

AZUSA STREET

The Birth of a Lie

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In the past I have said that not all charismatics are the same, but that they all share the same guilt for their errors. Charismatics are the spawn of Pentecostalism. It is therefore prudent to see whether or not the child of Pentecostalism is just a wild and unprecedented mistake - or if it is a genealogical reproduction of its parent. If it is a mistake, then Pentecostalism might be exonerated. But, what if charismaticism is a true child, an image of its parent? If this is so, then we have no option but to cast Pentecostalism into the same pit that charismaticism belongs to.

These are very hard words if we personally know Pentecostalists - especially if they are of the '*old school*'. I know some, and they are nice folk. But this is where we must shed the emotional ties that can cause us to accept and promote error. Our aim must be to exalt and promote *God's* word and holiness, not our *own* version of what is acceptable. Emotion and friendships have no part in the process*. There is only one way to do this and, that is, to measure everything by scripture. We will now look briefly at the beginnings of Pentecostalism as a movement, as it manifested itself at Azusa Street church. (* *Of course, friendships and emotion are important. What I am saying is that they cannot be allowed to alter the course of Truth, nor should they be allowed to cause us to accommodate lies. If necessary, we must be prepared to put aside friendships and our own emotional responses, if Truth demands it. That is a test of faithfulness*).

Pentecostalist-type manifestations (*Note: not 'Pentecostal' as in Acts 2*) and beliefs existed long before the '*latter rain*' events at Azusa Street, but it was at Azusa Street that Pentecostalism took proper shape and form. The inception of any movement is important. Was it a holy and Godly event, or not? This paper will show, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that the birth of Pentecostalism was defective. A monster was born.

As a child it displayed an immaturity of outlook. As a youth it desired adventure and started to flex its muscles (early 1960's when charismaticism began). Then, in the 1990's, the true nature of the monster was revealed as it rampaged the world and destroyed countless churches and Christian lives. It called itself the '*Toronto Blessing*' and personified the Biblical description of Satan as an '*angel of light*' and his activities as '*works of darkness*'.

Old-style Pentecostalists might throw up their arms in horror at this lineage, claiming that they have nothing to do with the evil '*Toronto*' movement. But they are wrong and deluded. *They are the parents of the charismatic movement that produced the Toronto Blessing, even if they attempt to distance themselves.* They may not have taken part in the same terrible defilements, but the fact that they call themselves '*Pentecostalists*' is sufficient indictment. They are the same family and are bred from the same stock! The only difference is in degree.

We will, then, look at the Azusa Street phenomenon because it created the evil life-form that insidiously grew and erupted into the Toronto Blessing. The conclusion is very simple - every man and woman who calls him or herself '*Pentecostalist*' MUST, as a matter of urgency, repent and deny their Pentecostalist theology and affiliations. They must cast aside their erroneous beliefs and activities (which are evil in His sight), that they might receive the *true* favour of Almighty God.

These are strong words for evil days, my friends. There is no time for a soft approach...an approach that tolerated and advanced the cause of charismatic heresy in the latter part of the twentieth century. If you are a Pentecostalist, take heed. You are being held accountable, by the evidence of

scripture. That is, by the Lord. In this Article my own feelings of friendship for Pentecostals known to me are irrelevant. What matters is that we all adhere to the only measure of Truth we have – God’s word.

In His book *‘The Toronto Blessing and Slaying in the Spirit’*, Nader Mikhael points out that Pentecostals never write about counterfeit miracles. (*Although Bill Randles, of the USA, tackles the topic amongst others in his own work, but that is very recent*). The reason is very simple – if they once acknowledge that *some* of their activities are evil, then they risk having them *all* branded with the same epithet. The danger to the structure and existence of Pentecostalism would be very real. It would collapse, because it is built on a foundation of sand. This is probably why Pentecostals will not acknowledge the occult beginnings of their own movement....if, that is, they know their own history anyway.

Some Pentecostals distance themselves from charismatic ‘excess’ as found in the Toronto Blessing. Some even distance themselves from various leaders such as John Arnott (Toronto) and/or John Wimber (Vineyard). Do not be fooled by this! All they are doing is shifting the furniture around on the deck of the Titanic! They are *still* Pentecostals and *still* believe the same things as they always did, and *still* practice the same errors. They are like the kettle calling the pot ‘black’....but, sadly, most of them are unaware of this failure and would not dream of being unfaithful.

