The Problematic of Today’s Spectacular Counterfeit Miracles, Tongues, Healing and Prophecies assimilated as Gifts of Holy Spirit.
Experience of Christian Churches in Rwanda

“For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect” (Matthew 24:24).

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Abstract

Many Christians (and followers of other religions as well) consider miracles to be the proof that their particular brand of religion is the true one or that a particular religious leader is an authentic representative of God. Nowadays, Working Miracles, Healing, and Prophecy combined with Tongues without interpreters are on the top in several Christian Churches in Rwanda—like over the world—and are said being the incarnation of the Word of God cited by Mark 16:17-18 New International Version: “And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well”.

Much people are delighted by miracles and change Church as changing clothes due to searching for miracles, healing and prophecy, affirming that in their previous Church there is no Holy Spirit! Unfortunately, they are at the end deceived. However, the Bible makes it clear that God is not the only one who works miracles: Satan can also perform supernatural signs, and his miracles will be a major part of the deceptions of the last days. Jesus warned against deceptive miracles. In Matthew 24:24 and vs 4, 5, 11, He said, “For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect”.

Some believers have decided that since Satan will work miracles at the end of time, the safest plan is simply to reject all miracles.

Conscious that miracles and signs are a fundamental manifestation of the power that God gives to His people when they believe in Him, using Systemic and Empirical Methods and the Holy Bible, New International Version, as the main source of orthodox teaching, the present Research aims to light Christians in line with John’s admonition, “Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1).

Keywords: Blessing, Gifts of Holy Spirit, Healing, Holy Spirit, Miracles, Prophecy, Tongues.

1. Introduction
1.1. Background of the Study

Modern Society suffers from different types of problems due to industrialization and capitalism such as high cost of life, poverty, diseases, unemployment, injustice, immoralities, bad working conditions, lifestyle diseases like diabetes, heart attack, cancer, HIV/AIDS. The consequence of such
situation is stress and psycho-somatic diseases. The solution for some is to take drugs. Christians on
the other side, invest in abnormal prayers leading to dictate God working Miracles.
Satan has profited this crisis and introduced his solutions: Counterfeit miracles, signs and lying
wonders that at the end deceive.

On the other side, even for those who have a good economic situation, Satan has introduced a
lack of peace and security in families and between married people. His objectives are to deceive so
Christians that non-Christians by putting them in a situation of crisis where they will need immediate
intervention of supernatural power.

We observe in Christian Churches several prophets, speakers in tongues, healers and makers of
miracles that, unfortunately, finally deceive. The indicator of the deception is instability of churches
together with instability of Christians inside those churches. Another indicator of deception is a series
of negative testimonies between the relationship between Christians and their Pastors such as
misappropriation of funds and goods offered as a sacrifice; doing sex involuntary as a recommendation
of “God” to get married or to be able to give birth; a series of prophecies and promises that never
realized; a fun of tongues mixed with prophecies as a technique of mentioning that the teacher
communicate to God, and so many lies accepted.

On these we can add miracles that are made here and there in public like in churches worked by
the said charismatic persons, miracles that end by deceiving the receivers because of a series of
conditions imposed by the administrators.

This article aims at aware people of such deception. It is not an article against miracles, or
against Charismatics.

1.2. Research problem

Nowadays, false messiahs (operators of miracles attracting more Christians) and false prophets
(revelators of own future) are performing great signs and wonders that deceive even the elect (strong
Christians). The movement of people delighted by miracles is continuously increasing and people are
changing Church as changing clothes searching for miracles, healing and prophecy. This disease that
attached the modern world increases the passion for material possessions and leads people to assimilate
the Holy Spirit to a simple Operator of miracles. Such ignorance of the Person of the Holy Spirit and
does He work, leads into the darkness and deception resulting from such practices cause a big number
of Christians abandoning the Faith due to confusion. The present research aims at illuminating
Christians by outlining the real person of the Holy Spirit and his works.

