

WAY OF THE MASTER YAHSHUA

RESENT REPORT FOR OUR TODAY...

Stifling of the Spirit: View of Calvary Chapel's Restriction on Spiritual Gifts

Calvary Chapel, founded by Chuck Smith, has adopted a controversial practice of prohibiting the manifestation of spiritual gifts during its main worship services. They will say that believe in the gifts and play two sides of the street complying with those who would rather quest them than watch people's growth to function in them. While these gifts are allowed in the church foyer (after glow), they are strictly forbidden in the sanctuary. They claim that "After Glow" in the hall of the church foyer is the place for healings, utterance of prophetic words, and other gifts are welcome. After they get out of the sanctuary most churches exit and lock the doors.

Even if they stay open awhile they know they have limited these functions of the gifts of the Spirit. That is just fine with them. This trend has spread in the way to handle spiritual gifts, you just quench them!!! That is what they want; else they would take a different view of cherishing these gifts and allow them to freely flow.

However, the atmosphere of the church foyer, as people gather in fellowship after the service, discussing calendar events, and socializing, it's not an appropriate place to operate in the gifts of the Spirit. The atmosphere should have been reverent and open to the operation of spiritual gifts, but it has been disturbed by the lack of reverence. With these attitudes from those who desire to quench the gifts, this practice has gained traction in other evangelical churches, raising concerns about its implications for the free flow of the Holy Spirit! Cavalry is not the only one but they have surely been the ones to lead the charge of quenching the Spirit!

Churches like theses are disobedient to God! The gifts of the Holy Spirit are connected to The Head of the Churches – Yahshua (Jesus). 1 Thessalonians 5:19 – "Do not quench the Spirit."

Chuck Smith's Pentecostal Roots

Chuck Smith's upbringing in the Pentecostal Foursquare Church informed his decision to restrict spiritual gifts in main services. Pentecostals believe in the ongoing operation of the gifts of the Spirit, including prophecy, healing, and speaking in tongues. However, Smith's so called experience with perceived abuses and excesses within Pentecostalism led him to adopt his own approach, not the approach found in the book of Acts (the Bible). There we find small gathering gifts in operation without being quenched by believers.

1 Corinthians 14:24-25 But if all of you would prophesy and the unlearned or an unbeliever should enter, he is searched out by all of you (the gifts in operation) and he is reproved by all of you (all are functioning in the gifts and causing Him to realize that God is among and working through them) And the secrets of his heart are revealed and then he will fall on his face and worship God and he will say, "Truly, God is in you."

In comparison, from Smith's views of how the church should quench the gifts or keep their operation from the church, to this Bible's verse, seeing plainly how the early church was functioning, there is hardly a way to reconcile the two views as a reason to why these churches will not allow the working

of the gifts of the Spirit in there midst. This Bible passage is a direct correction to this situation in the church today.

A Departure from Biblical Precedent

Smith's judgment contradicts the clear biblical evidence in the book of Acts and early church history. The early church openly welcomed the operation of spiritual gifts in every gathering of believers. These gifts were seen as essential for the edification, encouragement (prophecy), and spiritual soundness, growth, and healing restoration of the body of Messiah.

The Demonic Nature of Quenching the Spirit

Against the church: when spiritual restrictions are in place, spiritual resistance hinders the operation of the church. These restrictions, even if ordered by leaders, have another operating origin. Restricting spiritual gifts in main services is a demonic practice that hinders the Holy Spirit from flowing freely. It prevents the Spirit from touching lives, meeting needs, and bringing about transformation. By silencing the gifts, the church is effectively quenching the Spirit and limiting its power.

Examples of Quenched Spirits

Numerous examples illustrate the negative consequences of quenching the Spirit. Churches that restrict spiritual gifts often experience a lack of vibrancy, spiritual stagnation, and a decline in faith. Members may feel disconnected from God and struggle to find meaning in their worship.

Reversing the Practice

To reverse this trend, churches must embrace the biblical mandate to allow the free flow of the Holy Spirit. Leaders listen to the Head of the church and should encourage the manifestation of spiritual gifts in appropriate settings, including main services. This requires a shift in mindset and in heart, a willingness to trust the Spirit, and a commitment to creating a safe and welcoming environment for the Holy Spirit to function.

Review

While Calvary Chapel have been imitated today in this quenching of the Spirit, they are not the only ones. But the point that we are making here is that restriction on spiritual gifts in main services is a deviation from biblical precedent and a hindrance to the work of the Holy Spirit. It is a demonic practice that stifles the flow of God's power and limits the spiritual growth of believers. By embracing the free operation of the Spirit, churches can experience the transformative power of God and fulfill their calling to be a vibrant and effective witness to the world.

Discussion Time –