In general they do not do or say what their more adventurous charismatic cousins do or say. *But they do or say other things, which, though less dramatic, are of the same stock of heresy*. By saying what many reformed folk want to hear (a denunciation of Toronto-style manifestations etc), they appear to be different from charismatics. This, friends, is a big mistake. As we have already said – they are only different *by degree*, not by type. That is, their virus is exactly the same; it just manifests itself in a modulated form. In this way, even if Satan is detected in charismaticism, he can still maintain his presence through *old-style* Pentecostalism without fear of being recognized by most Christians.

He has succeeded admirably and we must admit to his cleverness. Even so, he *has* been recognized in Pentecostalism! Not just by me, but by a number of other watchmen, who also warn the Church of the charismatic heresy. Those who wish to be truly faithful should now take heed, for their souls’ sake.

There is a very good reason for old-style Pentecostals to abandon their beliefs and to repent. Some ministries supported by non-charismatics are headed by Pentecostals. Yes, they denounced the Toronto Blessing. This led many to believe they must be ‘sound’. But this cannot be so. I say this without animosity toward these men or their ministries. A man who remains – and likes to call himself – ‘Pentecostalist’, but who has publicly castigated the Toronto Blessing *is still, nevertheless, of the same root. That root is described in these pages. You will see that a man who denounces the Toronto movement must also denounce his own past, which is of the same kind. Such a man’s ministry MUST, by definition, be tainted by his Pentecostalist beliefs and background. At some stage he must revert to those beliefs. Those who follow such men and who give moral or monetary support, must be aware of this probability, to avoid disappointment. A man who does not leave behind his Pentecostalism is a ‘Toronto-ist in waiting’.* (*Explanatory illustration: If a man in the Nazi Party denounced Hitler, would you be able to trust him if he remained in the Party?*).

THE REAL THING – NOT COUNTERFEITS

One other mistake needs to be acknowledged. That is, the fashion of calling recent charismatic activities ‘*excesses*’ and the gifts and manifestations ‘*counterfeits*’. Neither of these terms apply. An ‘*excess*’ suggests that the core of something is acceptable, but that there is simply an abundance of it. That is, the substance is basically good, but what spills over is somehow just a bit ‘*over the top*’. Toronto-style activities and its allied beliefs are *not* ‘*excesses*’ at all, but are a *totally different breed*. They have no basis in scripture, so they are not just slightly twisted forms of something good – they are without scriptural roots and are evil.

As for their gifts and manifestations (and fruit) being counterfeits...well, this word is used by well-meaning reformed Christians who have only a superficial understanding of what they have observed, usually third-hand. The axiom is, that where there is something real, there will be a counterfeit by Satan. The axiom is wrong in this case! *In charismaticism, Satan is not trying to mimic what is real at all – he has produced his own brand of religious experience, without reference to what God does. Thus, the Toronto Blessing and charismaticism itself are not ‘counterfeits’ – they are the real article.* What are counterfeits are the explanations and *theology* given by charismatics in defense of what they say and do. The Alpha course follows in this ‘*new*’ tradition, by basing its theology on scripture and then by twisting it to accommodate charismatic heresy.

The manifestations themselves, which are the major cornerstone of charismaticism, are Satanic and not counterfeit, for they do not even *attempt* to copy what God does. There is nothing like them in scripture, so they have no link with previous or present godly realities. That makes them unique and not copies. It is important that we describe the charismatic phenomenon carefully and properly, because the outcome has far-reaching effects. Once we attribute ‘*excesses*’ or ‘*counterfeits*’ to Pentecostalism we legitimize it and bring it into the Christian fold.

Let me give just one example of charismatic activity that is not counterfeit – though it is often referred to as such...tongues. Commonly today, Pentecostals claim their *own* ‘*tongues*’ to be of God whilst they call *charismatic* tongues ‘*counterfeit*’. Reformed Christians follow this anecdotal image. *The problem is, both charismatic and Pentecostalist ‘tongues’ are false!* In scripture a ‘*tongue*’ is a normal foreign language, not a heavenly language that no-one can possibly understand. So, that makes all the ‘*tongues*’ used by *both* camps unique manifestations of Satan (or, sometimes, of one’s own sinful psychological output – though this also comes from an evil source). They are not ‘*counterfeits*’ because they do not mimic the real thing. One is a foreign language and the other is a badly cobbled-together form of gobbledegook. This is a central truth to understand, because Pentecostalism mainly hinges on tongues.

Judge the facts for yourselves as we now look at the Azusa Street antics...

