preaching doctrinal heresies) and regular supernatural miracles exactly the same as the early church in Acts (get your miracle, expect your miracle, believe for your miracle, receive your miracle, find your miracle)

BEST-SELLING AUTHOR

JOHN
MACARTHUR

STRANGE FIRE

THE DANGER OF OFFENDING
THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH
COUNTERFEIT WORSHIP

Leviticus 10:1-3 Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and **offered strange fire before the LORD**, which He had not commanded them. ² And fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. ³ Then Moses said to Aaron, "It is what the LORD spoke, saying, 'By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, And before all the people I will be honored.'"

FRANK VIOLA

POURING

HOLY WATER ON

STRANGE FIRE

A CRITIQUE OF
JOHN MACARTHUR'S
STRANGE FIRE & CHARISMATIC CHAOS

Jmac's listed six reasons why there cannot be modern self proclaimed Apostles like Bill Johnson, Lou Engle, Todd White, TD Jakes, and C. Peter Wagner (even at one time CJ Mahaney claimed to be an apostle)

1. The church was founded on them. **Ephesians 2:20**: The foundation of the Scriptures is the prophets (inspired by God to write the O.T.) and Apostles (inspired by God to write the N.T.), the canon is closed, the foundation is already laid and not still being laid.
2. An apostle had to be an eyewitness of the resurrection, **Acts 1:21-22**
3. An apostle was directly chosen (commissioned) verbally by Jesus Christ. (**Mt. 10:1-4, Luke 9:1, Mark 3:13-14,6:7**)
4. The big A apostles (12 Jewish Apostles plus Paul) were authenticated by miraculous signs. (Jewish Apostles - **Acts 2:43, 4:30, 5:12**) (Paul as the Apostle to the Gentiles - **2 Cor. 12:12, Romans 15:18-19, Acts 14:3, 15:12**).
5. The big A Apostles had absolute authority as they were revelatory agents of God – ultimately recording the inspired writings of Scripture which we cherish today. (**Jude 17, 1 Cor. 14:37, 1 Peter 1:19-21**)
6. They have a unique place forever. In the New Jerusalem heaven, John in **Revelation 21:14** is looking at the New Jerusalem, the heavenly city, “had twelve foundational stones with the names of the “twelve apostles.” written on them. Jmac concludes, “ Forever, they’re unique (the 12 Apostles).



Chad's Summary:

1. The 12 Jewish Apostles had to be with Jesus from the beginning of his ministry, and an eyewitness of the resurrection (Acts 1:21-22), and able to do signs and wonders (Acts 2:43, 4:30, 5:12).
2. Paul as the Apostle to the Gentiles also performed the supernatural signs of a true Apostle – signs, wonders, and miracles (2 Cor. 12:12, Romans 15:18-19, Acts 14:3, 15:12).
3. God confirmed His spoken and written Word to the inspired writers of the O.T. and N.T. by signs and wonders (Hebrews 2:4). **Hebrews 2:1-4 For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. ² For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, ³ how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, ⁴ God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.**
4. Churches are to test so called Apostles and when they can't do the stuff (miracles) declare them to be false (false Apostles and false teachers) **Revelation 2:2 ² 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false;**

7 dangers of Continuationism is:

1. Distortion

– Distortion of God’s Word – most often Personal Experience is placed over or equal to the Word of God. They are often feelings and experience driven rather than truth/Bible driven as they don’t practice consistent hermeneutics (principles of bible interpretation). How do they know their dream, voice, or prophecy is from God and not from Satan or just from their own flesh that seeks to be seen as important or recognized by other believers? This allows for “new ideas” “new revelation” which is a modern day Gnosticism (secret knowledge that is superior to the Bible) so that “God told me/spoke to me/revealed to me” is how Joseph Smith the founder of Mormonism, Muhammad the found of Islam were all continuationists who claimed an angel gave them new revelation/Scripture (which I believe actually happened, but the angel of light was not from God as proven by the revelations that not only contradict the Bible but have a works based system of salvation, and deny critical aspects of Jesus – his diety, his humanity, his sinlessness, his sacrifice, his resurrection, or his return.