1.3. Research Objectives

The rationale of the study is to aware Christians on:
1) Understanding of the Holy Spirit throughout the Scripture
2) Understanding of the Baptism, the Gifts and the Fruits of Holy Spirit
3) Understanding of the concept of miracles
4) Differentiating God’s and Satan’s miracles, signs and wonders.

1.4. Research Methodology

Empirical Method: Empirical refers to experiment and observation rather than theory (Heimbrock,
n.d). By this method, the Researcher went through different Christian Churches in Rwanda (known as
Abarokore) and observed how their teachings are conducted and how they prophesize.
Systematic Method: Systematic theology integrates biblical, historical and philosophical theology into its methodology. Its main goal is to draw a clear description of what the Bible teaches about a particular doctrine (Hodge, 1940). Using this method, the researchers gathered into one system the output got from observation and what they found as Bible’s response to the crisis, and then produced the present summary.

2. Understanding of the Holy Spirit

2.1. Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit can be better described than defined. According to Matt Slick, the Holy Spirit is the third person in the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is a person the same as the Father and the Son. He is fully God. He is eternal, omniscient, omnipresent, has a will, and can speak. He is alive. He is a person. He is not particularly visible in the Bible because His ministry is to bear witness of Jesus (John 15:26).

The Bible describes the Holy Spirit as summarized in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>His Names</th>
<th>His Attributes</th>
<th>Symbols of Holy Spirit</th>
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<th>Power in Christ’s Life</th>
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<td>Spirit of Truth (John 15:26)</td>
<td>Loves (Rom. 15:30)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Grieved (Eph. 4:30)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eternal Spirit (Heb. 9:14)</td>
<td>Speaks (Acts 8:29, 13:2)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Quench (1 Thess. 5:19)</td>
<td>Raised Jesus (Rom. 8:11)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2. The Promise of the Holy Spirit


2.3. The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

The Old Testament attributes the following key actions to the Holy Spirit: (1) Filled the Tabernacle (Exodus 40:34-38); (2) Filled the Temple (1 Kings 8:10-11); (3) Upon Old Test Leaders: Joseph (Genesis 41:38), Moses and 70 elders (Numbers 11:16-17), Joshua (Numbers 27:18), Gideon (Judges 6:34), Jephthah (Judges 11:29), Samson (Judges 14:5-6, 15:14), Saul (1 Samuel 10:10), David (1 Samuel 16:13), Elijah (1 Kings 18:12), Elisha (2 Kings 2:15), Ezekiel (Ezekiel 2:1-2), Daniel (Daniel 6:3), Micah (Micah 3:8), Zechariah the high priest (2 Chronicles 24:20), (3) Future outpouring upon Israel (Zechariah 12:10-14).

2.4. The Holy Spirit in the New Testament

In the Life and Ministry of Jesus

In various People

(1) …John Baptist will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children…(Luke 1:13-17), (2) …Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit… (Luke 1:41), (3) …Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied… (Luke 1:67), (4) …It had been revealed to him (Simeon) by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah (Luke 2:25-26).

In the Church


2.5. The Holy Spirit in a Christian’s life


2.6. The Deity of the Holy Spirit (The Holy Spirit is God)

The Niceno–Constantinopolitan Creed 381 on the Holy Spirit declares: “…And in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeded from the Father, who with the Farther and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets”.

The Bible clearly represents the Holy Spirit as possessing divine attributes and exercising divine authority:

Each of the four distinctively Divine attributes is ascribed to the Holy Spirit: Eternity (Hebrews 9:14); Omnipresence (Psalm 139:7; 1 Corinthians 12:13); Omniscience (1 Cor 2: 10-11); and Omnipotence (Luke 1: 35-37; Romans 8:11).