Interestingly, the *Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements* itself states that slaying in the spirit is not Biblical. It says that it can be caused by peer pressure, autosuggestion, or self-desire to have ‘*it*’. But it does *not* include the possibility of ‘*it*’ being all of Satan, or even partly of Satan. Yet, this phenomenon *is* unbiblical! Both tongues *and* slaying in the spirit are unbiblical. They were the basis of the Azusa Street activities which gave birth to Pentecostalism.

David du Plessis, a much revered figure in Pentecostalism, admitted that slaying in the spirit should be avoided because it brought ‘*nothing but trouble*’ (quoted by Cardinal Suenens). God’s phenomenon do not bring this kind of trouble. Satan’s activities do.

A blanket of silence is thrown over slaying and tongues, because both phenomena were linked together at Azusa Street. Doubt one and you must doubt both. So, the best strategy is to keep quiet.

The fact is very stark – if slaying and charismatic tongues (the very foundation of Pentecostalism) are both unbiblical, then they are of Satan. So, if both these phenomena are admitted to be demonic, the whole denomination/movement is a demonic device. No Pentecostalist or charismatic will ever admit to such a fact. However, Cardinal Suenens, a charismatic, says that slaying is the work of an ‘alien force’! What ‘alien force’ *can* there be for Christians, except a Satanic one? Today Pentecostalists and charismatics (kissing cousins) have fudged the issue with bamboozling words and arguments.

WIMBER – A SON OF AZUSA STREET

Note that the start of John Wimber’s (*not* God’s) movement – the TB, Vineyard, etc. - contains *exactly the same ingredients* as those found at Azusa Street. Lies have been told about Wimber’s charismatic start, and lies are weaved into every charismatic wave and activity. The lies are spoken by charismatics themselves in order to boost their own movement, by twisting or lying about what really happened. So beware when listening to the glowing reports of charismatics!

AZUSA STREET

Azusa Street is in Los Angeles, California, USA. The church there experienced its phenomena in the first decade of this century (20th). However, the same phenomena had occurred many times before, in the *previous* century, though not in such an organized way. The man who first organized Pentecostalist ideas into a theology was Charles Parham. He has the distinction of being the ‘father’ of modern Pentecostalism/charismaticism. His contemporary, W. J. Seymour, helped to spread the new theology and manifestations. (*Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements*, Zondervan Publishing House, 1988, and ‘*The Holiness Pentecostal Movement in the United States*’ by William Eerds, Grand Rapids, 1971).

The Azusa Street church held its historic meetings three times a day, seven days a week, and sometimes all night as well, for three years. (Note how the time scale and number of meetings coincides with that of the ‘official’ period of the Toronto Blessing?). Just as with the Toronto Blessing people flocked from around the world to experience ‘Pentecostalism’. And what was experienced?

“...a woman...stood shaking from head to foot...a man in front of her slid down out of his chair and became unconscious...the man...was...under high nerve pressure...He arose, staggered to them and began to shake his hand in front of their faces and wave his arms over their heads and moan...Then he put his hands on the heads of the women and began to shake their hair. Some of them lost control of themselves and went under an hypnotic spell. He rubbed a man’s jaw until the victim tumbled over on the floor and lay for half an hour, then suddenly began to jabber. Those who had received their ‘Pentecost’ cried out, ‘He has the baptism, he has the baptism!’.

A young coloured woman, doing her best to get the gibberish, went through all kinds of contortions in her effort to get her tongue to work.

...a coloured woman had her arms around a white man’s neck, praying for him. A man of maturer years leaped up out of his chair and began to stutter. He did not utter a distinct syllable...’tut-tut-tut-tut-tut-tut’. This was evidence that he had his ‘baptism’. (the first woman mentioned) *this time* singing a far-away tune that sounded very unnatural and repulsive...When the altar call was made, a woman walked up to the front and kissed a man...kissing between the sexes is a common occurrence in the tongue meetings.” (An eyewitness account in ‘*Demons and Tongues*’ by Alma White; Pillar of Fire Publishers, 1949). Classic early Pentecostalism – and classic 1990’s charismaticism. *Both the same!*

Here is another eye-witness account: “(Shumway – an author)...attended a ‘Pentecostal’ meeting where pandemonium was loose (Ed. Look up the meaning of ‘pandemonium’. This is what Shumway was referring to). Men and women...were talking excitedly ‘in tongues’. A man (holding on to a post) seemed to be in possession of an old-fashioned Peter Cartwright camp-meeting (charismatic-style antics in the previous century – see BTM article) case of the jerks. He was muttering and mumbling most of the time, but would (also) shriek. About sixty or seventy of the three hundred present were ‘possessed of the spirit’ (Ed. I refuse to prefix the word ‘spirit’ with a capital ‘S’. It is not the Holy Spirit) and each was (trying to be louder than the others).

