



What is all this...

Falling,
'Shaking,
Laughing,
Crying,
"Drunkness", &
Prophetic Revelation

...about?

Any **thinking Believer** will have some questions, like:

1. Is what we are seeing Biblical?
2. How can you be sure it's God?
3. Why are these phenomena manifesting?

What is happening to us???

Firstly, it must be said that it is perfectly normal and even necessary to inquire into the Biblical nature of what we encounter in our Christian experience. It is also ok to admit that much of this looks “weird” as long as we do not prematurely judge it. When Paul first went to the Bereans, the book of acts tells us that they were more noble than the other Jews that Paul had encountered in Greece because they “searched the scriptures daily to see if what Paul was saying was true” (Acts 17:11).

1. Is what we are seeing Biblical?

When we ask, “is it Biblical?” we are probably asking for what is commonly called a “proof” text. A proof text is a portion of Scripture that, when taken in context, validates a particular position we are taking. In order to determine whether these phenomena are Biblical, we need to lay down some ground rules for solid interpretation:

There are three basic doctrinal headings in the Bible:

- a. Christian theology (What, and why, Christians are to believe)
- b. Christian ethics (How Christians ought to behave)
- c. Christian experience or practice (What Christians should do)

You can call a verse, or passage, a proof text when the writer clearly states what God wants us to believe, do or practice.

There are many beliefs, behaviors and practices, however, that are not clearly taught but rather are implied. These texts can be labeled “secondary”. This doesn’t mean unimportant, only that a statement has not been fully clarified, leaving room for personal interpretation.

Here’s an example using baptism:

The Bible clearly states that Christians must be baptized. There is a primary text that says so.

(Matthew 28:19 says, “Then having gone, disciple all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”).

HOW we are to be baptized, on the other hand is never explicitly stated. This is why different groups baptize in different ways. There are, however, clear Biblical passages that show that it was normal in the early church to immerse people in water. Even the Greek word “Baptizo” means to immerse.

Pronounced “*bap-tid'-zo*”

From a derivative of G911; to *make whelmed* (that is, *fully wet*); used only (in the New Testament) of ceremonial *ablution*, especially (technically) of the ordinance of Christian *baptism*: - baptist, baptize, wash.

This does not prove though that this is the only way that the church should baptize but it does, however, very clearly imply it. At the very least it illustrates that this is what was practiced. The style of baptism, therefore, is a secondary, not a primary issue.

When dealing with supernatural phenomena, we are dealing with the area of Christian practice. While there is a primary text dealing with prophetic revelation, there are no primary texts that state clearly that Christians must fall down, shake or look drunk during seasons of divine visitation. There are, however, a number of secondary (remember, secondary does not mean unimportant or invalid in any way) texts that illustrate that these were some of the responses people had during moments of divine visitation. We will examine some of these passages where they relate to particular phenomena. We must remember that there are also numerous examples of the same, and similar, phenomena in church history, especially in seasons of revival. We will also briefly examine them. For your own research I can suggest books written by, and about, Jonathan Edwards; Charles Finney; Smith Wigglesworth; John G. Lake; A.A. Allen; Maria Woodsworth-Etter; Kathryn Kuhlman; Ruth Heflin. There are many more that can be added to this list but

the purpose of this exercise is not to get overly focused on the past experiences of others, but rather to be aware of what God is doing now and to expect the new things God has for us in this generation.

Before we get into that, we must understand that God is very creative and He will sometimes do things He has never done before. We must be prepared to wait to see the fruit of whatever comes our way before we judge it, and rather pray for discernment than run away if we don't yet understand it. There are many such examples in the Bible:

