

Biblical Manifestations

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The question is being asked, “What are true revival manifestations?” It seems that at this point people begin to talk about physical manifestations and ignore the more important manifestations. If we are experiencing true revival, people will be coming to the altars to accept Jesus as their Savior. Others will be repenting and getting right with God.

In true revival the Word of God will be preached with power and signs and wonders as spoken about by the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 2:3-5

And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”

What are the physical manifestations that are being experienced? Are they mentioned in the Bible? Are all physical manifestations of God, or are some of them in the flesh, or even demonic? Let's look first at the physical manifestations that are in the Word of God.

Slain in the Spirit

One frequent revival manifestation is often called being “slain in the Spirit” or “falling under the power of God.” What does the Bible have to say on this subject?

Ezekiel 1:28 As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.

Ezekiel 3:23 Then I arose, and went forth into the plain: and, behold, the glory of the LORD stood there, as the glory which I saw by the river of Chebar: and I fell on my face.

Daniel 10:8-11 Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength. Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground. And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands. And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling.

Revelation 1:17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

2 Chronicles 5:11-14 And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place: (for all the priests that were present were sanctified, and did not then wait by course: Also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:)

It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD; So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.

Acts 9:3-7 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

And he said, Who art thou, Lord?

And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?

And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.

John 18:3-6 Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons. Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye?

They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth.

Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.

Shaking, Jerking or Trembling

Daniel 10:10,11 Then, suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling.

Jeremiah 23:9 My heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my bones shake. I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine has overcome, because of the LORD, and because of His holy words.

Habakkuk 3:16 When I heard, my body trembled; my lips quivered at the voice; rottenness entered my bones; and I trembled in myself...

Psalms 99:1 The LORD reigns; Let the peoples tremble! He dwells between the cherubim; Let the earth be moved!

Jeremiah 5:22a Do you not fear Me?' says the LORD. 'Will you not tremble at My presence...

Groaning and Travailing

Romans 8:26,27 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Galatians 4:19 My little children, for whom I labor ("travail" KJV) in birth again until Christ is formed in you,

Deep Bowing

Ezra 10:1 Now while Ezra was praying, and while he was confessing, weeping, and bowing down before the house of God, a very large congregation of men, women, and children assembled to him from Israel; for the people wept very bitterly.

Psalms 35:13,14 But as for me, when they were sick, My clothing was sackcloth; I humbled myself with fasting; And my prayer would return to my own heart.

Psalms 35:14 I paced about as though he were my friend or brother; I bowed down heavily, as one who mourns for his mother.

Heavy Weeping and Crying

Nehemiah 1:4 So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

Ezra 10:1 Now while Ezra was praying, and while he was confessing, weeping, and bowing down before the house of God, a very large congregation of men, women, and children assembled to him from Israel; for the people wept very bitterly.

Joel 2:12 "Now, therefore," says the LORD, "Turn to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning."

Psalms 126:5,6 Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves with him.

Laughing

Proverbs 17:22a A merry heart does good, like medicine,

Psalms 126:2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter, And our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

Job 8:21 Till he fill thy mouth with laughing, and thy lips with rejoicing.

Being Still or Quiet before Him

Psalms 131:2 Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, Like a weaned child with his mother; Like a weaned child is my soul within me.

Ecclesiastes 3:7 A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

Psalms 46:10a Be still, and know that I am God:

Being "Drunk" in the Spirit

Acts 2:12-18 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?" Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine." But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.

"For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy.

Ephesians 5:18-20 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Having Dreams and Visions

Acts 10:9-11,17 The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour. Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance And saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth.

Now while Peter wondered within himself what this vision which he had seen meant, behold, the men who had been sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate.

Joel 2:28-29 "And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions; And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

Jeremiah 23:9 Mine heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine hath overcome, because of the LORD, and because of the words of his holiness.

In Conclusion

It is important to understand that God does not violate anyone's free volition. With God, we are always free to choose the way we want to go. He allows us to turn our backs on all that He has provided for us. He allows us to go our own way just as He allowed the children of Israel to choose not to enter into the Promise Land. Because of their choice, they wandered and died in the wilderness for the next forty years. We are free to make our own choices and to reap our own rewards.

God said in Revelation that the day is coming when He is going to spew the lukewarm out of His mouth.

Revelation 3:15,16 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

The important thing is not that we have a certain manifestation or don't have it. The important thing is that we are in right standing with God – that we love Him and serve with Him with our whole heart. Jesus said we cannot worship God except in the Spirit and in truth. We cannot worship Him with our emotions or with our minds. We must enter into the realm of the Spirit.

John 4:23,24 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Just as God allows us to choose our own way, His Word makes it clear that we are not to judge others. In times of revival and times of questioning God's ways, it is good to read Matthew 7 once again.

Judge Not

Matthew 7:1,2 Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

Prophets – True or False Known by Their Fruit

Matthew 7:15-20 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in

sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits.

Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

The gift of the Holy Spirit is available to every believer. He is the only one who can reveal to us the truth of the Word of God, and the fruit of those who minister among us. In times of questions, do not look to what another says or writes. Look to the Word of God. It is our only absolute foundation. We cannot discern the truth by our traditions, by our experiences, or through our intellect or souls. The things of the Spirit are foolishness to the natural mind.

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Through the Holy Spirit, we can know the spirit behind each manifestation as it happens by operating in the gift of the discerning of spirits.

The questions each one of us should be asking ourselves are:

Are sinners being saved?

Are captives to sin being set free?

Are believers repenting and returning to their first love?

Are Christians becoming lovers of God, of His Word and of others?

Is the revival building the kingdom of God by bringing people of all ages into a deeper, personal revelation and experience of the presence of Christ?

Christians are not going to come into agreement in every area of doctrine. It's time to lay those differences aside and join each other in praying for revival in every church, in every group, even in every family in our area.