

# THE CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT: ITS FOUNDATION, ITS INFLUENCE, AND ITS DANGERS.

## WEEK 4: POTENTIAL AND REAL DANGERS OF THESE MOVEMENTS

### INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

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- Our schedule will look like this:
  - Week 1: Introduction and The History of the Pentecostal movement
  - Week 2: From Pentecostal to Charismatic and its influence in the modern-day church. Part 1
  - Week 3: How has this movement influenced the modern-day church? Part 2
  - **Week 4: What are the dangers facing the church from this movement?**

### A WORD OF CAUTION

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- Admittedly, most of the people who are entrenched in these emotional movements have **no real care for God, His Word, or His church**, but there are some who do. I do believe, though, the farther you get into the emotional and experiential side, the further you are away from being saved.
- 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 “For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.”

### BELIEFS AND TEACHINGS BROUGHT INTO MAINLINE CHURCHES

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- The **7-mountain mandate** traces its origins to *visions* men had, and the strategy is heavily promoted by *apostles* in the NAR, Bill Johnson, C. Peter Wagner, and Che' Ahn. The 7-mountain mandate...drifts into the realm of dominion (Kingdom Now) theology.<sup>1</sup>
- **Binding spirits:**<sup>2</sup>
  - Jesus gave the apostles the authority to bind and loose--speak and act under God's authority--as the foundational representatives for the church. They did not act arbitrarily, nor did they operate apart from the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:42-47; 4:28-33).
  - Some misapply that teaching to include binding Satan. **There is no scriptural command to bind Satan, nor is there any biblical example of the practice.**
- **Generational curses or spirits:**<sup>3</sup>
  - Some “deliverance ministries” and Charismatic groups teach the existence of hereditary spirits, also called generational spirits or familial spirits. These entities are thought to be evil spirits that attach themselves to a particular family and harass them through multiple generations. They are demons inherited from one’s ancestors.
  - **The teaching of generational spirits has no biblical foundation.** It has more in common with paganism than it does with the Bible. **Neo-pagans and Wiccans readily admit a belief in generational curses, demons that attach themselves to a certain family, and the idea that occult power can be passed down through one’s family line.**
- **Speaking things into existence:**<sup>4</sup>
  - I believe we all want a good life, whatever good means to you. Unfortunately, our words don’t reflect that. If words have power, that means everything you say is shaping your life. You may not feel it or see it the minute you speak it, but those words are planting seeds.
  - Just look back on your life or even where you are now. Do you remember speaking certain things about what you want or don’t want to happen and now you are living it?
  - **Because words have power, we clearly have to be intentional with what we speak.**
  - **Only focus on the things you want/desire.** Give no energy to the things you do not want. Watch how things start to shift.
  - Joel Osten: I Declare, 31 Promises to Speak Over Your Life
  - Keith Ellis: One Minute with God: Sixty Supernatural Seconds that will Change Your Life
  - Kenneth Hagin: Words
  - Joyce Meyer: Power Words: Words You Say Can Change Your Life

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/seven-mountain-mandate.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gty.org/library/questions/QA150/does-the-bible-teach-that-christians-can-bind-satan-and-demons>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/hereditary-spirits.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://bernettastyle.com/2015/11/5-scriptures-about-speaking-things-into-existence.html>

