

# **RIDING THE WAVES**

by **Bryce Hartin**

Among the great delusions that are spreading today, there is none more subtle or more dangerous than modern-day tongues. It has been my experience over many years to observe that out of the masses of people coming under the influence of the tongues phenomena, very few escape without serious emotional and spiritual damage to themselves and their families.

The reason for this is, that in reality, they are imperceptibly led into a state of supernatural bondage and their release cannot be effected by anything less than supernatural power. If the supernatural power of our risen Lord were not freely available today, there would be no point in writing this booklet. However, after having on numerous occasions witnessed the Lord of Hosts rising up and scattering His enemies and also observing His mercy in setting the captives free, we have every reason to believe that He will continue His gracious ministry until He returns for His saints.

In writing this booklet, I have endeavoured to avoid a contentious spirit which attacks individuals, but the movement under consideration now poses such a serious threat to the whole Body of Christ, I have found it necessary to be direct in what I have to say.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

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He has undertaken studies at the Sydney Bible Training Institute, Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, U.S.A. and Central Baptist Seminary in Toronto, Canada.

He has travelled extensively, conducting crusades and speaking at conventions throughout Canada, U.S.A., India, South East Asia and the Middle East and has ministered in some of the largest churches in these countries.

## **Deception in the Last Days**

All who have a reasonable knowledge of the Scriptures will recall to mind the fact, that our Lord specifically warned us that the last days of this world's history would be characterised by deception - widespread deception and very strong in degree.

One of our problems at this point in time is that we have all underestimated Satan's power. He is the most powerful of all created beings. We should never 'admire' his power, but we should maintain a healthy respect for it.

We have a good illustration of just how great Satan's power to deceive really is, when we study the events which unfolded in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve had just been formed by the hand of their Creator - they were perfect in every way. Yet, in spite of this, Satan was able to deceive them and bring about their downfall. Now if Satan could deceive our 'first parents' and lead them astray, who among us would indulge in such folly as to believe that we are wiser than they?

Bearing in mind the fact that the last days would be characterised by great deception, we should cast our spiritual eyes about us and endeavour to discern if some of that deception is now occurring and, if so, in what form?

In recent years it has been my responsibility to counsel large numbers of people - many of whom have had problems of a very serious nature. A very high percentage of these people had experienced varying degrees of devastation in their lives. Many have suffered broken marriages, separation from children, health problems, emotional disturbances; some had demonic oppression and a few were actually possessed.

### **The Pattern**

After many years of counselling, we began to realise that there was a pattern to all this. Nearly all of the people who were coming to us were from what is now commonly called 'the Charismatic Movement'. It was a long time before we observed this, but having been made aware of the pattern, we found that the whole picture stood out in stark relief against the backdrop of revealed truth. We realised that if ever there was deception, it was here - and in very great degree.

After we had this drawn to our attention, we decided that the next step was to make a more penetrating analysis of the whole charismatic scene in an attempt to understand the nature of this deception. Some who read this article will not be aware of the fact that this deception has come upon the church in a continuous series of 'waves'. Satan is far too cunning to dump a whole lot of deception on the church in one hit. The more discerning people in the church would immediately pick that for what it was and alert the others and thus foil Satan's whole plan. A far more effective way would be to introduce the deception slowly - ever so slowly - over three generations in fact.

### **The First Wave**

The first 'wave' of this deception has now gone down in history and is known as 'the Pentecostal Movement'. The basic tenets of this movement appeared in the early part of this century and were rejected by all evangelicals in all the mainline denominations. The scholars and Bible teachers, who are the guardians of the Faith, totally rejected the fact that phenomena such as modern-day speaking in tongues was to be equated with the original spiritual gift which existed in the days of the Early Church.

However, even though the evangelicals in all the mainline denominations recognised and rejected the deception of the 'First Wave' (the Pentecostal Movement) they realised that no matter what they did, the deception was here to stay. They then knew that they would have to co-exist with it - so they eventually adopted a 'live and let live' attitude.

Satan allowed more than half a century to roll on into history and then when he knew the timing was right, he introduced ...

