

Manifestations of the Holy Spirit – True / False – Biblical or not?

1 Corinthians 12:7

Now to each one the **manifestation** of the Spirit [spirit] is given for the common good.

Tongues, Miracles, Healing, prophecy, interpretation, word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, discernment of spirits,

In times of worship and prayer, we often feel emotional -

--- "Strange fire" - slain in the spirit, anointing, laughing in the spirit, (In John Macarthurs conference, he discredits spirit led worship because of abuses that he correctly exposes and warns)

1 Corinthians 12:8-10

⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.

The word "manifestation" is a good translation of the Greek word phanerosis, which means "a manifestation, a making visible or observable." [1] A manifestation is detectable by the five senses. We experience manifestations all the time. Electric energy in a light bulb is manifested in the form of light and heat. A manifestation of the chicken pox disease is a rash with small pimple-like sores. We cannot see the virus that causes the chicken pox, but we can see the manifestation of the disease.

The multipurpose "Swiss Army" knife is a good example of the difference between a gift and a manifestation. The traditional knives have red handles, and many come with two blades (big and little), two screwdrivers (flathead and Phillips), a can opener, an awl, scissors, a file, and a pair of tweezers (nine manifestations!). If you receive one multipurpose knife as a gift, you can use (bring into manifestation) any or all of its implements, and cut, snip, tweeze, etc. The one gift has many manifestations. Similarly, the one gift God gives each believer is holy spirit, which can be manifested in nine ways.

The Anointing

Luke 4:18-19

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,

19 To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

3 rules when we are trying to FOLLOW the spirit and lead people:

Don't Be Fooled by Appearances

Don't Manipulate the Spirit

Don't Be Territorial

Pigeons or Doves?

My friend Pete Cantrell is an expert on pigeons and turtledoves. His observations have amused and gripped me. Their relevance to a study of the Holy Spirit is almost astonishing.

"Do you see that pigeon?" he once asked me. "Watch him, he's getting ready to bully the pigeon next to him because it is perched on the spot he wants for himself." Seconds later, I watched it happen.

"I don't see that happening with turtledoves," Pete added. "Doves don't fight."

It seems to me that many of the claims to the presence of the Dove among us are nothing but pigeon religion--a counterfeit for the Holy Spirit. In my own haste I have presumed the presence of God in my life many times--when it was not the Dove after all. Often it has been a pigeon--not the heavenly Dove--that gave me a "religious" feeling. Here's how you can avoid making the same mistake.

A pigeon can be domesticated, trained and manipulated. A pigeon can be easily controlled and made to conform such as a carrier pigeon. Not so with a turtledove.

Nor can the Spirit of God be easily manipulated or controlled: "The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going," (John 3:8). You cannot make the Holy Dove do anything--except when you make it fly away.

Feeling the need to control the Holy Spirit may be one of the greatest abuses of the Spirit. When we begin to feel we can control the will of the Holy Spirit, pigeon religion has moved in. Yet often we continue trying to convince ourselves that it must be the Dove.

The issue is control. Who's in charge? Some people play with the Holy Spirit as if He has no will of His own.

We can fall prey to this when we are praying alone by attempting to do all the talking--thus quenching the Spirit. Or we can read the Bible and do all the thinking. In this way, the Dove does not have a chance to slip in.

However, not everything that someone with an anointed gift does is Spirit-led. We are under a solemn obligation to follow--not lead--the Holy Spirit. I may have an anointing to teach and preach, but I can get ahead of the Lord. When I do, pigeon religion takes over because I am in control.

Some years ago I talked with a worship leader about his style of leading worship. He admitted he had a gift that enabled him to control an audience.

He could make them do almost anything--clap, jump, sit or weep. When he did this, the people never knew they had been conditioned for a certain response in much the same way pigeons are trained to perform a particular behavior. It is an exceedingly rare worship leader who is utterly sensitive to the Dove and does not get ahead of the Lord.

Pigeon religion is man in control. It is manipulative, usurping the place of the Dove.

The gracious Spirit is gentle and prudent. Like the meek and lowly Jesus, the Dove is neither intrusive (coming when not invited) nor obtrusive (unpleasantly noticeable). He is self-effacing. When He is invited and accepts the invitation, the result takes man out of the picture.