- **God speaks to us today:**<sup>5</sup>
  - **God speaks through impressions in our thoughts.** Have you ever thought about someone you haven't seen or heard from in years, then "by chance" encountered them later that day or week, or seen something about them on social media? Or maybe you've had "stray thoughts" about something a friend or acquaintance needs to do. **These impressions often show us how/when to pray for or encourage others.**
  - **God speaks through impressions in our bodies.** Sometimes we get a feeling in our body when we are interacting with/praying for someone (Luke 8), and it might correlate with something going on in their body. In these cases, we can simply ask to find out if we are right, and let it go if we are not.
  - **God speaks through impressions in our emotions.** This can either look like feeling in our own soul what someone else is experiencing, or feeling what the Lord feels for someone to whom we are ministering. **Keep in mind that the thoughts God has towards people are always thoughts of love, grace, protection, joy, conviction (not condemnation or shame), forgiveness, mercy, comfort, etc.**
  - **Beth Moore** hears God speak to her, says that God gives her visions, and she has binding prayers.<sup>6</sup>
- **Finding our "secret" place with God:**
  - **Psalm 91:1 "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."**
  - **How do we enter into this *secret place*? What does the Bible mean here?**
  - "When you focus on the truths **found in my book** and the promises found in the Bible, you have a revelation from God...you are in the secret place." Joseph Prince<sup>7</sup> (WOF Teacher)
  - When you are in the *secret place*, Prince says that nothing can come upon you, no forces of darkness, no sickness or anything that is not from the Father.
- **Spiritual "breakthrough":**
  - **The idea of a "spiritual breakthrough" is subjective, and the term itself is not found in the Bible.** Generally speaking, a spiritual breakthrough is an experience of having reached a new level of spirituality, whatever that means to the person who is "breaking through." The experience will be different depending on the person (and the religion) in question.<sup>8</sup>
- **Speaking Jesus' name or blood over something:**<sup>9</sup>
  - "Pleading the blood of Jesus" in prayer is a teaching common in Pentecostal and Charismatic circles. When people speak of "pleading the blood of Jesus in prayer," they are referring to the practice of

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.northwestudevo.com/day-16-god-speaks-through-impressions>

<sup>6</sup> <https://g3min.org/say-no-more-beth-moore/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SG7iytT22sA>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/spiritual-breakthrough.html>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/pleading-the-blood.html>

claiming the power of Christ over any and every problem by using the phrase “I plead the blood of Jesus over \_\_\_\_.” People fill in the blank with whatever they want: “I plead the blood of Jesus over my family/job/thoughts/illness.”

- “Pleading the blood of Jesus” has no clear basis in Scripture. No one in the Bible ever “pleads the blood” of Christ. Those who “plead the blood” often do so as if there were something magical in those words or as if by using them their prayer is somehow more powerful. This teaching is born from a misguided view of prayer that prayer is a way of manipulating God to get what we want rather than praying for His will to be done. The whole Word of Faith movement, which teaches pleading the blood, is founded on the false teaching that faith is a force and that, if we pray with enough faith, God guarantees us health, wealth, and happiness.

- **God wants you to have your best life now (a review of *Best Life Now* by Joel Osteen):<sup>10</sup>**

- When you wring the book out, what you end up with is nothing more than the soggy old self-help pop-psychology that people have been lapping up for a generation—with the word “God” thrown in every once in a while, for good measure.
- It was Benjamin Franklin, not Jesus, who said, “God helps those who help themselves.” That is Osteen’s message, too, only it is more like “God helps those who think well of themselves.” Imagine yourself to be a winner, and someday you will be a winner! Visualize yourself in a big house or a Lexus, and one day you will find yourself with both!
- As Osteen puts it, “God wants to give you your own house. God has a big dream for your life” (35). The key to realizing that big dream is to follow his seven steps to living up to your full potential.

- **This belief has come into the backdoor of most Protestant / Bible Churches. How so?**

- Do you think that God always wants you to be happy...comfortable...living the “American” dream?
- What do you do when spiritual hard times or physical hard times come upon you?
- Do you believe that God is sovereign even over the trials and the pain?
- Do you find yourself asking why...trying to figure out what *you did* to “deserve this.”
- Psalm 42:11 “Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.”<sup>11</sup>
- Have you forgotten the years of the right hand of the Most High?
- Do you not use the means for restoring your comfort in such a manner as causes you to lose more?
- Have you strained so far for the outward comfort that you have lost the inward?

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.9marks.org/review/your-best-life-now-joel-osteen/>

<sup>11</sup> William Bridge, *A Lifting up for the Downcast*, Puritan Paperbacks, pp. 39-41.