The rod of Moses that turned into a snake and the plagues that came on the Egyptians but did not affect the Israelites; the parting of the Red Sea; the drowning of the Egyptian army; the water from the rock in the wilderness; the manna and from heaven – it lasted only one day, but the Friday's manna lasted two days so that they would rest on the Sabbath; the clothes and shoes that never wore out; the rod of Aaron that budded; the shouting down of the walls of Jericho; the reversing of the sun for Hezekiah; the first of each type of miracle performed by the prophets of God, including the raising of the dead person whose body simply touched the bones of Elijah, and the axe head that floated; the turning of water into wine and other miracles that Jesus did, like opening the eyes of the man born blind and walking (with Peter) on the water; the numerous dead that were raised and showed themselves to everyone directly after Christ rose from the dead; the supernatural transportation of Philip, who taught the Ethiopian eunuch; the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and speaking in different tongues (see Acts ch.2 & ch.10); the angel that opened the prison doors for Paul; the impossibility of killing John, so that, after having tried to boil him in oil, they had to banish him to the island of Patmos to avoid any more controversy.

And there have been new things happening in recent years, where incredible creative miracles have happened such as the man who had two stumps from the knees down, and having taken Smith Wigglesworth's instruction to buy a new pair of shoes, legs instantly grew as he placed his feet into them. Gold dust has supernaturally appeared on people, and on their Bibles; Gemstones of an unknown substance have supernaturally manifested out of thin air and, for the sake of moving onto explaining some of the common occurrences we are now experiencing, I will have to stop.

So let us investigate the phenomena of the following, and see if we can find Biblical evidence for them:

- A. Falling
- B. Shaking
- C. Crying
- D. Laughter
- E. Drunkenness
- F. Prophetic Revelation

A. Falling

The most common phenomena we have seen in our meetings are people falling down. Often they remain conscious but engaged with the Lord. They sometimes feel overwhelmed and find it difficult to do anything but rest in God. We have seen that as they lay down under the power of the Lord, they have had significant changes in their lives. This is all well and good, but some would like Biblical evidence for this. Here are some examples:

1. Genesis 15:12. "And it happened, the sun was going, and a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, a terror of great darkness *was* falling on him! [Gen 15:13](#) And He said to Abram..." This simply means that a deep sleep fell on Abram. The Hebrew word *Radam* used in this verse means to be in or to fall into a deep sleep. This is the same word used for when God put Adam into a deep sleep in order to make Eve.
2. 1 Samuel 19:23&24. "Saul walked along prophesying... [1Sa 19:24](#) And he stripped off his garments and also prophesied in Samuel's presence. And he lay (literally fell) down naked all that day and night. This is why they say, is Saul also among the prophets?" The text shows that Saul fell down (Hebrew word is "Naphal" which literally means to fall) and for 24 hours Saul was lying down while God was speaking through him.

3. Ezekiel 3:23. "Then I arose, and went forth into the plain: and, behold, the glory of Jehovah stood there, as the glory which I saw by the river Chebar; and I fell on my face." This simply means that Ezekiel fell facedown.
4. Daniel 8:17. "As he (Gabriel) came near... I was terrified and fell on my face. Daniel 10:9. In another encounter with an angel, Daniel says, "When I heard the sound of his words I was then lying stunned (Radam) on the ground and my face was toward the ground."
5. John 18:6. As Judas and the soldiers came to arrest Jesus, they had an interesting encounter. "When Jesus said, 'I am He', they jumped back and fell to the ground". Here we see an immediate falling backwards in response to the presence of Jesus. They were apparently able to get up shortly thereafter because they went on to arrest Jesus.
6. Acts 9:22-26. When Paul was apprehended on the road to Damascus by a light from heaven, he says, "I fell to the ground and heard a voice". Again we see that falling was a normal response to a divine visitation.
7. Revelation 1:17. "When I saw him I fell at his feet as though dead". This was John's response to seeing the angel and thereafter he saw visions.

Extra-Biblical accounts:

Jonathan Edwards, the main instrument and theologian of the Great Awakening in America (1725-1760), says in his *Account of the Revival of Religion in Northampton* (1740-1742):

"Many have had their religious affections raised far beyond what they had ever been before; and there were some instances of persons lying in a sort of trance, remaining perhaps for a whole 24 hours motionless, and with their senses locked up; but in the mean time under strong imaginations, as though they went to heaven and had there a vision of glorious and delightful objects.

