

Slain In The Spirit – Whose Spirit?

by Anthony Gulyas

If one takes part in a Neo-Pentacostal or Charismatic church service, or observes popular faith healers or evangelists of the day, a popular practise takes place, usually at the height or focal point of the service,

This practise I refer to, has several names such as;

'SLAIN IN THE SPIRIT; FALLING UNDER THE POWER; OVERCOME BY THE SPIRIT; RESTING IN THE SPIRIT, with the most popular being SLAIN IN THE SPIRIT,'

If one would watch a service or meeting where a person was 'slain in the spirit', the usual sequence of events would not be unusual to witness.

Many would go forward to have the evangelist, pastor or faith healer pray for each of them specifically. A hand is usually laid on the person's head; at times it seems as if the faith healer or whoever; is putting force on, or pushing the person's head and the next thing you know, the seeker of this so-called blessing falls backwards and falls on their back. This scenario is very well orchestrated, as there usually is someone behind the person, ready to catch him or her, and gently lay they: down on the ground,

Upon interviewing a victim of such emotionalism at a popular false prophet's crusade, the victim gave the following testimony. This man stated that-he went totally unconscious and blacked-out for about a half an hour, Upon coming to and-standing up, he claimed that he felt so light that it felt as if he was floating above ground.

What is to be made of such an experientially based practise, when so many claim that it definately is the Holy Spirit who is taking control of their spirit and slaying them in the Spirit, resulting in experiences which they claim range from spiritual ecstasy to total unconsciousness. Not remembering what has transpired during unconsciousness is definately the frightening and unsavory aspect of this whole equation, which many do claim happens to them, after coming to; when they have fallen down under only God knows whose power.

Somehow, this unsavory equation does not add up at all. Money grabbing; evangelist faith-healer, plus emotionally based seeker, do not equal bible based experiences.

Historically speaking though, let's look at this practise from that perspective:

John Wesley & Peter Cartwright (Methodist Circuit Riders) - During his preaching, many 'were struck to the ground and lay there groaning.' It should be noted that John Wesley taught false doctrine concerning sanctification and appealed to extra-biblical sources of authority in relation to mysticism.

George Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards in the New England Revival - These men all wrote that their audience had experiences of falling under the power (the question is 'whose power').

CHARLES FINNEY (Presbyterian turned revivalist) - Accounts episodes in which his audience could not move or speak, in one instance for sixteen hours. Finney openly rebukes emotionalism and experientially based 'occurrences' during his preaching and in his writings, so he definitely did not advocate this type of activity.

MARIA B. WOODWORTH-ETTER, CHARLES & FRANCIS HUNTER, KENNETH HAGIN , KEN COPELAND - (Mr. Hagin teaches Satanic doctrine); all of these have propagated and popularized this practise.

KATHRYN KUHLMAN & BENNY HINN - Of late, from a few decades ago was one who was the most responsible for popularizing it, as her meetings principally were characterized by this practise. It must be noted that there were no women pastors or evangelists in the New Testament; and the apostle Paul states that this is forbidden in the church; 1 TIMOTHY 2:11-14.

As cited above, historically there have been many accounts of people falling down under the power of a supernatural force or spirit, but what force or spirit it must be asked, has this been? What does God's Word say about this activity, God's Word of course is the final authority in all matters which pertain to life and death.

Even if a thousand of the worlds best so-called evangelists and preachers have propagated this practise and it is not to be found in God's Word to be a normal & regular experience for christians to have, then it must be concluded that it is not of God and should be exposed and avoided.

The following verses below are what the Neo-Pentacostals and Charismatics use to substantiate this experience;

GENESIS 15:12-21- Abraham fell asleep according to his own volition will; then afterwards darkness from God fell upon him,

Numbers 24:4 - Balaam prophesied as the Holy Spirit of God came upon him. He was in a trance as a result and not slain in the Spirit - as there is no mention of that here,

1 SAMUEL 19:20 - Samuel, his prophet's and Saul's messengers were prophesying; there is nothing here about being slain in the Spirit.

EZEKIEL 1:28 & EZEKIEL 2:1 - Ezekiel of his own will, fell down and stood up before Jesus Christ; he was not slain in the spirit,

MATTHEW 17:1-4 - Peter, James and John fell down onto their faces for fear of God in accordance: with their own volitional will; they were not slain in the spirit.

MATTHEW 28:1-4 - Roman soldiers were filled with fear and fell down as a result; they were not slain in the spirit.

JOHN 13:1-6 - Roman soldiers saw the glory of Jesus Christ, and they fell backwards for fear and shock of what they saw.

ACTS 9:4 & ACTS 26:14-16 - Saul fell down with his men to the ground, but this never caused him to lose control of his will and mind,

2 CORINTHIANS 12:2 - Because of the vagueness of this account as to what really happened during this experience of the apostle Paul's while caught up into a heavenly vision, it is unsafe to say scripturally that Paul was slain in the spirit - even Paul himself states he did not know whether he had the experience in his body or out of his body.

Evidence for this experience is thus conclusive from a scriptural standpoint, as it is unquestionable that there is no biblical evidence for it, as far as an experience to be had in the christian life.

Because we are not dealing with a DOCTRINE or teaching specifically, but a PRACTISE, many will be unconvinced that this is not God's normal way of dealing with man. Man is mostly experientially motivated instead of motivated by faith based on Biblical doctrine. Let us avoid basing our faith on subjective experiences as we will surely end up following Satan and not-God, even if we are sincere about following; God, many will disregard this exhortation entirely, probably mostly by those who are engaging in it, and will continue to show up every Sunday at their synagogues of Satan and get slain in the spirit over & over again, as they do every Sunday as if God works according to their time schedule.