

**"THE CHARISMATICS AND THE WORD  
FAITH MOVEMENT"  
# 1**

**I. SOME OF THE ALLURING THINGS OF THE CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT**

**A. Phenomenal Growth**

Through the communication media of satellite and cable television the charismatic movement continues to experience a phenomenal growth which now encircles the entire globe.

Testimonies of all kinds of miraculous experiences have been broadcasted around the world so that literally millions of people are now convinced that God is giving people signs, wonders, and miracles just like He gave in biblical days to bring them into relationship with Him and fellowship with an ever-expanding group which knows no doctrinal barriers.

What is so alluring has been stated as follows:

Fantastic encounters with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are reported as commonplace. Personal messages from God are supposedly routine. Healings of all kinds are claimed. It is not unusual to hear striking testimonies about how God in response to faith, has corrected spinal injuries, lengthened legs, and removed cancerous tissue. Seemingly omniscient Christian talk-show hosts discern that miracles and healings of various types are happening during their broadcasts. They urge viewers to call in and "claim" healings (MacArthur 18).

**B. Charismatic Promises**

Charismatic preachers promise health, wealth, and success in life for all those who follow their formulas of faith and respond financially to their appeals for gifts for God's work.

Evangelist Robert Tilton mailed a "miracle coin" (actually a worthless token) to hundreds of thousands of people, promising a "financial miracle" to those who followed his instructions and sent him a check for the best possible gift they could give. At the bottom of his letter was a handwritten note stating "only you and God know what your best gift is."

The Charisma Magazine, the periodical of the movement, once featured a two-page ad for their charismatic healing center known as Rapha Ranch. The ad promoted the healing powers of Rapha's subliminal "word therapy" and subliminal Scripture tape entitled "you don't have to die" which could be purchased for \$29.95. The ad further stated:

Healing, salvation, deliverance reports by the hundreds! In our Word Therapy Tape series, the Word of God is read aloud so that it is not only heard by your conscious ear but penetrates your subconscious mind as tens of thousands of subliminal Scriptures are heard in just one hour. The reading of the Word is accompanied by beautifully anointed music that creates an atmosphere of faith with which you may receive from God. Every day astounding reports come into our ministry acknowledging healing, changed lives, salvation and miracles as their minds are renewed to the Word of God.

With all the sickness that plagues mankind and the arduous task that most people have just trying to make a living, it is easy to see how appealing the promises of the Charismatics can be. The sad fact is - multitudes have been disillusioned because these promises were never fulfilled and usually they themselves were blamed for lack of faith to trust God and bring about the miracle that they needed.

**C. Entertaining Services**

Charismatic televised services are entertaining to say the least. It appears that God is at work in miraculous ways, saving, healing, and delivering people from all kinds of burdens, physical as well as spiritual. There is excitement, warmth, love and an atmosphere of anticipation that anything could happen at any moment.

This kind of atmosphere is especially appealing to the cold, lifeless kind of services that permeates a lot of churches in which no one ever gets saved and people never walk the aisle or have a good time in the Lord.

People want to believe that God is at work in their lives, right here and now, and this has led many to seek this experience in the Charismatic Movement. One should note that while entertainment is the order of the day, it is not God's order and much of what is propagated as the works of the Spirit are, in reality, the works of the flesh.

#### D. Personal Participation

Some of the appealing and alluring things about the Charismatic Movement are the avenues for personal participation which are afforded in their worship and praise kind of services. Unlike many churches where doctrine is precious and the Word of God is expounded for edification and instruction, and the people respond with a solemn amen, charismatic services solicit personal participation. Standing, raising the arms and hands, waving, singing, and clapping are all ways in which people are led to participate in the services. And oftentimes this kind of participation continues in an hypnotic-kind of involvement which is propagated as expressions of worship and praise.

Other forms of personal participation include, being slain in the spirit, laughing, speaking in tongues and jumping and shaking.

It has been said that "the charismatic movement has separated the Christian community into the Spiritual 'haves' and the 'have-nots' (MacArthur, 72). This had led many of the "have-nots" (those outside the charismatic movement) to question - "am I missing out on what God is doing in our day? Do I have all that I should have as a Christian? Am I enjoying the kind of experiences that other spirit-filled Christians are?"

Such questions have allured many into the Charismatic Movement with a reckless abandon of doctrine and clear Scriptural teachings.

In this study it will be shown that the Charismatic Movement has its emphases on external evidences and validates its claims of spirituality on the basis of personal experiences and not upon the Word of God. This has led to all kinds of trickery, charlatanism, greed, and fraud.