### **The Second Wave**

We have all come to know this 'second wave' as the Charismatic Movement. This 'second wave' became far more widespread than the 'first wave'. As we have pointed out, the 'first wave' failed to penetrate the mainline denominations. However, the 'second wave' succeeded. Modern-day 'tongues' - 'supposed healings' and 'prophetic utterances' etc began to emerge, sometimes even in the most unlikely churches.

Those who were promoting this 'second wave' were careful to use different terminology from that which was used in the 'first wave' (the Pentecostal Movement) and as could be expected, the effect was not so 'jarring' on many evangelicals. However, even though the terminology was different, the substance remained the same. It soon became clear to those with discerning minds, that the 'second wave' was simply a further unfolding of the same deception embodied in the 'first wave'.

Again many evangelicals were deeply concerned - and with good reason. They discerned that gross error was being injected into the very bloodstream of evangelical Christianity. This deception was so subtle in nature and so powerful in degree, that there seemed little which they could do to counteract it. So again, there seemed to be no alternative but to adopt an attitude of toleration. This 'second wave' was too big to overthrow, so as time rolled on the evangelicals gradually settled down again, only this time they had to learn to 'keep the peace' with others around them who had now fallen into the deception. It was a case of 'agree to disagree'.

Satan then allows three more decades to roll by, and of course many more of our leading scholars and teachers have by now been called Home. The up and coming custodians of the Faith have been gradually 'conditioned' to be more tolerant toward their contemporaries and have adopted a more conciliatory attitude toward this deception. So Satan now knows that the time is ripe to introduce

### **The Third Wave**

The 'third wave' is of course the 'Renewal Movement'. This 'third wave', where it includes tongues, words of prophecy and words of knowledge, is identical in substance to the two preceding waves. However it is far more insidious in form. Its promoters are again careful to try and distance themselves from their predecessors, but when closely scrutinised, it will be observed that the same deception is still there, but this time dressed up in different clothes.

The 'third wave' (the Renewal Movement) is becoming even more widespread than the first two waves and threatens to engulf the whole evangelical section of the church.

When we make a penetrating analysis of the whole church scene we observe not only the extremely subtle nature of the deception, but its satanically controlled progression. The original 'deception' - the 'first wave' - was at first rejected by all the mainline churches. Then the same deception rolls over the church in a 'second wave'. Its name is changed and it is differently dressed, so it becomes tolerated. Now that the 'third wave' (the Renewal Movement) is rolling over the church, more have come to accept it.

So what do we have here? We have deception of the very highest order - Satanic deception. In slightly less than a century we have something presented to the church which is at first rejected. Then 60 years later, that which was strongly rejected becomes tolerated. Then 30 years further on, that which was tolerated is fast becoming accepted. Note the progression: Rejected - tolerated - accepted. This helps us to understand the need for our Lord's repeated warning "Be not deceived!"

Now having drawn attention to the nature and progression of the deception, how are we to account for its current widespread acceptance amongst evangelical Christians?

No attempt is made here to debate the issues from a Biblical perspective. That has already been done and the material is now available both in book form and on audio tape. Our objective now is to draw attention to:

- a) The way that people are being affected and
- b) The method used to achieve these effects.

We have, for many years, been counselling people who have been affected by this deception in what is commonly called 'the tongues movement'. We have observed that although this deception is fairly general amongst these people, the effect that it has on them individually varies considerably - from mild to devastating.

### **The Effects**

1. Some seem only 'mildly' affected (troubled - confused - no peace).
2. Others are really 'hurt' by it all - they have suffered a family breakup, or been separated from their parents or children - because of their involvement in this movement.
3. Others again have come under demonic oppression - and even possession.
4. The last group is the most tragic of all. They have been totally destroyed. They now have no faith whatever in anything of a religious nature - they no longer want anything to do with God or the church or the Bible or Christians. They have been so badly hurt that their only method of defence is to 'block it all out'. They do not want any more to associate with any of it. They have 'been there, done that' and gotten their fingers burnt. Sadly, it seems that no one can really reach these people and they are increasing in number.

### **Another Observation**

We have also observed that the degree to which these people are affected is governed by how much they 'opened their mind' to the counterfeits - modern tongues, prophetic utterances, words of knowledge etc.

