

GRACE EXCELS OVER PENTECOSTAL POWERS

THE FAILURE OF PENTECOSTAL CLAIMS DURING CRISIS

“For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth.”

~ 2 Corinthians 3:10

1. Introduction

- a. The present crisis continues to provide excellent applications of God’s sufficient grace
- b. The tendency is to put Pentecost on a pedestal and see the rest of history as downhill
- c. In times of crisis people turn to God and even the doubtful wish for a healing.
- d. Pandemics are a direct challenge to Pentecostal doctrines of divine healing
- e. God operating by grace today excels over His powerful operation at Pentecost.

2. Power Then and Now

- a. Pentecostal powers can be found in Mk 16, Lk 12, Lk 22, John 20, Acts 2-5
- b. *"and they were healed every one"* - Acts 5:12-16
- c. Spiritual gifts to the baby church can be included – 1Co 12:8-11, 28-30, Ro 12:3-8, Eph 4:11
- d. BUT NOW ... grace = its dispensation in the gospel, the mystery of Christ – Rom 5-8, Eph 3
- e. Grace has been called dry, dead, ineffectual, unhelpful, powerless, weak ← False!
- f. Grace IS truly more excellent – Phi 1:9-10, 1 Cor 12:31 ... how?

3. Pentecostal Powers are Weak

- a. The supernatural miracles and powers of God at Pentecost were glorious and wonderful
- b. Paul calls it (holy days like Pentecost, Passover, etc) are weak and beggarly - Gal 4:8-11
- c. Beggarly = requiring you to remove sin, fast, pray to exercise them
- d. Weak = they must be used again, and again, and again (grace is once applied for all time)
- e. They deal with the present, not the past or future – what about your sins, spirit, growth
- f. They cannot form Christ in you – Gal 4:13-20
- g. Compared to grace those powers are weak (tools for babies) – 2 Cor 3:10, 1 Cor 12:11
- h. Grace is untouchable by any power, man, circumstance, sin, trouble – Grace is stronger.

4. Pentecostal Powers Don’t Work

- a. No need to waste time listing the failures of the likes of Bakker, Copeland, Hinn, etc.
- b. Pandemics are terrific times to prove Pentecostal powers... but... silence.
- c. Healing was the means to provide hope for a kingdom, not people hope for a healing.
- d. People are dying, miracles are rare occurrence – how do you comfort people?
- e. Grace works every day in the life of the believer – Gal 2:20, Eph 2:10, Col 3:16

5. Pentecostal Powers Limit God and You

- a. Some were given powers, not all – 1 Cor 12:29, Eph 4:11
- b. By grace now we ALL have the power of God, riches of his grace, spiritual blessings, access.
- c. Pentecostal powers limit God’s power to only removing problems not strengthening us
- d. Pentecostal powers limit God’s work to few occasions, few people, only in part – 1Cor 13:9-11
- e. Grace is the power of God not limited – it abounds over all sin, more than conquerors.

6. God’s Grace excels over Pentecostal powers, and every crisis proves it.

- a. This crisis should shut the door on the sham of Pentecostal claims of power
- b. Grace does not deny the Holy Spirit, nor limit the Holy Spirit, it is not less or weaker.
- c. We stand fast in God's grace in the hope of his far more exceeding glory – 2 Cor 4:17

Spirit Gifts and Pentecostal Powers

Pentecostal Powers – Mark 16, Luke 12, 22, 1 John

1. Cast out devils – Mk 16:15-17
2. Speak with new tongues
3. Take up serpents
4. Drink deadly thing without harm
5. Lay hands on the sick to heal them
6. Forgive sins – John 20:23
7. Speak words by the Holy Ghost without preparation, study, or forethought - a mouth of wisdom without meditation – Lk 12:11-12, 21:14-15
8. Food and raiment provided without thought or preparation – Lk 12:22, 33
9. Special anointing where you do not need any teacher – 1 John 2:20, 27
10. Giving the Holy Ghost by laying on of hands – Acts 8

1 Corinthians 12:8-11 – Gifts by the Spirit

1. Word of wisdom
2. Word of knowledge
3. Faith
4. Healing
5. Working of miracles
6. Prophecy
7. Discerning of spirits
8. Divers kinds of tongues
9. Interpretation of tongues

1 Corinthians 12:28-30 – God set positions in the church (*not listed as gifts*)

1. Apostles
2. Prophets
3. Teachers
4. Workers of miracles
5. Healing
6. Helps
7. Governments
8. Diversities of tongues

Romans 12:3-8 – Gifts and offices differ; an admonition to humbly do what you can

1. Prophecy
2. Ministry
3. Teaching
4. Exhorting
5. Giving
6. Ruling
7. Mercy

Ephesians 4:11 – God gave these for edification of the saints

1. Apostles
2. Prophets
3. Evangelists
4. Pastors
5. Teachers