Three distinctively Divine works are ascribed to the Holy Spirit: (i) Creation: Job 26:13, 33:4; Psalms 104:30; Genesis 1:1-2 show the Holy Spirit as Creator. According to John1:3-4,10 the Son Created and according to the Psalm 19:1 the Father Created. Each distinct person of the Trinity has a part in creation; (ii) the impartation of life: John 6:63; Romans 8:11; Genesis 2:7; (iii) the authorship of Divine prophecies: 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Samuel 23:2.
Statements which in the Old Testament distinctly name the Lord or Jehovah as their subject are applied to the Holy Spirit in the New Testament: (i) Isaiah 6:8-10 // Acts 28:25-27: The voice of the Lord saying in Isaiah is identified as the Holy Spirit who is the speaker. So we see that what is distinctly ascribed to Jehovah in the Old Testament is ascribed to the Holy Spirit in the New: The Holy Spirit is identified with Jehovah. It is a noteworthy fact that in the Gospel of John, the twelfth chapter and the thirty-ninth to forty-first verses where another reference is made to this passage in Isaiah, this same passage is ascribed to Christ. So in different parts of Scripture, we have the same passage referred to Jehovah, referred to the Holy Spirit, and referred to Jesus Christ. (ii) Exodus 16:7 // Hebrew 3:7-9: The murmurings which Moses in the Book of Exodus says were against Jehovah, we are told in the Epistle to the Hebrews were against the Holy Spirit.

The name of the Holy Spirit is coupled with that of God in a way it would be impossible for a reverent and thoughtful mind to couple the name of any finite being with that of the Deity: 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14. None can ponder these words and catch anything like their real import without seeing clearly that it would be impossible to couple the name of the Holy Spirit with that of God the Father in the way in which it is coupled in 2 Corinthians 13:14, like in other references cited, unless the Holy Spirit were Himself a Divine Being.

The decisive proof of the Deity of the Holy Spirit is found in the fact that He is called God in the New Testament: Acts 5:3-4. In the first part of this passage we are told that Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit. When this is further explained, we are told it was not unto men but unto God that he had lied in lying to the Holy Spirit, i. e., the Holy Spirit to whom he lied is called God.

2.7. The person of the Holy Spirit (The Holy Spirit is a Person)

The Holy Spirit, the 3rd person of the trinity, has a personality as much as the Father and Son does; therefore has the elements, that are involved within a personality: (i) He has a Will (1 Corinthians 12:11); (ii) He has a Mind (Romans 8:27); (iii) He Speaks (Acts 8:29; Acts 10:19-20; Acts 13:2-4); (iv) He forbids (Acts 16:6-7); (v) He Grieves (Ephesians 4:16); (vi) He Prays (1 Corinthians 5:1); (vii) He teaches Christians (John 14:26).

2.8. Emblems of the Holy Spirit


2.9. Names or Titles of the Holy Spirit in the Bible


3. The works of the Holy Spirit

The Bible lists a series of works of the Holy Spirit. The following table gives some of them:

| Access to God (Eph. 2:18)                  | Inspired Scriptures (2 Samuel 23:2; Jeremiah 1:9) |
| Anoints for Service (Luke 4:18)            | Inspires prayer (Eph. 6:18, Jude 20) |
4. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

4.1. Understanding of Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Paul Apostle describes the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in these terms: “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines” (1 Corinthians 12:4-11).

4.2. The Purpose of Gifts of the Holy Spirit?
1 Corinthians 12:7 clearly states the purpose of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit: “…to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good”. A Gift of the Holy Spirit is given for the common good: It is not the merit for the possessor so that he/she can use them as he/she wants. A Gift of the Holy Spirit is not for commercial purpose. It is a Gift received freely and it must be used freely as stated by Jesus “Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give” (Matthew 10:8). None has to pride him/herself for having Gifts of the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit gives them as He wants. The gifts of the Holy Spirit themselves do not cause confusion; God is not the author of confusion. Confusion is caused by people, for a great many reasons.

4.3. Gifts of the Holy Spirits
The Gifts of the Holy Spirit can be categorized into three main categories: Gifts that Say something or gifts of utterance such as Prophecy - Tongues - Interpretation of Tongues; Gifts that Do something or gifts of power such as Faith - Gifts of Healing – Miracles; and Gifts that reveal something or gifts of revelation such as Word of Wisdom - Word of Knowledge - Discerning of Spirits.