What we are saying here is that the effect is directly related to the cause. In other words, if a person only 'opens their mind' partially or accepts with reservation the above counterfeits - they will be proportionately affected. On the other hand, if a person really 'opens their mind' or abandons all restraint and wholeheartedly accepts the counterfeits as being from God - these people eventually finish up at the other end of the spectrum - totally disillusioned.

Just as there are varying degrees of physical blindness, so there are varying degrees of spiritual<sup>^</sup> blindness, and just as physical blindness can be progressive in degree, so can spiritual blindness.

Large numbers of people caught up in the 'tongues movement' suffer from varying degrees of spiritual blindness. Many of them once 'walked in the light'. Then there came a time when they accepted (albeit with some reservations) some of the 'counterfeits'. At this point they went 'under a cloud' - they have walked out of 'light' and are being led into shadowy areas.

This shift in direction is imperceptible, but increases ... 'worshipping in spirit' changes to physical forms of worship. People become dependant on emotional 'trips'. False tongues are mistaken for the genuine gift. False 'fire' is taken to be from the Holy Ghost. False miracles are accepted as of God. People become reliant on visions instead of the Word of God. Renewal is mistaken for revival. A holier than thou attitude is unconsciously adopted. An 'unteachable' spirit begins to emerge and they adopt an attitude of 'infallibility'. If they are not made aware of the deceptions, their degree of 'blindness' will increase and eventually they will pass from the shadows into 'darkness' and then to them, error becomes truth and truth becomes error. Once this point is reached, the harmony which previously existed between themselves and other Christians is totally destroyed. These Christians will then begin to blame the others for not 'joining in" and thus destroying the unity of the spirit.

The deception spoken of here, once it occurs in strong degree, causes confusion with some and disillusionment with others and destroys the 'fellowship of the saints'. This form of deception is made more attractive by 'supposed' higher levels of spirituality among its advocates and leaders and by the numerical increase of those attending. But the numerical increase is actually achieved by an element of 'excitement' which is fleshly but is mistaken for a true movement of the Holy Spirit.

### **The Method Used**

It is extremely important that we make a very careful examination of the method that Satan uses to lead people into this form of deception.

As could be expected, the method is extremely subtle - it must be remembered that Satan has been around for thousands of years, so what we are looking at is a strategy conceived in the mind of the most powerful of all created beings. This strategy is the culmination of thousands of years of accumulated wisdom. This helps us to understand why some of the hi-profile and most spiritually minded people in our churches are being drawn into it. They have been looking for some signs of the presence of God in our 'conservative' churches and unfortunately have found little evidence of it. So the tendency is to look elsewhere. Naturally after the deadness and formality of their own church, the 'third wave' churches look very attractive.

So what form does this deception take? I think it can best be summed up in one word:

### **Passivity**

To be 'passive' means to 'comply' - to be docile - to acquiesce - to offer no resistance. This attitude of passivity was quite noticeable in charismatic churches and now it can be observed in the 'renewal' or 'third wave' churches.

It first appears when people slowly 'move the palms of their hands upwards' as if to receive something. It then progresses to the 'raising of the arms' and moving the body rhythmically. If not restrained, this passivity progresses still further and changes from the 'physical' form to the 'mental' form of passivity. In the mental form people gradually, very gradually, even imperceptibly, relinquish control of their minds. In its first stages this mental passivity is a mild, but definite form of collective hypnosis.

If people continue to attend meetings where the atmosphere is charged with this strong 'emotional hype', it is highly likely that they will be induced to relinquish even more control of their minds. If this 'letting go' of the mind is not checked at some point during this process, people eventually 'throw off all restraints' and 'let go' completely. Then they will be 'slain in the spirit'. It is at this point that they make contact with the spirit world!

Usually they then engage in strange utterances which are unintelligible and behaviour which is not characteristic of the person. What makes this whole thing so sad is the fact that these dear people are totally oblivious of the fact that they are being led by an extremely subtle process into a powerful demonic delusion. They sincerely believe that they are being led by the Holy Spirit but ...

### **Right Here Lies The Trap**

The Holy Spirit simply does not lead people in this manner. The method used by the Holy Spirit to guide people is to enlighten their intelligence. This He is able to do by giving them understanding of the written Word. This in turn enables them to act rationally and in accordance with the written Word.

