

Overview of Prayer Meeting April 6th, 2025

This service was wonderful as we started with a time of worship, then prayer and ended in taking communion as we always do. The church world is going through a shaking and purging period, but we've noticed that there is of late, more persecution against Christians who are spirit-filled, meaning those who have been baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues and who believe that signs, wonders and miracles are still in operation today. This persecution is not only coming from those who are in the, 'cessationism' camp, meaning all ceased with the Apostles, but also from those who have been baptized in the Holy Spirit and for whatever reason, who may or may not still be in the church due to offences or other reasons.

We prayed specifically for the spirit-filled Christians, that they would stand strong and firm in the power of the Holy Spirit and to not bow in the face of these persecutions. The following scriptures encourage us that just as the Apostles and early church Christians stood strong, so we also are to stand strong.

The New Testament references the supernatural display of the Holy Spirit with miracles, signs and wonders which confirm the gospel of Jesus Christ which He says in **Mark 16:14-18** in the great commission; *"14 Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. 15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will follow those who [d]believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they[e] will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."*

Acts 2:43 also says; *"Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles."*

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are not to be despised or rejected;
1 Thessalonians 5:19-20 says; *"19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies."*

1 Corinthians 14:39-40 says; *"39 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. 40 Let all things be done decently and in order."*

Ephesians 4:11-12 says that these gifts are for the edification of the church; *"11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the [a]edifying of the body of Christ,"*

In **1 Timothy 4:14**, we see the Apostle Paul admonishing Timothy to not neglect or lay aside the gifts that had been imparted to him as we read; *"Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership."*

Hebrews 2:3-4 also says; *"3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, 4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?"*

Are there fraudulent “Christians” or as they say those who sell ‘snake oil’? Yes. There were and there still are. That’s why we need the gift of discernment to know those who are truly born again and spirit-filled.

We read about Simon who was a sorcerer who came to believe in Jesus and was baptized in **Acts 8:9-13**; “*9 But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced [a]sorcery in the city and astonished the [b]people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great, 10 to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, “This man is the great power of God.” 11 And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his [c]sorceries for a long time. 12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. 13 Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.”*

However, Simon’s heart was truly not right as exemplified by his desire to purchase the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit, which is sin. **Acts 8:18-19** says; “*And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, “Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.”* Simon was rebuked by Peter and Simon was told to repent of the wickedness in his heart.

Jesus said in **Matthew 7:21-23** that even those who would perform miracles, signs and wonders in His name – may not be of Him. “*21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ 23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”*

We see by Jesus’ words alone that yes, there may be some (or many) who perform signs, wonders and miracles in His name whom Jesus himself knows are not His – that is sobering, but shouldn’t shock us because Jesus forewarned us already. These may also be those who Jesus refers to as ‘tares’ in the church in **Matthew 13:24-30**. If they are tares, according to the Bible, they will be judged as such.

Do the manifestations of the Holy Spirit sometimes seem to be ‘out there’? Maybe. But are we God, to ask Him or tell Him what He can and cannot do as He chooses? Absolutely not.

A few scriptures from the New Testament and what happened to the Apostles should be witness enough.

Didn’t the death of Ananias and Sapphira seem over the top? I guess not as God saw their hearts. Peter probably didn’t expect what was about to happen...but it did. **Acts 5:5**; “*Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things.”*

How about the shadow of Peter passing over people and they were healed – didn’t that seem over the top? Apparently not! **Acts 5:15-16**; “*15 so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. 16 Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.”*

The Lord wasn't too pleased with Elymas because he was a false prophet and was trying to hinder the work of Barnabas and Saul. What happened to him may have seemed over the top, but it wasn't as **Acts 5:6-12** says; *"6 Now when they had gone through [a]the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus, 7 who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. 8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) [b]withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. 9 Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him 10 and said, "O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? 11 And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time." And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. 12 Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord."*

We read about a slave girl who followed Paul and Silas around saying that they were servants of the Most High God, and while what she was saying was true, it was from a wrong spirit – a demon speaking through her. That all may appear over the top, but it was true and that demon was cast out as we read in **Acts 16:17-19**; *"17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." 18 And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly [d]annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. 19 But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities."*

Or how about Peter falling into a trance in **Acts 10**. Wouldn't that seem over the top? It wasn't as the Holy Spirit used that to reach and convert the soul of Cornelius and his family and household, who were the first Gentiles to be born again and filled with the Holy Spirit. Just reading through the Book of Acts and the New Testament we see the Holy Spirit's supernatural power being manifest through those who believed. Now is not the time to be silent, indifferent or fearful. Don't worry about making a reputation for yourselves. Expect more supernatural signs, wonders and miracles to happen in these last days as everything that can be shaken, will be shaken!

We encourage you to read the prophecy from Sunday, click [here](#) to read it which correlates with this overview.

To read more on the power of the Holy Spirit and the gift of tongues, click on the links to go to the Illustrated Message Series that we have preached on.

[Holy Spirit Power, 21 Reasons Why Christians Should Speak in Tongues.](#)