It was a very frequent thing to see outcries, fainting, convulsions, and such like, both with distress, and also admiration and joy.

It was not the manner here to hold meetings all night, nor was it common to continue them till very late in the night; but it was pretty often so, that there were some so affected, and their bodies so overcome, that they could not go home, but were obligated to stay all night where they were."

Charles Finney (1792 – 1875) was one of the most powerful revivalists since the reformation. At a country place named Sodom, in the state of New York, Finney gave one address in which he described the condition of Sodom before God destroyed it:

"I had not spoken in this strain more than a quarter of an hour, when an awful solemnity seemed to settle upon them; the congregation began to fall from their seats in every direction, and cried for mercy. If I had had a sword in each hand, I could not have cut them down as fast as they fell. Nearly the whole congregation were either on their knees or prostrate, I should think, in less than two minutes from the shock that fell upon them. Every one prayed who was able to speak at all." Similar scenes were witnessed in many other places.

Conclusion:

In light of the Biblical data, the things we are seeing now are sometimes very similar and sometimes not. It is clear from scripture that there is a precedent for sometimes falling during a manifestation of God's presence. The cause of the biblical accounts of falling seem to vary from God putting man to sleep for a specific purpose, to falling out of holy fear, to falling as almost a forced prostration in the face of human arrogance and rebellion.

The examples from Edwards and Finney seem to support this varied pattern. In Edward's account, the people were overcome by the presence of God while in Finney's; it was clearly a falling out of Holy fear. The kinds of falling we are seeing now seem to parallel more the action of God to put to sleep for the purpose of healing both physically and emotionally, although some are also receiving visions and

communications from the Lord. This is not only an experience within the church as we experience the same in homes and wherever the Lord chooses to manifest his presence.

B. Shaking (or trembling)

Shaking is also common in our meetings and is one of the hardest phenomena to understand. The kinds of shaking vary greatly. Sometimes the shaking is accompanied by all sorts of bodily contortions; sometimes mild; sometimes almost violent. What Biblical evidence is there?

1. Daniel 10:7. "I, Daniel, alone saw the vision. For the men who were with me did not see the vision. But a great quaking (trembling) fell on them so that they fled to hide themselves."
2. Psalm 99:1. "The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble; He sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake."
3. Psalm 114:7. "Tremble O earth at the presence of the Lord."
4. Jeremiah 5:22. "'Should you not fear me?' declares the Lord. 'Should you not tremble in my presence?'"
5. Jeremiah 23:9. In speaking of his prophetic experience, Jeremiah says, "My heart is broken within me; all my bones tremble. I am like a drunken man overcome by wine because of the Lord and His holy words." This is a significant verse because Jeremiah is relating that what happened to him on at least one occasion involved a trembling/shaking of his bones. His wording seems to imply that he shook from the inside out. The analogy to being overcome could also be a reference to being "entranced" by the coming of a prophetic word. This text was an answer to God's question in Jeremiah 5:22.
6. Acts 4:31. "The place where they were meeting was shaken."
7. Hebrews 5:7. "Who in the days of his flesh, having offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and having been heard for his godly fear". Strong crying implies that He was shaking. Here it is written of Jesus, when He was in the garden of Gethsemane, that He was heard in that He feared which is also a trembling.
8. James 2:19. "You believe that God is one; you do well: the demons also believe, and tremble." This implies that, although the believers believed, if they knew and experienced the power and holiness/glory of God, they would tremble also.

Extra-Biblical accounts:

George Fox (1624-1691): After a life-changing experience with the Holy Spirit, Fox had some remarkable experiences. After passing through the first experience, Fox was mightily used of God, and great conviction of sin fell upon the people to whom he preached.

"The Lord's power began to shake them," he said, "and great meetings we began to have, and a mighty power and work of God there was amongst the people, to the astonishment of both people and priests."

Later he said, "After this I went to Mansfield, where there was a great meeting of professors and people; here I was moved to pray; and the Lord's power was so great, that the house seemed to be shaken."