One of the three men...leading the meeting...was praying...kneeling upon an open Bible...He was almost beside himself with excitement, His arms waved and his body swayed. I thought...that he might be heard two blocks away. In this meeting there was barking like dogs, hooting like owls, and the like...After adjourning, one of the leaders remarked in my hearing ‘God had a wonderful hold on this meeting for a little while, didn’t He?’. (The same man then added) ‘God’s got a crowd ‘o folks here that’s willin’ to let him make fools of ‘em if he wants to.’ ”

Do you not find all this frightening? This could be a description of a modern Toronto-style meeting! Note the leader kneeling on God’s word? The ‘pandemonium’? The sexual activity? The same manifestations? The suggestion that God had control of only a small part of the meeting (thus Satan had the rest!)? The making fools of people? It is also worth noting that early Pentecostalist congregations were commonly ordered out of town by the police because of the racket they made, and because of their general misconduct. (‘A Critical History of Glossalalia’ by C W Shumway. PhD Dissertation, Boston University, 1919). This is what today’s Pentecostalists revere and this is their true birthright.

Yet another eyewitness said: “...I found men and women lying on the floor in all shapes...(they were) jabbering all at one time in what they called unknown tongues. While I was praying, one of the workers took hold of me and said, ‘Holy Ghost, we command Thee to go into this soul’. The workers were jabbering and shaking their hands over me, and a demonic power (as I now know) took possession of me, and I fell among the people on the floor and knew nothing for ten hours. When I came to my senses I was weak and my jaws were so tired they ached. I believed then that this power was of God. They said I was wonderfully blessed, and the leader sent me from one place to another so that I could jabber in tongues.” (‘Demons and Tongues’. See above reference). Note – they commanded the Holy Spirit! Just like today.

He knew nothing of what he had done for ten hours! The same evil as we see today in charismatic meetings. If you are a Pentecostalist, can you not see it is evil? That your roots are in Satan and not in God? That those you revere were themselves controlled by demons? If not, read on...

SLAYING PLUS TONGUES EQUALS REVIVAL?

When W. J. Seymour preached at Azusa Street, the meetings were called a ‘revival’. Why? Because so-called slaying in the spirit and tongues were combined! To these early Pentecostalists they were the ‘proof’ that God was with them in a powerful way. The hard fact is, all the manifestations were those found in demonic hypnosis (see BTM Article on the subject).

One who took part in these early years, Bartleman, said: “At Eighth and Maple Streets such a divine ‘weight of glory’ was upon us we could only lie on our faces. For a long time we could hardly remain seated even...” (‘Another Wave Rolls In’, by Bartleman. Voice Publications. 1962). And: “It was also reported that the ‘jerks’ and ‘treeing the devil’ (that is, crawling on all fours and barking up a tree like a dog) were in evidence in the (Azusa) mission.”

Bartleman, in favour of the movement and not wanting to write anything negative, refers to a Baptist pastor who ran around hugging everyone he could get hold of. This was called 'divine love'. Remember, all this – and the kissing – all took place at a time in history when such behavior would have been shocking. Yet it was accepted as of God, without question.

One missionary leader spoke with horror about what happened at Azusa Street, declaring that “*it would be impossible to publish the things that have occurred there. The familiarity between sexes in the public meetings has been shocking, to say the least. Hell has reaped an awful harvest and infidelity has become more strongly rooted...than ever before.*” (*Demons and Tongues*). All along in these descriptions we are reading carbon-copies of Toronto and other charismatic antics. Sexual impropriety is rife, as is marital breakdown and other problems.

Significantly, Seymour, a leader of the movement, “*ultimately repudiated the initial evidence teaching (speaking in tongues) as providing an open door for witches and spiritualists and free lovism.*” (*Dictionary of P & C Movements*). Parham, the ‘father’ of Pentecostalism, had this to say about Azusa: “*Men and women, whites and blacks, knelt together or fell across one another; frequently, a white woman, perhaps of wealth and culture, could be seen thrown back in the arms of a big ‘buck nigger’, and held tightly thus as she shivered and shook in freak imitation of Pentecost. Horrible awful shame!*” Yes, that was the leader of the movement talking! (*Fields White Unto Harvest*, by James Goff Jnr. University of Arkansas Press, 1988). In those days these were scenes of degradation and immorality. Before he left Azusa Street, Parham said “*God is sick at His stomach*” because of the ‘animalism’ going on there. (Shumway). All of these things and more go on at Wimber and other charismatic meetings. Now we come to worse facts...

