

THE CHURCH QUENCHING OUT THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT!!!

A PROPHETIC REBUKE

The Church Quenching Out the Gifts of the Spirit

Introduction: A Call to Awareness

In recent years, the Church has faced a significant spiritual crisis—one that has been developed over decades. This crisis is alarming and deserves urgent attention, as it reveals the stark decline of many congregations and the pervasive spiritual weakness that characterizes them today.

Many churches now find themselves operating without the true Head of the Church as their guide, increasingly relying on man-centered leadership that has drifted away from the empowering presence of God.

Over time, critical decisions have led these congregations off course, causing them to become numb to the Master's voice, which seeks to lead them out of turbulent times. A daunting silence has fallen over leaders who have opted to chart their paths independently, effectively grieving the Gifts of the Spirit and rendering the prophetic voice unimportant.

Part 1

The consequences of this spiritual decline are glaringly evident, but the roots of the issue extend back years, marked by significant missteps made by church leaders. There is potential for transformation as the Church seeks healing through the Master. This exploration will delve deeply into the historical roots, theological ramifications, and modern-day consequences of quenching the Holy Spirit, particularly regarding the gifts of healing, prophecy, and deliverance. This document serves as a necessary rebuke to every church that stifles the gifts of His Spirit.

How It Started: The Roots of The Jesus Revolution and Calvary Chapel's Evolution

The Jesus Movement: A Spirit-Led Revival

The Jesus Movement, which gained momentum in the late 1970s and surged into the 1980s, marked a profound revival characterized by the transformative work of the

Holy Spirit. This movement significantly influenced countless young people across the globe, fostering a spiritual awakening defined by several key attributes:

Radical conversions: Many individuals experienced dramatic life changes as they encountered the message of Messiah for the first time, leading to authentic transformations in their lifestyles and priorities.

Spontaneous baptisms: In various settings, particularly in beaches and parks, individuals were baptized in large numbers, demonstrating the outward expression of inward faith.

Prophetic utterances: Believers began to speak words of knowledge and prophetic insight, conveying messages believed to be divinely inspired, which encouraged and built up the church community.

Healing and deliverance ministries: Numerous instances of physical and emotional healing emerged, offering hope and restoration to those burdened by pain and affliction.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit: Many participants sought and experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit, often evidenced by speaking in tongues, praying in a heavenly language and the activation of other charismatic gifts.

Calvary Chapel: The Start Of A Central Hub

Calvary Chapel, under the leadership of Chuck Smith, rose to prominence as a new crucial hub during this Jesus People movement. Initially, the church embraced the gifts of the Spirit, experiencing a thrilling atmosphere of revival. Significant figures like Lonnie Frisbee played pivotal roles, demonstrating a ministry marked by healing, prophecy, and miraculous signs. Lonnie was indeed genuinely anointed, and his deep commitment to seeking the Holy Spirit inspired many around him.

Lonnie would minister at Calvary and there came a time that he was moving in the Holy Spirit and Chuck stopped him and latter, in close doors Chuck accused Lonnie of showboating [playing to the crowd] even when Lonnie was in the Spirit! Chuck stopped Lonnie from doing exploits by the Holy Spirit at Calvary!

Now, Chuck Smith, who had his former roots in the Four Square Church, found himself grappling with certain manifestations that he viewed as straying from God's intended purpose for the gifts of the Spirit. His caution ultimately led to restrictions that stifled the flourishing expressions of the Spirit within his ministry and beyond.

The Struggle with Spiritual Gifts

Throughout the mid-1970s, while spiritual gifts thrived, Chuck began to clash with how these gifts were manifested during public services. Despite witnessing clear evidence of the Holy Spirit's work, he imposed guidelines to curb public expressions of these gifts during church gatherings. He recommended that congregants who wished to exercise their spiritual gifts do so outside of the main services, which created a chasm between the sanctuary and the active manifestations of the Holy Spirit. This decision made in the name of order, inadvertently led to a disconnection that many within the congregation still experience today.

Conclusion: A Path Forward

The decline of the Church and the quenching of the Gifts of the Spirit is a multifaceted issue rooted in historical choices and leadership dynamics. As congregations reflect on their practices and the styles of leadership guiding them, there is hope for transformation and recovery. By acknowledging past mistakes and earnestly embracing the gifts of the Spirit, churches can revitalize their mission and reconnect with the divine power that once fueled their growth and vibrancy.

Part 2

The Silence of the Sanctuaries: How Churches Have Quenched the Spirit

In the mid-1970s, a significant cultural and spiritual shift occurred within various Christian circles, fundamentally altering the landscape of worship and spiritual practice. This transition involved a notable curtailing of spiritual gifts that had previously been active and embraced within many congregations. While this trend was not universal, its impact on the faith experience for numerous believers has been profound and lasting.

The Restriction

An influential figure during this time, Chuck Smith, found himself in direct conflict with the public manifestations of spiritual gifts. Despite witnessing evident and transformative works of the Holy Spirit, he decided to impose stringent regulations that would shape the future of Calvary Chapel and influence many other churches. He established guidelines that suggested congregants practice their gifts outside of public worship, effectively sealing the sanctuary from the dynamic and spontaneous expressions of the Holy Spirit that were once welcomed and celebrated.

