

Xenos Christian Fellowship
Christian Principles Unit 2
Dynamics of Spiritual Growth
Week 10: Restorationism (part 2)

Introduction

Video Viewing Questions

1. Why do so many people in our culture find Restorationism attractive?
2. How were the ministries of these three men (Hinn, Wimber, and Howard-Browne) similar? How were they different?
3. Should we critique people's spiritual experiences, especially when such experiences give them hope?

"Triumphalism" - the expectation of participation in Christ's victory to the extent we forget that we are in a fallen world and that our role as Christians is to serve God and suffer for his cause.
(note Paul's sarcasm on this subject in 1 Cor. 4:8-14)

4. The Bible doesn't specifically forbid things like slaying in the Spirit, "holy laughter," dramatic inner-healing, etc. So how do we justify criticizing ministries that emphasize these things?

Specific Issues: Slaying in the Spirit

Definition:

Phenomena

Claimed Results

Scriptural examples

Daniel 8, 10; Matthew 17; Acts 9; Rev. 1

Brings inner healing?

Meetings

John Stott's reply to: "What do you make of the Toronto Blessing?"

(John Stott) "I never want to criticize anything which people claim has been a blessing to them in terms of a greater awareness of the reality of God, or a profounder joy, or an overwhelming love for God and for others, or a fresh zeal in evangelism. It's not for me to doubt any of these things. My major questions concern three areas. First, it is a self-consciously anti-intellectual movement. I listened on tape to the first person who brought the Toronto Blessing to Britain. This person said: "Don't analyze, don't ask questions. Simply receive." I think that is both foolish and dangerous. We must never forget that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. Secondly, I cannot possibly come to terms with those animal noises, and it grieves me very much that-- as far as I know--no charismatic leaders have publicly disassociated themselves from them, as they should. The whole Bible tells us that we are different from the animal creation; it rebukes us when we behave like animals and calls us to be distinct. Nebuchadnezzar's animal behavior was under the judgment, not the blessing, of God. My third problem concerns all the falling. Even charismatic leaders have pointed this out, that on the few occasions in the Bible when people have fallen over, they have all fallen forward on their faces, and they have all done so after they have been granted a vision of the majesty, holiness, and glory of God. In the Toronto experience, however, people fall backwards without any previous vision of God. Those three things trouble me." (John Stott, "Basic Stott", by Roy McCloughry of *Christianity Today*; Jan 8, 1996; p.32.

Specific Issues: tongues

Observations about the gift of tongues (**1 Cor. 12:10,30; 13:1; 14:1-19**)

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Restrictions for tongues in a corporate setting (**1 Cor. 14:20-40**)

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"Why aren't our home group meetings just like what Paul describes in 1 Cor. 14:26?"

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Specific Issues: Prophecy

Definition:

	Old Testament	New Testament
Forth-telling (new doctrine)	Yes	No – stopped with the last Apostle
Forth-telling (application)	Yes	Yes (1 Cor. 14:3,31; Acts 15:32)
Fore-telling	Yes	Yes (Acts 11:28)
Special Knowledge	Yes (Nathan with David)	?? (Jn. 4:16)

- *The Bible endorses medical attention to bring healing or relief from physical illness.*

- *Biblical healings were almost always visible to all, instantaneous and complete.*

Memory Verses

1 Cor. 14** - explains the primary purpose of the gift of tongues and provides regulations for its use in Christian meetings

Assignment:

Study for the exam!