7 dangers of Continuationism is:

2. Distraction

– Distraction from Doctrine – progressively obeying what God commands in Scripture - They often emphasize signs, wonders, miracles and supernatural spiritual gifts rather than holy living, knowing and living out the Bible.

7 dangers of Continuationism is:

3. Disorder

- Disorderly Worship - Unbiblical/chaotic worship - They often participate in unruly, disorderly, and chaotic worship that is not from God as God would never seek worship, empower worship, or promote worship that goes against his word – multiple tongue speaking no interpreters as 1 Cor. 12-14 is clear tongues is a sign for unbelievers, to hear the gospel in their own language, and must always have an interpret be done with decency and order... and with prophecy there must be at the most 2 or 3. This is why TBC firmly believes that 1 Cor 12-14 is a warning about the abuse of spiritual gifts to draw attention to one self instead of edifying/building up the church in love as it says without love we are/have nothing. And we are cessationists because Paul makes it clear not to clamor or misuse these gifts because even three of the gifts prophecy, knowledge, and tongues will cease when the telios/MATURITY of the church comes. And it clearly has ceased because I know of no so called modern Apostle who can on command or with verification do what I call the “stuff” perform the signs of a true apostle – signs, wonders, and miracles. No one can do it – no Pentecostal/charismatic church avoided Covid, none of their Apostles went healed all the people dying of Covid, because they can’t do the stuff and are false apostles.

7 dangers of Continuationism is:

4. Dishonesty

- Dishonest Gain – deceit, greed, for Personal Profit – throughout our country and especially in Africa – “faith healers” so called “Apostles” are taking advantage of the poor and desperate – it sounds like this, if you just sow your seed of faith and give me your money, you are guaranteed for God to heal you, bless you financially, give you YOUR MIRACLE/so you will have your BEST LIFE NOW. Watch out for the preachers who say God told them they need a private leer jet and multiple mansions and especially to old people who have failing health to give their savings to them while promising God is going to make everything rich like them. This is nothing more than a devilish ponsi scheme – so watch out for the The Kenneth Copelands, Benny Hinns, Richard Tiltens, Creflo Dollar, TD Jakes, Joel Osteens of our world, and almost all the preachers on TBN are false teachers who are enriching themselves by bilking the poor,

7 dangers of Continuationism is:

5. Deception

- Deceptive Lies - False hope, False lies and false promises – not only are they enriching themselves through their fake miracles, they give false hope with multiple false promises, and ridiculous antics that makes the rest of the world think Jesus and Christians are not just freaks, crazy, but funny hilarious FAKES and FRUADS. One charlatan we saw in Africa while we were in Uganda was promising people God would give them a Lambrigini and park it next to his if they just gave everything/money they needed to feed their kids – to him. So sad/tragic how they are misrepresenting the real Jesus, distorting the

- Bible and the real gospel, and making real Christians look ridiculous – so I always tell people don't make your decision about Jesus and the Bible based on someone's poor or false representation but make your decision on Jesus himself by reading God's Word for yourself.

7 dangers of Continuationism is:

6. Disappointment

– many Charasmatics/Pentecostals become disillusioned end of leaving the church all together after being totally disappointed and disenfranchised from the church – why? They eventually see the greed of their Pastors, or realize that their Pastors or healers can't really do the stuff - heal them or others, they don't get healed, they don't get rich, they modern church can't really do *everything* the Apostles or the early did what they read the book of Acts so some punt and throw away the faith altogether because to them it simply doesn't WORK as their leaders promised them. The modern church is still impacted by accidents, sickness, disease, tragedies, they still get Covid, they still get sick, their old and most faithful saints still die because of the curse of sin, some still get cancer and die without healing even though they enough faith that God would heal them or their loved one. But many are given unbiblical EXPECTATIONS and are not taught nor understand ALL that the Bible promises believers for this life... joy in the midst of persecution, perseverance/perspective in the face of pain/sorrow, fellowship/genuine love among believers in the midst of a hateful/selfish/sinful world, resurrection and entrance into the Kingdom AFTER we die or after the church is raptured, and that our best life is not NOW (this is the proving/testing grounds for those who love/follow Jesus and Lord in order to enter His future Kingdom) but LATER – when we rule and reign with Him for 1000 years and beyond in His Kingdom that will never end.