Category 1: Gifts of Utterance

Prophecy
Prophecy consists of a supernatural forth telling (speaking, utterance) in the language of the speaker. Not preaching of teaching. For a Christian, a believer, prophecy has three functions: Edification, Exhortation and Comfort (1 Corinthians 14:3). For a non-Christian, an unbeliever, prophecy lead to conviction of own sins, he/she is brought under judgment as the secret of his/her heart are laid bare and he/she is fall down and worship God, exclaiming, “God is really among the assembly” (1 Corinthians 14:24-25). Illustration of the gift of the prophecy: Luke 1:67-79: Zacharias filled with the Holy Spirit prophesied

**Tongues**

Gift of Tongues is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit that brings forth a language that has never been learned by the speaker. Tongues are not learned in the schools or from nobody else as a trainer (Acts 2:4-8; 8:14-17; 10:44-46; 19:6). Speaking in Tongues edifies self (1 Corinthians 14:4; Jude 1:20). Speaking in Tongues consists of talking to God and speaking mysteries (1 Corinthians 14:2). By Speaking in Tongues the Holy Spirit is not going to do your praying for you. He is sent to dwell in us as a Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthen, and Standby (John 14:16). The Holy Spirit is not responsible for our prayer life. He is sent to help us pray. Speaking with other tongues is praying as the Spirit gives utterance. It is Spirit-directed praying. It eliminates the possibility of selfishness in our prayers.

The Scriptures list around 10 Reasons to speak in tongues: (1) Speaking in tongues is an initial evidence or sign of the baptism of the Holy Spirit: “All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them” (Acts 2:4); (2) Paul, in writing to the Church at Corinth, encouraged the Corinthian Christians to continue the practice of speaking with other tongues in their worship of God. He also encouraged them to speak in tongues in their individual prayer lives as a means of spiritual edification or building up.

The Bible says, "He that speaks in an unknown tongue edifies himself..." (1 Cor. 14:4). Jude 20 also links praying in tongues with building you up spiritually; (3) Speaking tongues keeps us continually aware of the Holy Spirit's indwelling Presence. Not only is speaking with tongues the initial sign or evidence of the Holy Spirit's infilling, but continuing to pray and to worship God in tongues helps us to be ever conscious of His indwelling Presence. And if you are conscious of the indwelling Presence of the Holy Spirit every day, that is bound to affect the way you think and live; (4) Speaking in tongues eliminates the possibility of selfishness entering our prayer life. Paul said: “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans” (Romans 8:26). (5) Speaking in tongues helps learn to trust God more fully (Jude 20). Faith must be exercised to speak with tongues because the Holy Spirit supernaturally directs the words we speak as we don't know what the next word will be, we have to trust God for that. (6) Speaking in tongues is a means of keeping us free from the contamination of the ungodly and profane elements of the world. This lead to avoid while praying, the use of vulgar talk that goes on around us on the job or out in public. (7) Speak in tongues provides a way for things to be prayed for about which no one thinks to pray, or is even aware of; (8) Speaking in tongues is in line with 1 Corinthians 14:21 referencing Isaiah 28:11: Very well then, with foreign lips and strange tongues God will speak to this people; (9) Pray in tongues is to give thanks to God (1 Corinthians 14:15-17); (10) James 3:8 states that none can tame the tongue.

**Interpretation of Tongues**

This manifestation of the Holy Spirit, interprets a message that has been given in tongues, into human language that can be understood by those present. This is a gift for the edifying of the church and can be used to individuals. There is a difference in an individual prayer language (tongues) to the edifying of self and a tongue that comes forth to the church for interpretation (1 Corinthians 14:27-28).

