

GUIDELINES FOR TESTING MINISTRIES, MOVEMENTS AND MANIFESTATIONS

All Supernatural Activity And Spiritual Manifestations Must Be Tested Before They Can Be Received As Authentic. Supernatural experiences alone are not the criteria to be used to determine a genuine visitation. TRUE MESSENGERS, movements and manifestations (A GENUINE REVIVAL) will contain or produce these elements:

- a. True repentance, which produces godly thinking, speaking and behavior; Luke 13:3,5.
- b. An emphasis on intimacy with God and holiness.
- c. Growth in grace: faith, love, humility, mercy.
- d. Ongoing prayer / intercession.
- e. A burden for the lost.
- f. Adherence to the scriptures.
- g. Biblical signs and wonders.

Seducing Spirits And Deceiving Spirits Can Creep Into A True Visitation. Beware Of:

1. Those who attempt to divide the flock or destroy covenant relationships.
2. Those who introduce false doctrine, lying signs, flattery or other unscriptural practices.
3. A mixture; the counterfeit contains partial truth and the “leaven” of error; Galatians 5:9
4. 2 John 9 addresses those deceivers and tells us that the way to recognize them is by doctrine: “Whoever transgresses (goes beyond the boundaries set forth and already established) and does not abide (live in, trust, stay in, remain) in the doctrine of Christ does not have God”.
5. If anyone has a spirit that he can “use”, it is not the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit is God and no one uses God; no one is free to operate in spiritual gifts when or how they please.
6. Those who attempt to overpower another’s free will/actions through domination, manipulation and control in order to obtain a desired result are utilizing another spirit.
7. Manifestations of sensual, unnatural body movements; anything that is self-exalting, rude, degrading, vulgar or spiritual competition is NOT from the Holy Spirit.
8. The giving and receiving of “ear tickling” words which glorify a ministry or a person.
9. An emphasis upon money, or the giving and receiving of money, in expectation of prophetic words or gifts. Anyone who promises a reward or a healing for giving into their ministry is false! True gifts of the Holy Spirit are not “dispensed upon command”.
10. Running after supernatural manifestations is error. Jesus said that a wicked and adulterous generation seeks or demands “signs”; Matthew 12:39; 16:4; Luke 9:54-55.

God’s Word Is The Standard By Which All Things Are Measured; Hebrews 8:5. There is a “man with a measuring reed” (a plumbline) who stands in the gate; he measures the temple, the altar, the City, and them that worship therein; see Ezekiel 40:2-3; Zechariah 2:1-2; Amos 7:7-8; Revelation 11:1; 21:15-16. This “measuring” will:

- a. Evaluate – by separating the holy from the profane; distinguishing truth from error; see Ezekiel 44:23-24.
- b. Determine – the source of manifestations and experiences; 1 Corinthians 12:10.
- c. Examine – the fruit (the outward display) of what we see and hear; Luke 6:43-45.
- d. Address – what needs correction; James 5:19-20.
- e. Restore – others in the spirit of meekness and humility; Galatians 6:1

Paul The Apostle Commended The Believers In Berea; Acts 17:10-12:

- a. They were called “more noble” than those in Thessalonica.
- b. They received the word with “all readiness of mind”.
- c. They searched the scriptures daily (to prove what they saw and heard).
- d. As a result of their diligence, many others became believers.
- e. Paul wrote in his epistle to Timothy: “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness”; 2 Timothy 3:16.

True Ministries, Movements and Manifestations Are Holy And Pure:

1. True messengers have separated from worldliness and are consecrated unto the Lord. Without holiness, no man shall see the Lord; Hebrews 12:14; Matthew 5:8.
2. True ministries have pure motives. Godly wisdom, teaching and manifestations which follow it, are pure, peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy; see James 3:17.
3. Proven ministries wait upon the Lord. The obedient messenger is not driven by self-will, a spirit of performance or a desire for recognition. They understand the significance of God’s timing, delivering the right message at the right time; see 2 Sam. 18:19-33.
4. True messengers are obedient to God’s Word; they obey His commandments. This is proof of true love for Christ; John 15:10; Matthew 7:21; 19:17; 1 John 5:2-3.
5. True ministries will encourage others to “prove all things”, to hold fast to that which is good, and to abstain from all appearance of evil; 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22.
6. The true words of Yahweh are like a fire (burns the chaff), and a hammer that breaks the rock (of pride and stubborn resistance) into pieces; Jer. 23:29. True messages will comfort, but also pierce the heart, and penetrate the deepest part of our nature; Heb. 4:12.
7. God’s ministries are the recipients of His wisdom, His power and the deep things of God. This allows them to judge accurately: “he that is spiritual judgeth all things...”The Greek word “judgeth / judged” used in 1 Corinthians 2:15, means to “investigate, interrogate, determine, examine, discern”; see 1 Corinthians 2:4-16.
8. A true visitation or ministry does not focus upon men, their gifts or a following. Jesus alone is exalted and the fear of the Lord will be present; Acts 9:31.

False Ministries Or Movements Do Not Listen To, Or Obey The Words Of Yahweh:

1. Some are rebellious and prophesy (preach) falsely because “the people love to have it so”. Some will not obey His voice, nor will they receive correction. Therefore, truth is “perished and cut off from their mouth”; Jeremiah 5:31; 7:24-28.
2. Those who “set up idols in their heart” and “put a stumbling block” in front of him, God says that He will answer that rebellious one according to the idols that he has set up in his heart. God will put “a lying spirit in the mouth” of the false prophets; see 1 Kings 22:22-23; Ezekiel 14:3-9.
3. Those who do not have a love of the truth will be sent a “strong delusion, that they should believe a lie”; 2 Thessalonians 2:10-11.
4. According to Jeremiah 23:16, false messengers” (prophets, teachers) are said to:
 - a. Teach you vanity (the opposite of brokenness and humility)
 - b. Speak a vision of their own minds (not from the mouth of Yahweh)

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