

EDITORIAL

Modern Charismatism has been touted as manifesting a true demonstration of the work of the Holy Spirit. Promotional ads of Charismatic churches often promise powerful experiences and miraculous phenomena of the Holy Spirit in their events, such as “Holy Spirit Night in Singapore”, “Spirit-filled Conference”, “Anew with the Holy Spirit”, and “Be Led by the Spirit into Every Blessing”. The sad irony is that, when examined in the light of Scripture, their prevalent teachings on the Holy Spirit and claims of Spirit-produced experiences / activities turn out to be nothing more than misrepresentations and gimmicks. In some cases, they even resemble diabolic activity!

It is outrageous to attribute to the Holy Spirit such insane behaviour as uncontrolled screaming, animal growling, strange and meaningless utterances, idiotic shaking of bodies like drunken people, falling backwards when pushed on the foreheads, rolling on the floor in an outrageous and shameful manner (even by women wearing short skirts), etc. These are fully at odds with the Holy Spirit’s own command in Scripture: “Let all things be done decently and in order” (1 Corinthians 14:40).

Then there are those who proudly talk of receiving revelations from God, which are nothing more than vain imaginations of their minds. Let us remember that the Spirit of God will add nothing more to His perfect and complete revelation, the Bible. What an insult to ascribe their frivolous dreams and blatant follies to the Holy Spirit! Did not the Spirit warn that “If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book” (Revelation 22:18)?

Much of what goes on in Charismatic (and Pentecostal) circles being attributed to the Holy Spirit are wholly contrary and dishonouring to Scriptural teachings on the Spirit and His work in the lives of Christians. They reflect the spiritual delusion of the end-times, rather than an outpouring of the Spirit. Jesus warned that in the last days, “many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many” (Matthew 24:11). Likewise, 1 Timothy 4:1 cautions, “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils”!

There is a great need to caution Christians against the errors of the Charismatics. We pray this issue will serve the purpose of warning our readers against the deception and errors of Charismatism.