**Category 2: Gifts of Power**
Faith

This gift is not normal faith that comes from reading, or hearing God's word, but is a supernatural impartation of God's faith (Special Faith). This faith in operation will be able to believe and receive from God, according to His will (Hebrews 11:33 faith which leads to conquer the Kingdoms…; Daniel 6:16, 19-23: Daniel in lions' den).

Working of Miracles

Working of Miracles is a supernatural intervention in the course of nature. It is a specific act (John 2:7-11: water became wine; Matthew 14:17-21: multiplication of breads and fishes, Matthew 14:25: Jesus walking on the sea; Acts 3:6-8: healing person with physical disability)

Gifts of Healing


Category 3: Gifts of Revelation

Word of wisdom

It consists of a supernatural impartation of divine wisdom, concerning a person, place, or thing and how to handle the immediate situation (1 Kings 3:16-28: discussion of two prostitutes upon one baby; Luke 20:22-26: about giving tribute unto Caesar; John 8:4-8: about woman was taken in adultery; Acts 23:6-7: dissension between the Pharisees and the Sadducees about resurrection).

Word of Knowledge

It consists of a Supernatural impartation of divine knowledge, concerning a person, place, or thing. It is just a word (a piece of information). It is not natural knowledge but something revealed that one did not know before (John 4:15-18: Jesus knew that she had 5 husbands; 2 Kings 6:9-12 about passage were Arameans were going down).

Discerning of spirits

It consists of a Supernatural discernment for the purpose of discerning something in the spirit realm. It can be about the Spirit of God, the spirit of man, demonic spirits, or angels (John 1:47 Jesus knew Nathanael coming to him as an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile; Luke 8:29-30 about unclear spirit; Acts 16:16-18 about a damsel possessed by a spirit of divination).

5. The fruits of the Holy Spirit

Paul Apostle lists Fruits of the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23a: “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control”. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is from the Holy Spirit, and it is the will of God for every believer to bring forth His fruit. Jesus said we can easily know the difference between a believer and a non-believer by their fruit (Matthew 7:16 to 20); that is their attitudes and actions. There is also a difference between the fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit. Gifts are received with one swift transaction and they are freely given. Fruit on the other hand, comes by a process of gradual growth and the fruit needs to be cultivated. Cultivating the fruit of the Spirit takes hard work. ‘The hard-working farmer (or labourer) must be the first to partake of the fruit’ (2 Timothy 2:6).

To cultivate the fruit of the Spirit, we must earnestly study the Word of God and learn to live by it. ‘Study and be eager to present yourself to God approved and tested, a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly handling the Word of Truth’ (2 Timothy 2:15). We need to spend a lot
of time in prayer. That means, not just talking to God, but also listening to God. Jesus’ whole ministry was based on His relationship with His Father. To cultivate that relationship, Jesus spent plenty of time in prayer, and sometimes He prayed all night (Luke 6:12). We need to cultivate fellowship with other believers. It is not a good idea to try to walk the Christian life alone. It is the desire of Almighty God to make all of us members of one body (1 Corinthians 12:18) and we all need each other. ‘Do not forsake (or neglect) to assemble together as believers …’ (Hebrews 10:25). Every believer should regularly attend church so they can fellowship together, grow spiritually and cultivate their Spiritual ‘fruit’.

5.1. The Fruit of Love

Love is the first fruit mentioned in Galatians 5:22. It is not only fruit as the other eight fruits are. Love is a commandment: “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:34-35). Love is a commandment not an option. We cannot choose whom to love in our churches; we need to love them all. If we do not love one another, we are disobeying the Lord Jesus. In 1 Corinthians 13:13, love is greatest than faith and hope. Love is the epitome of God’s character (1 John 4:7-8). Having love for fellow believers is the real test of discipleship (Romans 13:8-10). The centre of our whole faith is expressed through love. It is especially important for church leaders to take pre-eminence over all other forms of fruit. It makes a difference to the ministry. The goal of this command is love from a pure heart, a clear conscience and sincere faith (1 Timothy 1:5). What is Paul saying? All Christian ministry is to produce love and we all need to test our own ministry by using this standard. Are we producing people who love one another? If we sit in church, pay our tithes, spend time serving God, sing hymns and get to church on time wearing beautiful clothes, yet do not love one another, we are wasting our time and are just clanging cymbals, because the greatest of the nine Spiritual fruits is love (1 Corinthians 13).