A remarkable power seemed to accompany the preaching of fox everywhere he went, whether in Britain; America; Germany; Holland or the West Indies. He usually went about the country on foot, dressed in his famous suit of leather clothes, said to have been made by himself, and often sleeping out of doors or in some haystack. He was ridiculed and persecuted, beaten and stoned, arrested and imprisoned, more frequently perhaps than any other man, and yet the Lord seemed to greatly bless and own his labors. Describing his meetings at Ticknell, England, he says, "The priest scoffed at us and called us 'Quakers', but the Lord's power was so over them, and the word of life was declared in such authority and dread to them, that the priest began trembling himself; and one of the people said, 'look how the priest trembles and shakes, he is turned Quaker also.'"

Conclusion:

There is a Biblical precedent for shaking in God's presence. In the verses where the cause of shaking is mentioned, it has to do with holy fear. The shaking we are experiencing seems to be also related to prophetic ministry and impartation of spiritual gifts of which parallels can be seen in Fox's ministry. Shaking can also be demonic trembling, as the presence of God increases, unto spontaneous deliverance.

C. Crying (weeping)

In our meetings, Crying is something that we see happening from time to time, as there is a release of emotions from the person who is being touched by the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Often deep emotional healing occurs that the person may not even be consciously aware of. Some cry before the Lord with petitions for their loved ones or other needs for breakthrough. Sometimes people cry in repentance for their sins. Sometimes they also experience tears of joy. The majority of the Biblical evidence for crying is as a result of conviction of sin.

1. Numbers 11:18. "And say thou unto the people, Sanctify yourselves against to-morrow, and ye shall eat flesh; for ye have wept in the ears of Jehovah, saying, Who shall give us flesh to eat? For it was well with us in Egypt: therefore Jehovah will give you flesh, and ye shall eat."
2. Judges 20:26-28. "Then all the children of Israel, and all the people, went up, and came unto Beth-el, and wept, and sat there before Jehovah, and fasted that day until even... And Jehovah said, Go up; for to-morrow I will deliver him into thy hand."
3. Ezra 3:12&13. "... the old men that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy: [Ezr 3:13](#) so that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people;"
4. Nehemiah 8:9. "All the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the law."
5. 2 Chronicles 34:27. "Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself... and you tore your robes and wept in my presence, I have heard you."
6. Acts 2:37. "When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart..." This text doesn't say that they wept, but it is hard to imagine "being cut to the heart" as not evoking that emotional response.
7. 2 Corinthians 2:4. "For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be made sorry, but that ye might know the love that I have more abundantly unto you."

Extra-Biblical accounts:

John Wesley (1703-1791, founder of the Methodists):

On April 17, 1739, there was another remarkable case of conviction of sin in Bristol. Wesley had just expounded in Acts 4, on the power of the Holy Spirit and this was his account:

"We then called upon God to confirm His Word. Immediately one that stood by (to our no small surprise) cried out loud, with the utmost vehemence, even as the agonies of death. But we continued in prayer, till a new song was put in her mouth, a thanksgiving unto God. Soon after, two other persons (well known in this place, as laboring to live in all good conscience towards all men) were seized with strong pain, and constrained to roar for the disquietness of their heart. These also found peace."

Many other wonderful cases of conviction of sin attended Wesley's preaching. It was a frequent occurrence for people to cry aloud or fall down as if dead in the meetings, so great was their anguish of heart, caused, no doubt, by the Holy Spirit convicting them of sin.

Conclusion

Crying is normally a natural response to the conviction of sin by the Holy Spirit, as well as the release of emotional pain, or the peaceful joy of having a divine encounter with God's love for them.

D. Laughter (joy)

Now this is something we are seeing quite an increase of in our meetings. The Biblical evidence for Laughter, and that God wants us to be expressively happy is very clear.