WITCHES AND MEDIUMS

The occurrences at Azusa Street soon attracted the attention of occultists far and wide. They did so not because God was in the movement, *but because He was NOT!* “*...spiritualists and mediums from the numerous occult societies of Los Angeles began to attend and to contribute their séances and trances to the services.*” (*The Holiness Pentecostal Movement in the United States* by Vinson Synan. Grand Rapids. 1971). I would ask Pentecostals to read that statement again. Does it not tell you something about the true nature of your denomination?

Seymour was terrified by these activities, which took place in the middle of his church’s services. He wrote frantically to Parham, begging him to come to Los Angeles to sort things out. “*W. J. Seymour was still writing urgent letters appealing for help, as spiritualistic manifestations, hypnotic forces and fleshly contortions as known in the coloured Camp meetings in the south, had broken loose in the meetings.*” He wanted to know which parts were real and which were false. It did not enter his mind that it was ALL false! The manifestations he refers to are *exactly* those that were shown in Rodney Howard Browne, Copeland, Benny Hinn and other charismatic meetings, during and since the Toronto Blessing. They currently are alive in Pensacola.

As Nader Mikhael correctly observes: “*How could an outpouring of the Spirit of God attract the witches, the mediums and the spiritualists? Fragrance does not attract flies - a decomposing carcass does. Mediums and spiritualists are attracted to the spirit that is at work in them, that is, the Devil.*” How else could these evil people *participate* in what was supposed to be a ‘revival’ meeting? The only answer is that the events at Azusa Street were not of God at all, but were of Satan. That has a serious ramification – that *Pentecostalism is based not on the work of God, but on the work of Satan. As we have said many times before, this has nothing to do with how ‘nice’ a person is, or how ‘holy’ he claims to be, or how much he says he ‘loves Jesus’, etc. What matters is how he obeys the Lord’s commands as found in scripture. Azusa Street did not obey the Lord, but propagated perversions of truth. What followed, therefore, was also a perversion – which continues to this very day.*

Again to quote Mikhael: *“Did the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost attract mediums and spiritualists, to participate with the disciples?”* No, of course they did not! Something I have discovered in my own work is that mediums and spiritualists are powerless in the presence of God. I have noted how spiritualists have been dumb when I have been near, and I have watched a man overtaken by a demon crawl into a corner, crying out that I leave ‘*him*’ alone because I ‘*knew God*’. He was forced to crawl and snivel, just as demons cried out to Jesus not to harm them. This happened not because of my own strength or holiness, but because of the Master I represented! I had no power of my own, yet even the derived, delegated authority of a mortal, sinful Christian was enough to send demons scurrying away. Why did they *not* scatter at Azusa Street? I think you can already guess the answer.

The power of Satan was so strong that the *“supernatural atmosphere of Azusa Street was felt within several blocks...”*! If it had been the power of God, mediums and spiritualists would not have been able to enter that hallowed area. Instead, they flocked there and joined in the revelry, *because they recognized that the same spirit as they had was present in Azusa Street.*

Bartleman tells us that the folk at the church were petrified by the occultists: *“...spiritualists, hypnotists...all the religious soreheads and crooks and cranks came...We had the most to fear from these...This condition cast a fear over many which was hard to overcome. It hindered the spirit so much. Many were afraid to seek God for fear the devil might get them.”* A revival? Never! This is the kind of fear generated by the might of Satan, not by God. God cannot be hindered by Satan.

As Mikhael points out – Seymour was a false apostle. But no more so than all others who follow in his footsteps. If God works through a Pentecostalist it can only be by special divine intervention, over and above what He normally does. Such an intervention must be *in spite of* a man being Pentecostalist. Any such grace is certainly not a reason to remain a Pentecostalist.

PARHAM – UNABLE TO ACT

Parham could not shift this awful pestilence. He was ‘repelled’ by what he witnessed and when he attempted to rectify the situation, Seymour and his followers split from him. They did not like it. This is *exactly* how Toronto Blessing leaders reacted to rebuke and help from faithful Christians. Parham saw hypnotists (occultists) practicing hypnotism at the altar. Later, he confessed that it was all of Satan, for he saw *“hypnotic influences, familiar spirit influences, spiritualistic influences, mesmeric influences and all kinds of spells and spasms, falling in trances etc....”* He refuted them as being of God, as his own wife testified. (*The Life of Charles F Parham* by Sarah Parham. Garland Publishing. 1985).