89 Bible Verses about Love:

1 Corinthians 13:4-5  1 John 4:20  1 John 4:10  Revelation 3:19
1 Corinthians 16:14  1 Corinthians 13:13  2 Timothy 1:7  Psalm 103:13
Psalm 143:8  1 Corinthians 2:9  Psalm 42:8  Romans 13:9
Proverbs 3:3-4  Romans 13:8  Romans 8:35  1 John 2:15
Colossians 3:14  1 John 3:1  1 Timothy 4:12  Hebrews 13:1-2
1 John 4:16  Ephesians 4:15  Romans 13:10  John 14:15
Ephesians 4:2  1 John 4:18  1 Corinthians 13:3  Galatians 5:14
1 Peter 4:8  Proverbs 21:21  1 Timothy 6:11  Jude 1:2
1 John 4:19  1 Thessalonians 3:12  Matthew 5:44  Lamentations 3:22-23
Ephesians 3:16-17  Romans 8:38-39  Ephesians 5:2  Romans 8:28
1 Corinthians 13:2  1 Corinthians 13:1  John 14:21  Psalm 33:5
Isaiah 49:15-16  Mark 12:30  1 John 4:9  2 Thessalonians 1:3
2 Thessalonians 3:5  Psalm 116:1-2  1 John 4:8  Galatians 5:13
Romans 12:10  Psalm 30:5  1 John 3:11  Deuteronomy 6:4-5
1 John 4:12  1 Peter 3:10-11  Psalm 86:5  John 17:26
John 15:13  1 Corinthians 10:24  John 13:34  1 John 4:21
Isaiah 43:4  Psalm 103:8  John 13:35  Psalm 27:4
Galatians 5:6  Psalm 44:3  Psalm 112:1  John 15:10
2 Corinthians 5:14-15  Psalm 115:1  1 John 4:7  1 John 4:7
Joel 2:13
How “Love” is it expressed?

The Latin proverb says: “Verus amicus amore, more, ore, re cognoscitur” means that “You can recognize a true friend from affection, behavior, words and deeds”. James 2:14-26 insists on deeds as expression of Love because, according to James, deeds include affection, words and behavior.

Types of love

Greeks differentiate four types of love: στοργή (storgē); φιλία (philía), ἐρως (erōs) and ἀγάπη (agápē): (1) στοργή (storgē): Storgeis liking someone through the fondness of familiarity, family members or people who relate in familiar ways that have otherwise found themselves bonded by chance. An example is the natural love and affection of a parent for their child; (2) φιλία (philía): Philiais the love between friends as close as siblings in strength and duration. The Friendship is the strong bond existing between people who share common values, interests or activities; (3) ἔρως (erōs): Eros is love in the sense of 'being in love' or 'loving' someone. Eros (or being in love) is in itself an indifferent, neutral force; and ἀγάπη (agápē): Charityis the love that serves regardless of changing circumstances. It is unconditional 'God' love. It is the greatest of the four loves, and is specifically Christian virtue to achieve. It is God’s love which is borne from the Seed of God’s Word that is received into a believers heart (1 Peter 1:22-23).

5.2. The Fruit of Joy

The Fruit of Joy differs from Happiness and Pleasure. Joy is not happiness which occurs in the soul or a pleasure which occurs in the body. Happiness and pleasure depend on earthly circumstances. Joy is a deep inner gladness; a deep gratitude for our salvation. The source of our joy is the fact that we have escaped the eternal death penalty due to all mankind, by accepting the shed blood of Jesus as our only way of escape. Thus, our joy depends on someone who never changes, God Himself. Because God never changes, joy never changes. If we live only in the realm of the body and soul, we can know pleasure and happiness but that does not include joy.

