

LYING SIGNS

There is a perception amongst Christians today that when God shows up we will know about it because things that are not 'normal' **must** occur. Whilst it is true that if God is present situations must change, for He is Holy and His creatures must respond to this, it is also wrong to say that things must become 'abnormal'. We need to set a few baselines here before we run off after every 'spiritual' manifestation as if it was God. There are such things as lying signs and wonders sent to deceive the unwary.

- **Fact:** We are made in the image of God, and reflect that in our 'construction'.
- **Fact:** In the incarnation Jesus showed us what happens when the Holy Spirit comes on a man. He and the Apostles are our 'pattern' by which we are to judge this issue.
- **Fact:** The fruits of the Spirit are listed and one of these is self-control. This means that in His presence He does not cause us to become driven by uncontrolled urges, and no strange manifestations are seen in any part of the scriptures as a sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Lets examine more fully the consequences of the above statements. When Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit he was 'enhanced' in his humanity not by some special sign, but by the abilities needed for his commission. He was in perfect balance and no one thought him 'strange' because of outward manifestation. He is our pattern! Likewise the Apostles were made a pattern like Jesus, showing no strange manifestations for gaining the Holy Spirit in abundant measure.

The place inside us that is occupied by God when we are filled with the Holy Spirit is perfectly matched to Him. We are made in His image and He made us for the purpose of abiding in us. He is the only Spirit that can occupy this place with complete perfection. All our internal design is made to fit Him and Him alone – we are in His image! Therefore it is like a 'hand in a glove' idea – we fit perfectly! The only sign we should see is the humbling of our sinful nature as God comes. This has always been a feature of revivals – men on their faces before God, repenting and asking for mercy, and then rising delivered of their problems before going on to show the world a new and beautifully balanced life. The ONLY sign that God has come is usually the humbling of the flesh – men on their faces in fear and trembling! To this effect we see weeping, crying out, confession, prayer for mercy, and some trembling – in fear as the flesh is made aware of the Divine Glory.

So what is wrong with today's situation and the modern view of revival/God's presence? Most of today's 'revivals' do not involve repentance and humbling. In fact much of today's preaching by such ministries is designed to cosset and comfort our flesh. We are told that God accepts us as we are, and that God is love. We are not made aware that even as we come to Him as we are, that God requires repentance and change in our lives. We are not humbled and brought to cry out for mercy. We are not on our faces, afraid to look in case we die! We are on our backs laughing hysterically – to the point where the word is unable to be preached. We gain an experience of the

LYING SIGNS

love of God but do not know the fear of His Holiness. We see many other manifestations also.

Why do I think this is wrong?

The human nature is dignified when God fills a man with His Spirit. To say that the following does this is blatant error:

- Animal sounds such as barking, roaring, crowing like a cockerel
- Hysterical, uncontrollable laughter with no respect of where or when
- Running around out of control, jumping, and entering trances like a statue
- Writhing on the floor, jerking wildly, thrashing around, and seeming drunk

These signs were always the indication of a problem in former times. The current revivalists insist on the fact of drunkenness because of the statement in Acts. However in that passage it does not say they appeared drunk because of their actions, but rather because of their 'babbling' in tongues. It was also said by mockers – not by the Apostles. And NO doctrinal stance was ever taken on this point.

When a fallen angel (demon) enters a man the match is not correct. The angel must force the issue in order to gain full control. Hence we observe the extreme manifestations. Angels will also use some of this to impress and gain 'approval' by leaders who lack discernment.

We must resist all such manifestations and challenge any spirit to identify itself and its allegiance before we allow it to continue. To allow such things to proceed untested is foolishness indeed, and we will pay a sore price for our lack of discernment in this hour. The choice is ours! We can have true revival or we can have this:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjI5wKso9eU&feature=related>