

SLAIN IN THE SPIRIT

and TORONTO BLESSING

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One of the comparatively recent absurdities from some Pentecostals and charismatics is the new teaching of being slain in the Spirit.

The Pentecostal and charismatic movement began in Tokepa, Kansas in 1900 at the Bethel Bible college and this movement exploded in the 1950s and 1960s with the Full Gospel Business Men's Association, house churches and much less emphasis put on the Bible but the emphasis was placed on self, self-expression, entertainment and methods of the world.

The slain in the Spirit experience is sometimes called Under the Power. When most Pentecostals who believe this are asked for a Biblical reference to this, their reaction is often fierce and they will accuse the enquirer of harassment. This is also the type of reaction one gets from atheists.

These charismatics are so hung up on 1 Corinthians chapter 12 to 14 that they forget that there is also the verse in this section, Love rejoices in the truth.

The slain in the Spirit is when you go forward at a Pentecostal meeting to be healed since Pentecostals proclaim that healing is included in the atonement. You go forward and the healer puts his hand on you and demands that the sickness or evil spirit comes out of you and you will be healed and pushed backwards to be caught by a couple of elders or other people. The healer touches you and pushes you. Ladies, make sure you are wearing trousers!

Some refer to six verses in the Bible to justify this teaching.

2 Chronicles 5.14 but no one has hands laid on them or falls over.

Matthew 28.4 Refers to soldiers who do not fall down nor have come forward for healing.

John 18.6 refers to soldiers who came to arrest the Lord Jesus. The leader of the group that falls to the ground is a devil (John 18.5, 6. 70-71) He is not a Christian sympathizer nor seeking healing.

Acts 9.4 Saul is on his way to murder Christians. If those in a charismatic meeting want to be slain in the Spirit then they are like Saul, unsaved killers.

Acts 22.7 is a repetition of the previous example.

Revelation 1.17 John fell at the feet of the Lord overcome with His majesty. No hand was laid on him and John was not there for healing. The Lord did lift John up. He did not push him down.

These verses certainly do not authorise the slain in the Spirit teaching and the expression is not found in the Bible. I fail to see how anyone would accept this false teaching let alone practise it, or believe in it.

It is just another example of false and dangerous doctrine found in some Pentecostal and charismatic churches but I hasten to add that many Pentecostals and charismatics do not adhere to this nonsense.

Another mad doctrine held by some Pentecostals and charismatics is the Toronto blessing.

The Toronto blessing is another Pentecostal and charismatic teaching in which a supposed outpouring

of the Holy Spirit was and is allegedly bestowed on the Toronto Airport Fellowship Church. On 20 January 1994, a preacher called Randy Clark spoke on how he wanted to get drunk in the Holy Spirit and laugh uncontrollably. The congregation erupted into pandemonium with people laughing, growling, dancing, shaking, barking like dogs and this was said to be the Holy Spirit dwelling within the congregation. It was called a Holy Spirit party. Some were rolling on the floor laughing for about 20 minutes and the ladies were not very lady like and the men were outrageous.

Nowhere in Scripture is there a precedent for this but a close example is demonic possession as in Mark 9.10

This church continued weekly with emotional outbursts and odd psychological displays. Services were a free for all, having fun, dancing, singing wildly and even shouting to the Lord. God is not deaf.

This nonsense is detrimental to Christianity and a gross insult to the Lord, but as we have said already, this nonsense is not practised by everybody in these denominations and it would be utterly wrong to label all Pentecostals and charismatics with this indictment.

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