- **Baptism with the Holy Spirit and with Fire:**<sup>12</sup>

- 2020 brought a new Pentecost that the Holy Spirit has inaugurated a new way of life. There is going to be an abundance of harvest in wealth, prosperity and souls being reaped to heaven.
- This man, Guillermo Maldonado, spoke with God and told him that people who quit their service to God, their giving to God or their faith to God are not in the new Pentecost.
- There is a supernatural cleansing by this fire to distinguish between those who are out and in.
- He is releasing fire, God has given this power to him, thousands are being saved daily.
- The reference is to Matthew 3:11...but the context is judgment. These people are praying for Christ to bring the judgment of fire down upon them.

- **To be filled with the Spirit, is to yield our hearts to the authority of Christ, allowing His Word to dominate our attitudes and actions.** His thoughts become the object of our meditation, His standards become our highest pursuit, and His will becomes our greatest desire. As we submit to God's truth, the Spirit leads us to live in a way that honors the Lord.<sup>13</sup>

- **Worship music which is man-centered and emotionally charged**<sup>14</sup>

- **Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God. (A.W. Tozer)**
- The biggest reason you should stop singing songs from Hillsong, Bethel, Jesus Culture, and Elevation is that their music embodies a false theology of worship.
- All of the groups under consideration here teach and practice a Pentecostal theology of worship.
- Charismatic theologians argue that the Holy Spirit's primary work in worship is that of making God's presence known in observable, tangible ways such that worshipers can truly encounter God. This theology places a high emphasis and **expectation** in worship upon **physical expressiveness** and **intensity**, resulting in what is sometimes called a "Praise and Worship" theology of worship. The goal, in this theology, is to **experience the presence of God in worship**, but praise is considered the means through which Christians do so.
- Pentecostalism shifted the emphasis for corporate worship from covenant renewal to authentic emotional experience. And this theology did not stay only in Pentecostal churches. Worship that embodies Pentecostal theology began to introduce embodied Pentecostalism into broader evangelicalism, **primarily through its music**.
- The problem is when evangelicals who do not affirm or teach charismatic theology worship like charismatics, and this has come largely through the music produced by groups like these. When you sing music from Hillsong, Bethel, Jesus Culture, and Elevation, you are bringing embodied Pentecostalism into your church.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIRWTbjyH2M>

<sup>13</sup> John MacArthur, *Strange Fire*, 206.

<sup>14</sup> <https://g3min.org/stop-singing-hillsong-bethel-jesus-culture-and-elevation/>

### **Rhema Bible Training Center (Oklahoma, Australia and South Africa)<sup>15</sup>**

- **The Baptism in the Holy Ghost is a gift and is accompanied by the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues.** The Baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire is a gift from God as promised by the Lord Jesus Christ to all believers in this dispensation and is received subsequent to the new birth. **This experience is accompanied by the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Holy Spirit Himself gives utterance** (Matt. 3:11; John 14:16,17; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:38,39; Acts 19:1–7; Acts 2:1–4).
- **Healing is the privilege of every member of the Church today provided through Jesus' death on the Cross.** Healing is for the physical ills of the human body and is wrought by the power of God through the prayer of faith, and by the laying on of hands. It is provided for in the atonement of Christ, and is the privilege of every member of the Church today (James 5:14,15; Mark 16:18; Isa. 53:4,5; Matt. 8:17; 1 Peter 2:24).

### **What is their impact?**

- More than 45 years after our founding, Rhema Bible Training College remains steadfast in carrying out God's purpose of empowering Christians to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. **Since 1974, we have trained over 93,000 for the harvest.** The sun never sets on Rhema graduates ministering around the world, either in the pulpit, on the mission field, or as active believers supporting God's work in local churches. Our alumni have gone forth and...have **established 270 Bible schools in 54 nations** around the world.

### **WOF (Rhema) Churches Near Us<sup>16</sup> (There were about a dozen)**

- **Eternal Word Church, Grandville, MI<sup>17</sup>** “We trust God that you will be healed, set free and delivered after listening and we would love to hear your testimony.”
  - It is our desire to enable all people to fulfill God's purpose for their lives.
- **Word of Faith, GR, MI<sup>18</sup>** “That the infilling of the Holy Spirit is an experience subsequent to salvation, and that it is the will of God that all be filled.”
  - Healing is provided in the redemptive work through faith in the Jesus Christ and We believe that healing is included in the redemptive work to every believer.
  - We believe in water baptism, in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as distinct from the New Birth, in speaking with tongues as the Spirit of God gives utterance (Acts 2:4), in the gifts of the Spirit, and in the evidence of the fruit of the Spirit and the observance of the Lord's Supper. All of these are available to believers.

