

Why Are People Deluded by Holy Laughter and being Slain in the Spirit?

Recently the news reported a case of an uncontrolled “spiritual” outburst by a schoolgirl. There is nothing about them in the Bible. In the Scriptures, people in the presence of God invariably fall on their faces. Why fall backwards? The Scriptures distinctly say that all the charismatic gifts, even the ordinary looking ones of Christian giving and hospitality, are meant to serve and edify other people. How can falling down, glued to the floor, in uncontrollable laughter, possibly serve and edify others, or even the person himself? People are deceived when they ignore the warnings of God’s Word. Flirting with error and demonic delusion is dangerous. Christians have to ask whether the disturbing confusion of charismatic meetings is from God or not. Seeking miracles and signs can be an indication of “an evil and adulterous generation”, which bypasses the great sign of Jonah, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Another reason why people are deceived is that they refuse to exercise discernment. Proverbs 14: 15 says, “The simple believes every word, but the prudent considers well his steps.” The activities that Paul writes about in 1 Corinthians 14 are basically related to the Word, which edifies, and which people can judge spiritually. The spirits of the prophets were in subordination to other prophets (1 Cor 14:32). Deliberately giving up self-control may well open the way for demonic spirits to fill the vacuum. The advice: “Once you begin to walk in the supernatural you really have to be ready for anything and everything and never question the way God does it” is very dangerous. It is simply saying that whatever happens is from God, and discernment of good and evil is unnecessary.

Jesus has warned us that there will be great delusion in the last days: “Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. ... Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect” (Mt 24:4,5,11,24).

Great and amazing miracles are being claimed by the laughing revival, the “Toronto blessing.” Those who support them claim that they are drawing people to Christ and into a deeper walk with God. They claim that the laughing revival is affirmed by the great miracles that are accompanying it. There are reports of breasts that grow back after they have been surgically removed, brain tumours disappearing, deformed feet growing to normal, and broken marriages being repaired. A sober reply is needed that none of such things prove that a movement is from God. Hypnotists and psychiatrists and cultists can testify to all sorts of miracles and supposed blessings through their ministries.

We need wisdom from God to be cautious. The Pharisees erred when they attributed to the devil what was coming from the Spirit of God through Jesus. However, as we test the spirits, we have to say that we do not expect that God will confirm false teachings, such as identifying speaking in tongues with being baptised with the Holy Spirit, by sending mighty signs and wonders. When we see doctrinal error, God commands us to stay away from it. The Holy Scriptures repeatedly warn us that the signs and wonders of the last times may be delusions.