1. Genesis 17:17. "Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed,"
2. Genesis 21:6. "And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh. Every one that hears will laugh with me."
3. Kings 1:40. "And all the people came up after him, and the people piped with pipes, and rejoiced with great joy, so that the earth rent with the sound of them."
4. 1 Chronicles 15:16. "And David spake to the chief of the Levites to appoint their brethren the singers, with instruments of music, psalteries and harps and cymbals, sounding aloud and lifting up the voice with joy."
5. Ezra 6:21&22. "...and all such as had separated themselves unto them from the filthiness of the nations of the land, to seek Jehovah, the God of Israel, did eat, [Ezr 6:22](#) and kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with joy: for Jehovah had made them joyful,"
6. Nehemiah 8:10. "...for the joy of the Lord is your strength."
7. Psalm 126:5. They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.
8. Ecclesiastes 2:26. "For to the man that pleases him *God* gives wisdom, and knowledge, and joy; but to the sinner he gives travail..."
9. Ecclesiastes 3:4. "a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;"
10. Isaiah 29:19. "The meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel."
11. Isaiah 61:3. "to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;"
12. Jeremiah 31:13. "Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old together; for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow."
13. Luke 6:21. "Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh."
14. John 16:24. "ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be made full."
15. John 17:13. "But now I come to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy made full in themselves." (Surely a full measure of joy implies laughter.)

Extra-Biblical accounts:

Jonathan Edwards

"It was very wonderful to see how person's affections were sometimes moved, when God did as it were suddenly open their eyes, and let into their minds a sense of the greatness of His grace, the fullness of Christ, and His readiness to save... Their joyful surprise has caused their hearts as it were to leap, so that they have been ready to break forth into laughter, tears often at the same time issuing as a flood, and intermingling a loud weeping. Sometimes they have not been able to forbear crying out with a loud voice, expressing their great admiration. The manner of God's work on the soul, sometimes especially, is very mysterious."

Conclusion

As a general observance of people all over the world, we have found that the greater joy a person experiences, the greater the expression is of it. Scripture also reveals that God and the Israelites would laugh at their enemies, and therefore laughing can also be evidence of victory in one's life, in spite of difficulties, over Satan's attacks.

E. Drunkenness

One does not have to look far for Biblical evidence for drunkenness. It is obvious from scripture through the analogy of "new wine" that in the presence of the Spirit of God, drunkenness is a response for which we have very clear evidence.

1. Jeremiah 23:9. In speaking of his prophetic experience, Jeremiah says, "My heart is broken within me; all my bones tremble. I am like a drunken man overcome by wine because of the Lord and His holy words."
2. Acts 2:13. "But others mocking said, They are filled with new wine. Acts 2:14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and spake forth unto them, *saying*, Ye men of Judea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and give ear unto my words. Acts 2:15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose; seeing it is but the third hour of the day. Acts 2:16 but this is that which hath been spoken through the prophet Joel: Acts 2:17 And it shall be in the last days, saith God, I will pour forth of my Spirit upon all flesh: And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, And your young men shall see visions, And your old men shall dream dreams:" Notice that Peter said that they were not drunken as they supposed, with a natural wine, but rather, that they were drunken with the Spirit of God that had been poured forth.
3. Acts 10:44. While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all them that heard the word. Acts 10:45 And they of the circumcision (the Jews) that believed were amazed, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 10:46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Acts 10:47 Can any man forbid the water, that these should not be baptized, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we too have?" Note that the Holy Spirit FELL ON THEM, which implies an overwhelming experience. We also see here that the Jews recognized that this was an outpouring of the Holy Spirit by the evidence that the Gentiles also spoke in other tongues, just as they had at Pentecost.
4. Ephesians 5:18. "And be not drunken with wine, wherein is debauchery (riot/unsavedness), but be filled with the Spirit;" The phrase, "instead be filled" is in the Greek present tense which implies a continuation of this practice. What an interesting contrast Paul makes between the carnal form of drunkenness of sin, that leaves one empty, with the spiritual drunkenness that revives and leaves one filled.
5. 1 Corinthians 12:13. "For in one Spirit were we all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether bond or free; **and were all made to drink of one Spirit.**"

Conclusion

No further extra-biblical accounts are required, as I am sure the previous ones have sufficed. Being filled with the Spirit is likened unto being filled with new wine. The measure of the intensity of God's presence is under God's control and He will pour out His Spirit as intensely as He wishes, limited only by our desire. For the scriptures declare that those who hunger and thirst after righteousness will be filled. The simple and obvious conclusion to draw here is that God does want to fill us. How He chooses to do so may be foreign to your current experience, but thank God that scripture is irrefutable, and also conclusive, that God wishes to fill us with the new wine of His Spirit for He seeks to heal our hearts, and not just our bodies.

