

A False Assumption

by G.W. North

The speaker warns against a false assumption that a specific experience is necessary for the Baptism in the Spirit, and encourages listeners to seek a genuine experience.

Scripture: Matthew 7:15-20, John 14:17, Acts 2:4, Romans 8:16, 1 Corinthians 12:30, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 4:30, James 1:5, 1 John 4:1

Topics: "Discernment", "Holy Spirit"

Description

G.W. North addresses the misconception surrounding the necessity of having an Acts 2:4 experience to validate one's spiritual encounter, arguing that such assumptions can lead to confusion and mislabeling of genuine experiences. He emphasizes that while some may seek physical demonstrations like speaking in tongues as proof of the Baptism in the Spirit, this can result in false experiences being accepted as genuine. North warns against the dangers of self-induced emotional states that can mislead individuals and churches into believing they have received the Holy Spirit when they have not. He encourages believers to focus on the true essence of the experience, which may include feelings of warmth, joy, and love, rather than mere physical manifestations. Ultimately, he calls for discernment to ensure that the genuine experience of the Holy Spirit is not overshadowed by false assumptions.

Transcript

Upon the supposition that the above assumption is true, it is not an uncommon thing to hear people asking if someone has had an Acts 2:4 experience, the implication being that unless the answer is 'Yes', then the experience is not valid. Even if it were true, such a postulation is very confusing to say the least, for there is very little present day evidence to shew that people now have an identical experience to that which took place then. Here and there it happens that the tongue spoken is recognized by a hearer, but the occurrence is comparatively rare, and certainly, whenever it may have taken place, it has never been in such profusion and diversity as upon the day of Pentecost. However, when a person's vital experience seems to be parallel with a scriptural verse of so great importance, it is very easy to think that must be the genuine experience, and that any variation from it must be wrong.

This kind of unwarrantable thinking, once accepted, provides hasty minds with ground for the development of the initial evidence theory. From there it is an easy step to promote the error into a tenet of faith and a received doctrine. Under such misapprehensions, many a true experience of Baptism in the Spirit has been wrongly labelled 'an anointing', simply because there has been no demonstration in Tongues. What

is meant by that term is not very clearly defined. In fact it is not true. On the other hand, because some kind of incomprehensible verbal demonstration has taken place at the time, many a false experience has been erroneously called the Baptism.

Again because of this false assumption, many have laboured long in states bordering upon hysteria to produce some kind of sounds which may prove acceptable to those who pray with them, hoping that someone will pronounce the demonstration to be genuine. These occasions are often accompanied by feelings of great heat, or by physical contortions or deep breathings, all of which are self-induced and sometimes encouraged and extremely dangerous. So great is the state of confusion in which many churches lie to this day.

Lest the false should displace the genuine, it must be said that the glorious experience may be received to the accompaniment of a most blessed sensation of being enveloped in warmth, or flooded with joy, or consumed in love. These, as well as speaking with tongues, are all of them absolutely valid; the thing that is wrong is the search for physical demonstrations and sensations. So surely as these be sought, stereotyped substitutes for the real baptism will become the accepted procedure.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/gw-north/a-false-assumption/>

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