Those 'riding the waves' toward what they describe as 'renewal' are in reality slowly and passively allowing themselves to be guided by impulse. In other words, not knowing the true method used by the Holy Spirit to give guidance, they look to Him to make impressions on their feelings. Needless to say it is a highly dangerous practice to allow ourselves to be influenced by our feelings, because they are totally unreliable - and at times even erratic. To be mistaken on this vital point is now proving to be disastrous for many thousands of sincere Christians.

Because this is the very heart of the problem it may be helpful if it were put in another way so that we will all grasp it. All Christians have two great Beings endeavouring to influence their minds - the Holy Spirit and Satan.

In seeking to influence us, these two great Beings use entirely different methods. The Holy Spirit requires the active cooperation of our minds. He does not make decisions for us but guides us to make decisions under His gracious influence. These decisions, as we have already stated, should always be in accordance with the written Word.

Conversely, Satan seeks the passive submission of our minds. In other words, he influences us to very gradually relinquish control of our minds. In reality this is a slow form of hypnosis induced by Satan under the guise of the Holy Spirit, but always with the compliance of the people involved.

Satan's influence over us will be in exact proportion to the degree of control that we have relinquished.

Christians very rarely relinquish control of their minds by a sudden act. Satan's method is to bring psychic influence to bear on them and thus, in this manner, is able to influence them to gradually relinquish mental control - slowly and imperceptibly.

Our Lord, when describing one of the ministries of the Holy Spirit said "When He is come He will guide you into all truth." (John 16.13)

So we see from all this that we are at all times to retain full control of our minds and only allow them to be influenced by that 'still small voice' of the Holy Spirit. This still small voice will always enlighten our minds by unfolding truth to us from the written Word.

Discerning Christians will see from this that Satan has used exactly the same method to introduce this form of deception in three successive generations of Christians. In each generation, ever increasing numbers of sincere people have been drawn into his web.

### Summary

So when we closely scrutinise these three movements, what we are looking at is one continuous unfolding saga. The name has changed from Pentecostal to Charismatic and now to Renewal. This name change has made it more respectable in the eyes of conservative Christians.

The form also has changed in an attempt to refine it and make it less offensive to prospective adherents. However, let it be clearly understood that ...

### The Substance Remains The Same

... but with some attractive additives. The same old engine of deception still throbs at its centre.

My prayer is that our Lord will use the research we have completed over several decades to save many dear people from falling into delusion.

Bryce Hartin

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**The Christian, His Enemies And His Armour**, was also written by Bryce Hartin as an aid to the spiritual warfare in which all Christians are engaged. The writer feels that perhaps the greatest assistance he can offer is to give some Biblical instruction on the Christian's enemies - what they can and cannot do - and on the Christian's armour and how to use it. It's free to download at:

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**Living In A Shattered Society** is another booklet, by Bryce Hartin, which tells of a Christian's need not to be conformed to world. It's also available from the above site.

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#### Roy Hession

**The Calvary Road**, by Roy Hession, very simply outlines personal revival (sanctification) through being filled with the Holy Spirit. The 'how to' of Christian Surrender is revealed for all who would seek the Lord with all their heart. This is not another self help book but a most humbling revelation of the sin we fail (or refuse) to see and which keeps us from an intimate walk with Jesus. Go to the download page at <http://www.christianissues.biz/revival.html>

**We Would See Jesus**, also by Roy Hession, is a wonderful follow-up to **The Calvary Road**. For this book and **Be Filled Now!**, Go to the download page at <http://www.christianissues.biz/revival.html>

## Tongues

**Today's Tongues**, by Bryce Hartin, is a small booklet which gives a counsellor's eye-opening insight into today's tongues phenomena. It takes very little time to read yet gives a clear and convincing Biblical argument. Please take the time to study this material, with an open mind and in the light of Scripture.

Go to the download page at <http://www.christianissues.biz/tongues.html>

**All About Speaking In Tongues**, by Fernand Legrand, reveals how Pentecostals 'created' Charismatic Catholics. This book is well written, by someone in the know, and deals with much Scripture.

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## Bryce Hartin

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