F. Prophetic Revelation

One of the things we are seeing is that people are having visions (sometimes seeing Jesus Himself), dreams and prophetic words given to them, while under the power of the Holy Spirit. All throughout the Bible, prophetic revelation occurs during periods of divine visitation. There is no way that we can cover this huge subject comprehensively in this apologetic context, so we will cover only basic Biblical evidences.

1. Numbers 11:29. Moses says, "Are you Zealous for my sake? I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put His Spirit on them." Moses was responding to Joshua, who was objecting to the fact that some of the elders were prophesying outside of the tabernacle when

the Spirit had rested on them. Moses was implying that, if Joshua was indeed complaining to uphold something that he thought Moses would also be upset about, he was seriously mistaken. Moses greatly desired that everyone would prophesy. We see later in 1 Corinthians 14 how Paul earnestly challenges all Christians to desire the gifts of the Holy Spirit, especially the gift of prophecy. He says so that, "he (the unbeliever) will fall down and worship God, exclaiming 'God is really among you!'"

2. Numbers 11:6. God said, "When a prophet is among you I reveal Myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams."
3. Acts 2:17-18. "And it shall be in the last days, saith God, I will pour forth of my Spirit upon all flesh: And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, And your young men shall see visions, And your old men shall dream dreams: [Acts 2:18](#) Yea and on my servants and on my handmaidens in those days Will I pour forth of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. [Acts 2:19](#) And I will show wonders in the heaven above, and signs on the earth beneath;" This is a primary text with conclusive statements from God.
4. 1 Corinthians 14:39. "Wherefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.". Remember that with tongues God sometimes gives interpretation whenever there is a message He wishes to convey. The principle is that the order in the church should be enough that all can benefit from any prophetic revelation, however it comes, but not to ever stop or quench that revelation from flowing. If we quench or deny it, we are saying, "God I don't want to hear what You have to say".

Conclusion

When God's Spirit comes in power, God's people will prophecy (to convey a message from God). And there will be great evidence of visions and dreams, and even signs and wonders. God must not be put in a box of human understanding or limitation. If we attempt to do so, we will quench the Spirit of God and we will be the losers.

2. How can you be sure it's God?

There are Biblical warnings that we must consider in order to test whether what we are experiencing is from God, or from false Christians, false prophets or even Satan and his demons. In this section we will look at how to do just that, but firstly I would like to deal with a very important, and sometimes controversial, issue concerning the manifestation and casting out of demonic, or evil, spirits.

A. Demonic spirits

Some Christian leaders do not believe in demons, but we have scripture references that most of the Christian churches worldwide accept as primary texts. For example, most of us know the term "The Great Commission" which is given to describe the last instruction, as recorded in the book of Matthew, given to the disciples by Jesus before He returned to Heaven:

1. Matthew 28:19. "Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: [Mat 28:20](#) teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Note how they were told to make disciples and teach them all the things He commanded them. In the following text we see one of the instances where Jesus commanded them:
2. Matthew 10:8. "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons: freely ye received, freely give." [Mar 16:15](#) And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. [Mar 16:16](#) "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. [Mar 16:17](#) "These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; [Mar 16:18](#) they

will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly *poison*, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

3. Furthermore, it is imperative that we do not judge the work of the Holy Spirit. Casting out demons is done by the power, or anointing, of the Holy Spirit, often by the command of a servant of the Lord. But sometimes we see the presence of God manifesting in such power that demons manifest in reaction to the intensity of God's presence. In times of Divine visitation, we have often seen demons leave people without anyone commanding them to.