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.rbtc.org/about/what-we-believe/>

<sup>16</sup> These churches were found using Kenneth Copeland's own RHEMA church finder website.

<sup>17</sup> <http://eternalwordchurch.org/>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.wofgr.com/contentpages.aspx?p=38163ed5-27e0-4700-9e99-c0c044cedf99>



- **Living Faith Family Church, Greenville, MI**<sup>19</sup> “To provide services where praise and worship usher in the anointing, readying the congregation to hear from God.”
  - To teach the saints to live in Divine health and prosperity, knowing how to live a blessed life while being a blessing to others.

## **Resurrection Life (ResLife), Wyoming, MI**<sup>20</sup>

- **Regarding the Baptism of the Holy Spirit:**<sup>21</sup>
- “Many people say, ‘I received all God has for me when I God saved.’ That is not necessarily true. At salvation all God’s promises automatically become available to the new believer **but are not necessarily received by faith and activated in the believer’s life.**”
- **Why pray in tongues?**<sup>22</sup>
- Someone might say, ‘I’ll take the Holy Spirit, but I don’t want any of those tongues.’ Unfortunately, that’s like walking into a shoe store, picking out a pair of shoes, and telling the clerk, ‘I want running shoes without tongues.’ The clerk will shake his head at such an odd request and say, ‘Sorry, all our running shoes come with tongues!’ **The baptism in the Holy Spirit comes with tongues.** It’s part of the package, not something extra. Keep in mind, also, that God doesn’t give useless gifts. Each has a purpose. What about speaking in tongues? What is the purpose of this gift?
- **Speaking in tongues is not for communicating with people but for communicating with God.**
- When we speak in tongues, I Corinthians 14:2 says no one understands. You don’t understand; friends or family will not understand. However, God understands the prayer of your spirit.
- **Praying in Tongues is Speaking in a Divine Code**
- During World War II, after Americans broke the Japanese code, they knew everything the Japanese were going to do before they did it. This helped America win the war. Speaking in tongues is a prayer language Satan can never decode, so he cannot win the battle!
- **No wonder Satan has caused...division over this gift!** He doesn’t like to have believers praying in the Spirit.

## **Frontline Church, GR (Plainfield), MI, A Wesleyan Church**

- Since our inception in the year 2000, Frontline Church has existed to be a place where the love, grace, and mercy of Jesus Christ can be experienced, where people can immediately feel at home the moment they walk through the doors, and **be a catalyst for change in our community and world...**<sup>23</sup>
- ZERO needs among us...lost people...unconnected people...gods before him...unfulfilled callings

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.livingfaithfamilychurchgreenville.org/vision>

<sup>20</sup> <https://reslife.org/>

<sup>21</sup> [https://issuu.com/reslifechurch/docs/baptism\\_in\\_the\\_holy\\_spirit/s/15144492](https://issuu.com/reslifechurch/docs/baptism_in_the_holy_spirit/s/15144492)

<sup>22</sup> [https://issuu.com/reslifechurch/docs/baptism\\_in\\_the\\_holy\\_spirit/s/15144488](https://issuu.com/reslifechurch/docs/baptism_in_the_holy_spirit/s/15144488)

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.frontlinegr.com/beliefs>

- Our worship, no matter the place or avenue, is all about moving into a deeper relationship with the One who made us and loves us. (Not in the Bible...it is a response to who God is revealed in Scripture)
- There is a growing gap between the gospel and our cultures. We must mobilize a multiethnic, multigenerational and multieconomic Kingdom Force of disciples making disciples to close the gap. Our Kingdom Force includes laity and clergy, women and men, from everywhere to everywhere.