7 dangers of Continuationism is:

7. Depart

– and for some and probably many – many of these churches don't preach the real gospel/good news of Jesus Christ – don't explain His perfect life to impute perfect righteous standing with God, don't explain His sacrificial death, specifically Jesus' blood as the payment to God to free us from God's coming wrath/perfect justice against all sin and every sinner, don't explain His victorious resurrection and ongoing intercession for us from heaven as our constant hope and solace when we continue to struggle with sin even after we are saved. And don't preach or urge biblical repentance, faith, and willingness to follow Jesus as Lord with your whole life rather than through some cheap words or momentary spiritual experiences. So that the most scary passage in the Bible and most tragic words to ever hear are heard by many who are "religious but not saved." Matthew 7:22-23 ²² "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' ²³ "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

CHARISMATIC CHAOS

▶ SIGNS & WONDERS

▶ SPEAKING IN TONGUES

▶ HEALTH AND WEALTH GOSPEL

▶ CHARISMATIC TELEVANGELISM

▶ DOES GOD STILL SPEAK TODAY?

John F. MacArthur, Jr.

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CHARISMATIC CHAOS

The charismatic movement of the past quarter-century has made an impact on the church unparalleled in history. But one legacy of the movement is confusion and mushy thinking. In *Charismatic Chaos*, John F. MacArthur calls for biblical evaluation and analyzes the doctrinal differences between charismatics and non-charismatics in the light of Scripture.

"My principal concern," writes John MacArthur, "is to call the church to a firm commitment to the purity and authority of the Scriptures, and thereby to strengthen the unity of the true church." To tough questions that seem to divide, *Charismatic Chaos* provides tougher answers that strive to unite.

This book tackles such questions as

- ▶ Is experience a valid test of truth?
- ▶ Does God still give revelation?
- ▶ Prophets, fanatics, or heretics?
- ▶ Does God still heal?
- ▶ What should we think of the Signs and Wonders movement?
- ▶ Does the Bible promise health and wealth?

John F. MacArthur, Jr., is pastor-teacher of Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California, and is heard daily on the radio program "Grace to You." He serves as president of The Master's College and Seminary.



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CHARISMATIC INTEREST/CURRENT ISSUES

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Avoiding Charismatic Chaos by Properly Interpreting the Book of Acts



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Conclusion –

So should we expect the POWER of God in our lives and in our church – absolutely yes – I believe God still heals people physically if he so chooses through the prayers of many /prayers and anointing of oil by Elders according to James 5 (but not through a person with the gift of healing or the shadow or handkerchief of an Apostle as we see with Peter and Paul) . I believe God still frees people from demonic oppression and possession but not by modern Apostles but through prayer and fasting by the church as Jesus explains in Mt. 17:21 . So if we want more POWER – God’s power in our lives and in our church this is by much more prayer, much more sacrifice, and much more obedience to the Holy Scriptures and ACTION POINTS prompted by the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion –

- But should we EXPECT all of the same things in the early church, all of the same spiritual gifts, or all of the same power and miracles – the answer is clearly NO – we should not expect anyone to get healed by our shadow, or demand or expect the angel of the Lord to free every Christian prisoner around the world, or expect us or anyone else to cast out demons or for everyone sick and every demon possessed – ALL to be healed. The period of the Apostles – the Apostolic age we are studying in Acts is a unique time to authenticate the Son of God, a unique time to authenticate the Apostles who would write the inspired New Testament, and a unique time to authenticate the Scriptures/especially the Gospel/good news message that God by His grace has purposed to reach all of us today as His means to save each of uniquely, fully, and eternally.

SO WHAT?

Application



Matthew 24:24-26 ²⁴ "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ "Behold, I have told you in advance. ²⁶ "So if they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go out, or, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe them.

1 Corinthians 13:8-10 ⁸ Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part; ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.

2 Corinthians 12:11-12 in no respect was I inferior to the most eminent apostles, even though I am a nobody. ¹² The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.

Revelation 2:2 ² 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false;

SO WHAT?

Application



James 5:14-16 ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? *Then* he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; ¹⁵ and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.