Matthew 12:22. "Then was brought unto him one possessed with a demon, blind and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the dumb man spake and saw. [Mat 12:23](#) And all the multitudes were amazed, and said, Can this be the son of David? [Mat 12:24](#) But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This man doth not cast out demons, but by Beelzebub the prince of the demons. [Mat 12:25](#) And knowing their thoughts he said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: [Mat 12:26](#) and if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then shall his kingdom stand? [Mat 12:27](#) And if I by Beelzebub cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? therefore shall they be your judges. [Mat 12:28](#) But if I by the Spirit of God cast out demons, then is the kingdom of God come upon you. [Mat 12:29](#) Or how can one enter into the house of the strong *man*, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong *man*? and then he will spoil his house. [Mat 12:30](#) He that is not with me is against me, and he that gathers not with me scatters. [Mat 12:31](#) Therefore I say unto you, Every sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men; but the blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. [Mat 12:32](#) And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him; but whosoever shall speak against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, nor in that which is to come."

Conclusion

Never judge what you do not properly understand. First investigate fully and then decide for yourself based on truth and prayerful enquiring of the Lord.

B. Biblical Warnings & discernment

We are called to be wise and discerning in all things, and therefore it is expedient to know what the Bible says that we should be watching out for, not that we should fear, but that we should not be deceived by a lack of knowledge.

1. Matthew 24:24. "[Mat 24:24](#) For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect."
2. 2 Corinthians 11:14. "...Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light."
3. 1 John 4:1. "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but prove the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world. [1Jo 4:2](#) Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: [1Jo 4:3](#) and every spirit that confesses not Jesus is not of God: and this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it will come; and now it is in the world already. [1Jo 4:4](#) You are of God, *my* little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world. [1Jo 4:5](#) They are of the world: therefore speak they *as* of the world, and the world hears them. [1Jo 4:6](#) We are of God: he that knows God hears us; he who is not of God hears us not. By this we know the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error." Everyone has a spirit, and this is how we know whether the spirit of the person is of (Greek word is "ex" meaning, to originate from) God (born again). Here John distinguishes that those who are born again are worth listening to.

Key texts for proper discernment:

4. Luke 11:9-13. "And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. [Luk 11:10](#) For every one that asks receives; and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks it shall be opened. [Luk 11:11](#) And of which of you that is a father shall

his son ask a loaf, and he give him a stone? or a fish, and he for a fish give him a serpent? [Luk 11:12](#) Or *if* he shall ask an egg, will he give him a scorpion? [Luk 11:13](#) If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" Simply stated, if we ask God for more of the Holy Spirit, he will not give us a demon.

5. 1 John 4:2&3. "Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: [1Jo 4:3](#) and every spirit that confesses not Jesus is not of God: and this is the *spirit* of the antichrist," From a different perspective, if the person praying exalts Jesus, the Holy Spirit will be the one who will come to answer their prayer. The demons want to slander Jesus name, not exalt it.

Discerning of Spirits is a spiritual gift:

6. 1 Corinthians 12:10&11. "and to another workings of miracles; and to another prophecy; and to another discerning of spirits; to another *divers* kinds of tongues; and to another the interpretation of tongues: [1Co 12:11](#) but all these work by one and the same Spirit, giving to each one severally even as he wills.

The type of manifestation discerned:

7. 1 Corinthians 14:40. "Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way" It is possible for people to "fake" the anointing by performing acts of manifestations themselves. In this case proper discernment is required by the leaders to maintain order without "quenching the Spirit", or grieving the Holy Spirit while He is ministering to the people. The word "Everything" was being used with reference particularly to the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes what we perceive to be "fitting and orderly" is not God's idea of fitting and orderly. We have found that when the Holy Spirit is asked for, God pours out on us in ways that we might not regard as fitting by our standards of up-bringing, but is it not fitting that people get healed and delivered? And is it not orderly if God chooses to cause us to fall; shake; laugh; cry; be drunk and get prophetic revelations? If it is God, it may be out of the ordinary for us, but it is very ordinary and therefore orderly when conducted by the Holy Spirit, and leaders exercise discernment if someone is acting.