It transpired that Parham was *“not wanted”* at Azusa Street. Why not? Because one of the elders was himself a hypnotist, who passed on the power to speak in tongues to others! Or as Parham put it: *“chattering, jabbering, speaking in no language at all”*. (Parham).

Parham tried to counter the evil at Azusa Street by holding parallel meetings elsewhere, to deliver people from possession by demons. He said: *“between two and three hundred who had been possessed of awful fits and spasms and controls in the Azusa Street work were delivered, and received the real Pentecost teachings and many spake with other tongues.”* Superficially this all sounds great – Parham successfully stole away Satan’s prizes!

But we must look far deeper than that. Satan is no fool. He was as much at work in Parham’s meetings as he was in Azusa Street. But in a different way. He merely shifted his locus of attention, from one church to another. With much panache, he grandly allowed Parham to ‘exorcise’ his demons, *and then placed them back again*, making Parham’s converts speak in tongues that were *just as false as the ones they previously had!* Satan has a grim sense of humor, friends. If he can

gain something by pretending to be cast out by false prophets, then he will gladly join in the fun. So, what appears to be an exorcism is actually a *worsening* of the situation. As scripture tells us, if a man is not cleansed of sin after being exorcised of demons, then *even more* demons will enter him, causing *even greater* havoc in his life...a havoc far worse than he had experienced previously. Remember this when you next contemplate the supposed exorcisms in charismatic and Pentecostalist meetings. Satan is not being cast out – he is just reinforcing his position by assuming another guise.

SPREAD OF INFECTION

Just as happened with the Toronto Blessing, so the Azusa Street phenomenon spread, *and the same manifestations occurred*. The founder of the Foursquare Gospel church, Aimee Semple McPherson, wrote of *exactly* the same manifestations as are found in Pensacola and in charismatic churches worldwide today. That is because the same Satanic influence and falsity has been passed on, decade by decade.

This woman received the ‘spirit’ and the ‘gifts’ in the same way as charismatics do today. Such is obviously not of God. For example, “*it was as though He would tear my body to pieces...He verily split my throat...(someone said to her) ‘the Lord is able to repair any damage He does to the old temple. After being tossed about violently for quite awhile until I was panting for breath and wet with perspiration, I...poured forth praise to God in tongues...’*” (*This Is That*, by Aimee McPherson. Echo Park Evangelistic Association. 1923). Of God? Never! She, too, called the ‘revival’ the ‘*latter rain*’ of God. When this ‘rain’ spread to Britain, rooms were ‘rocked’ at prayer meetings. That is the work of demons, not of God.

This is just a smattering of information concerning Azusa Street and the formation of Pentecostalism. If a reader cannot see the demonic behind it all, then there is very little that further study would bring. Pentecostalists should consider this – if what they have is truly of God, why is it the same as is being experienced by charismatics, and which has been experienced continuously since Azusa Street, where mediums and spiritualists recognized the ‘spirit’ to be their own Satanic spirit? The experiences are not just similar – *they are exactly the same*.

May God help us all to ‘read between the lines’ of what is happening today.

Discernment is essential if we are to remain faithful to the Lord and stand against error. This Article has given the historical facts concerning the beginning of Pentecostalism. Now that you know the truth, what are you going to do about it? If you have Pentecostal friends, will you show them their error? Or will you stand by and allow them to think they are okay? Will you let them continue thinking that their various Pentecostal ideas are of God? Will you urge them to repent and leave what is a heinous deception of the Devil dressed in acceptable guise?

The days are short. There is no time for nice chit-chat. Pentecostalism (charismaticism) is growing rapidly. Will we now stand against it and raise the banner of Jesus Christ? Or will we all stand by and allow charismatics to raise their own false standard, proclaiming themselves to be God’s people on this earth? You have the choice - to stand firm or to mix with error. Telling friends they are in gross error is a very hard thing to do. This is acknowledged. But what is being tested is not friendship – it is *loyalty and faithfulness to the Lord*, His word and Truth. It is always sad when those we thought were friends shun us because of a firm stand for the Lord. That is the way it has always been.

(Acknowledgements for quotes are made to: ‘The Toronto Blessing and Slaying in the Spirit – the telling wonder’ by Nader Mikhael...an exceptional book written by a man of discernment)

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