### **The Story Church (Comstock Park) ...New Life Wayland...Center Church**

- These are all takeovers of Frontline Church. They teach the exact same sermon series, have the same verbiage on their websites and all belong to the Wesleyan movement, seeker friendly, no exposition.
- Teaches the power of positive thinking, taught through the book *Winning the War in Your Mind: Change Your Thinking, Change Your Life* by Craig Groeschel (A NAR promoter)<sup>24</sup>
- All four of these churches are preaching the *exact same messages*...same graphics, etc.

### **Bethel Church, Redding, CA<sup>25</sup> (NAR, False Church, Demonic)**

- At Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry, we'll equip you to walk in the gifts of the Spirit, prepare your noble character, and empower you to follow Jesus as He moves powerfully on the earth today.
- Go deep in the transforming, powerful presence of God and overcome burnout. Learn how to live a supernatural lifestyle with sustainable rhythms.
- While this not a denomination as such, their overall influence is all over the world. Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry has over 10,000 graduates in over 70 countries.
- Their church has over 11,000 members locally in Redding, CA.
- One of their 4 offering prayers:<sup>26</sup>
  - I am powerful...And what I believe changes the world...So today I declare...God is in a good mood...He loves me all the time...Nothing can separate me from His love...Jesus' blood paid for everything...I will tell nations of what He has done...I am important...How He made me is amazing...I was designed for worship...My mouth establishes praise to silence the enemy...Everywhere I go becomes a perfect-health zone...And with God...Nothing is impossible!

<sup>24</sup> <https://narconnections.com/craig-groeschel-exposing-his-false-teachings/>

<sup>25</sup> <https://bssm.net/>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.bethel.com/offering-readings>



## **The Well Church<sup>27</sup>, Grand Rapids (BETHEL, NAR Church)**

- We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He gave the Holy Spirit to His people to bring heaven to earth.
- We desire to see people healed - body, soul and spirit - and for all wounds from the past to be redeemed through Jesus.
- We believe for people to be restored to their true identity as a son or a daughter of the Father, regardless of past mistakes or failures.
- We train people in their God-given gifts so that they can co-labor with God and the people around them to embrace their unique life purpose.
- We send...into the world to influence every sphere of society with love, wisdom, creativity, and power.

## **HOW SHOULD WE VIEW THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR CHURCH TODAY?**

- Firstly, we must know how to properly read and interpret the Bible. Most of the above-mentioned churches rely either exclusively or heavily on the book of Acts. **Why is this a problem?**
- All of God's Word is inspired, but there are different genres. Acts is predominantly a historical narrative recording the events which took place from Pentecost to about 60 AD.
- Also, it serves as a transitional book. The church was being established as Judaism was fading away. It was one of the few miraculous times in church history as God was giving His Word and establishing His church.
- All that to say, when compared with Paul's epistles, the book of Acts was never to be the normal practice of the church but viewed as inspired and established by God Himself.
- John 15:26 "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, **He will testify about Me...**"
  - The role of the Spirit here, then, is likened to that of a supporter for the disciples in witnessing to a hostile world. This statement, of course, does not mean that where there are no disciples present the Spirit is unable to work. Such a suggestion would mean that God is bound totally by human frailty. Rather, the meaning of these verses' **points to the intended harmony of humans and the Spirit working in mission.**<sup>28</sup>
- John 16:8, 24 "And He, when He comes, will **convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment...He will glorify Me**, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you."
  - In these verses, however, I believe the meaning of the verb is even more focused so as to suggest something akin to a courtroom procedure. It is a fascinating picture in which one can imagine three elements of the procedure being presented. **The first appears to be like a charge for which the**

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.thewellgr.com/about-us>

<sup>28</sup> Gerald L. Borchert, John 12–21, vol. 25B, NAC (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2002), 160.

defendant has been indicted. The second can be envisioned as the **standard** to which the defendant is required to conform, and the third can be viewed as the rationale the presiding judge uses to render the **verdict**. All of these elements can come within the basic meaning of this Greek verb, which is “bring to light, expose, set forth.”<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> Ibid., 165.