This decision by Chuck not only shaped Calvary Chapel's environment but also set a precedent that echoed throughout various denominations and movements, creating a culture where the supernatural—once embraced—became absent from church life.

Echoes Across Years

This shift was not an isolated phenomenon. Numerous movements and denominations mirrored this trend, each adapting it to their context:

-The Vineyard Movement: Initially embraced charismatic practices but later adopted restrictions reminiscent of Chuck's approach, prioritizing more moderation in spirit-led gifts.

Southern Baptist Convention: Largely adhered to cessationist theology, which teaches that the miraculous gifts of the Spirit ceased with the apostles.

Evangelical Free Church: Maintained unsettled views on spiritual gifts.

Assemblies of God: Despite retaining a charismatic identity, it gradually changed and began to adopt more traditional practices, they say they believe according to doctrine but don't practice the Gifts of the Spirit being more like Baptists.

Non-denominational megachurches: Frequently favor seeker-sensitive methodologies, often shying away from supernatural manifestations to create a comfortable worship experience.

The Practice of Quenching the Spirit

The concept of "quenching the Spirit," as described in 1 Thessalonians 5:19, involves actively suppressing the Holy Spirit's work and activity. This suppression has been particularly pronounced in several critical areas of church life:

Quenching

Prophetic words: Church leaders may ignore or dismiss prophetic utterances, viewing them as subjective rather than divinely inspired.

Healing ministries: Many congregations shy away from healing practices out of fear of misunderstanding or controversy, thereby limiting opportunities for healing.

Speaking in tongues: This practice has often been marginalized, with many dismissing it as emotionalism rather than recognizing its validity within a balanced spiritual life.

Prayer in the heavenly language: Engaging in Spirit-led prayer has been squelched, limiting the depth of communication with God.

Deliverance from demonic oppression: This vital ministry is frequently avoided, leading to unmet spiritual needs within congregations.

Overall functioning of the gifts of the Holy Spirit: A general reluctance to engage with the gifts can stifle the vibrancy and life of the church community.

Churches often quench the Spirit through various practices, including:

Legislation against spiritual gifts in public worship settings.

Substituting Spirit-led ministry with scripted or rigidly structured programs that offer little room for spontaneity.

Disregarding prophetic voices, often labelling them as emotionalism or signs of disorder.

Avoiding healing and deliverance ministries due to concerns about acceptable church practices.

Restrictions:

The consequences of these restrictive approaches are significant.

Millions of believers find themselves attending services that lack the dynamic power of the Holy Spirit.

A widespread decline in spiritual hunger and an expectation for the supernatural has taken hold within many congregations.

Increased emotionalism and bondage stemming from unresolved spiritual issues plague many believers.

A lack of discernment and prophetic correction within the Church leaves its members vulnerable to falling away from true biblical teaching.

Churches and Movements That Have Quenched the Spirit:

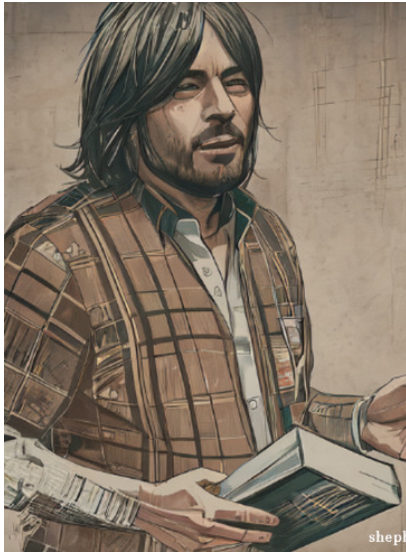
 Church/Movement Impact	 Practice	
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 Calvary Chapel (post-1975) healing ministries became silent. 	 Restricted all nine gifts, including...	 Prophetic and
 Southern Baptist Convention validity of all spiritual gifts. 	 Cessationist theology	 Denies the
 Evangelical Free Church fully embrace spiritual gifts. 	 Unsettled views, overly cautious	 Hesitant to
 Seeker-Sensitive Megachurches supernatural manifestations; many do not believe in them. 	 Prioritize comfort and order	 Avoid any
 Mainline Denominations Completely ignore the gifts of the Spirit. 	 Rigid liturgical structure and theological liberalism	
 Some Charismatic Churches silent regarding the work of the Holy Spirit. 	 Overcorrected due to past abuses	 Often

Consequences of Quenching the Spirit:

The systematic suppression of the Spirit has led to profound spiritual dryness within congregations, resulting in an absence of the Holy Spirit's active presence. In conclusion, the decisions made by certain church leaders and movements to restrict or suppress the gifts of the Spirit have had far-reaching repercussions. While their intentions may have aimed at achieving order or avoiding perceived excesses, the actual outcome has often been a diminished dynamic and life-giving presence of the Holy Spirit within the Church. This absence has left many believers yearning for a deeper and more authentic experience of faith, one that is fully alive in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion: A Path Forward

The decline of the Church and the quenching of the Gifts of the Spirit is a multifaceted issue rooted in historical choices and leadership dynamics. As congregations reflect on their practices and the styles of leadership guiding them, there is hope for transformation and recovery. By acknowledging past mistakes and earnestly embracing the gifts of the Spirit, churches can revitalize their mission and reconnect with the divine power that once fueled their growth and vibrancy.



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