Natural means of discernment:

8. Matthew 12:33-35. "Either make the tree good, and its fruit good; or make the tree corrupt, and its fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by its fruit. [Mat 12:34](#) You offspring of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. [Mat 12:35](#) The good man out of his good treasure brings forth good things: and the evil man out of his evil treasure brings forth evil things." Here we have a prime example of Jesus explaining how one can discern a person's heart. If people are generally devoted to serve God, and the fruit of their lives are consistently evident to prove so, then that person is not an evil person seeking to deceive and mislead others, but to encourage others to seek God. Jesus said in Mark 3:24 that a kingdom divided against itself will fall.
9. Galatians 5:22. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [Gal 5:23](#) meekness, self-control; against such there is no law. [Gal 5:24](#) And they that are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with the passions and the lusts thereof. [Gal 5:25](#) If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit." Simply stated, if the long term fruit of the people facilitating and the outcome of the people's experiences are according to Galatians 5:22, it's God.
10. Romans 8:28&29. "And we know that to them that love God all things work together for good, *even* to them that are called according to *his* purpose. [Rom 8:29](#) For whom he foreknew, he also foreordained *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren" The character of Jesus is the destiny of a Christian.

Conclusion

The criteria used to discern and be vigilant about what we are warned about is the following:

- a. Are the people being prayed for asking for God? Then they will get God.
- b. Are the people praying for others asking for God and exalting Jesus? The Holy Spirit will respond.

- c. Are you exercising the gift of discernment? Ask for it if you are not sure, but do not judge. Rather challenge the leaders with questions in a respectful manner.
- d. Are the leaders humble and exalting Jesus, consistent with good fruit? Does the encounter generally lead to peace in people's hearts? If yes, then these signs validate the Holy Spirit's presence.

3. Why are these phenomena manifesting?

When we ask this question, it seems clear from scripture that God desires to reveal Himself to those who diligently seek Him. When we decide to seek God with all our hearts, regardless of the cost to our reputation, or our reason, we will be "found by Him", and He will reveal Himself in whatever way He chooses. He did so with the prophets of old; the first century church; Christians throughout many generations since then, and He is still doing it today.

1. Proverbs 8:17. "I love them that love me; And those that seek me diligently shall find me."
2. John 4:23. "But the hour comes, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth: for such does the Father seek to be his worshippers" Some claim to be worshippers in spirit and truth, but are unable to define what spirit worship actually is. We have seen from scripture that it is a matter of engaging on a spiritual level, by praying and singing in the Holy Spirit, as in exercising the gift of tongues. 1 Corinthians 14:14. "For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. 1Cor 14:15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also." Notice that there are times during spiritual experiences that we do not have an understanding of what the Holy Spirit is doing, as is clarified in the next point. In 1 Cor 14:18, Paul said, "I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you".
3. Romans 8:26. "In the same way, the Spirit also helps us in our weakness, for **we do not know** how to pray **as we should**. But the Spirit **himself** intercedes with groans too deep for words, Rom 8:27 and the one who searches our hearts (Father God) knows the mind of the Spirit, for the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to God's will.

Conclusion

As we open ourselves up to God, to seek Him above all else and to surrender to the moving of His Spirit, we will experience the love of Jesus, and the revelation that God is love, but equally, God is Spirit. His ways far exceed our finite minds. They are beyond understanding. They are spirit, and the things of the spirit are only really discerned by those who are spiritual. To the natural mind they are foolishness. Why are these phenomena manifesting? Because God loves us, He deeply desires us, and wants intimacy with us, on His level.

Summary

God is demonstrating His love for those who will love Him above all else. As unbelievers, backsliders and religious people, not having the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, step into that environment, when God is busy pouring out His Spirit in response to those who love Him passionately, they will be deeply challenged to either surrender to Him or to shun Him. Our prayer, for everyone who comes into these meetings of outpouring, is that they would receive a deeper revelation of Christ, be free to encounter the power of the Holy Spirit, and the wonders of the Father's **great love for them**.

John 6:63. It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I have spoken to you are **spirit** and they are **life**.