Joy comes from a strong, continuing relationship with God. When things are pressing in all around us, when we are under pressure and life is not going smoothly, we can feel very unhappy, but we can still have joy, because our joy is in the Lord. Jesus knew He was going to be murdered and was not happy about that (Luke 22:41-44), but He rejoiced in the Holy Spirit (Luke 10:21). God is our exceeding joy. Joy is not in our situation – it is in our relationship with God as confirmed by Psalm 43:4 “Then I will go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight. I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God”. We all need to have that kind of relationship with God so we can find that open door to receive joy when pressure becomes too much. We need to keep that ‘channel’ open through prayer and worship. We cannot feel sad when we are praising God. Even if we are not finding happiness and pleasure in our lives, we can still find His joy.

When Paul and Silas were in chains in the dungeon, they had been beaten with rods, whipped across their backs, then put in stocks; they would not have been happy, nor would the circumstances have given them pleasure, but they were filled with joy and sang praises to God so loudly the other prisoners could hear them.

Their wonderful attitude brought about a supernatural response from God the Father. Who opened the prison doors and set them free, which in turn brought about the salvation of others (Acts 16:22-31). Here we can see a big difference between happiness, pleasure and the fruit of joy. Joy is a choice, a decision, an act and not emotion: David said; ‘I will go to the altar’ (Psalm 43:4); Habakkuk said; ‘I will rejoice in the Lord’ (Habakkuk 3:18-19). They chose to have joy and they chose to express their joy. This is not emotion; it is an act of our will. Paul gives an interesting progression of joy in
Romans 5:2-11. The mark of a mature Christian is one who finds joy in all circumstances and in God Himself. “And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 13:52).

25 Bible Verses about Joy:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
Psalm 94:19
Isaiah 61:10
Proverbs 15:23
Hebrews 11:6
1 Timothy 6:17
Matthew 17:5

5.3. The Fruit of Peace

Peace is merely the end of conflict and Peace comes when there is forgiveness and total reconciliation. Sins generate conflict between God and Man. When we turn to God and are forgiven and reconciled, then we begin to experience His peace that passes all human understanding (Philippians 4:7). Our reconciliation came when we accepted the death of Jesus on the cross and His resurrection. There is no other way to salvation and peace but through Jesus (John 14:6). He was wounded, bruised, crushed and chastised so we could have healing and peace (Isaiah 53:5; 1 Peter 2:24). Jesus paid the penalty and took our punishment for our sin, and thus brought reconciliation and peace with God. According to Colossians 1:20, God purposed that through Jesus, all things should be reconciled back to Himself, whether on earth or in heaven, God the Father made peace by means of the blood of Jesus’ cross.

Jesus Christ is Himself our peace and has made us (Jew and Gentile) one body and He has broken down the hostile divide between us, making us one new man, making peace, to reconcile to God both Jew and Gentile in a single body by means of His cross, killing off the hostility (Galatians 3:28). He came and preached peace to all, who were far off and to those who were near (Ephesians 2:14 to 17). Jesus reconciled us with God the Father, plus, He reconciled all Gentiles with His brethren, the Jews. Mankind can never know true peace except through the cross of Jesus as we read in the scriptures.

The full meaning of peace is summed up in one Hebrew word: Shalom. It means wholeness, completeness and well-being. Peace is not just the absence of strife – it is wholeness for the whole man. The peace given to us by God will never end, and only those who live under God’s government can know His peace (Isaiah 9:7). To have God’s peace we need to hear and obey God’s voice (Isaiah 48:18). Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow Me” (John 10:27). The mark of a true disciple of Jesus is that they hear His voice and follow Him. Just before He left this earth, He said, “My peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you” (John 14:27)

24 Bible Verses about Peace:

Numbers 6:24-26
1 Peter 3:10-11
Ephesians 4:3
Proverbs 16:32
Psalm 119:165
Proverbs 20:3
Psalm 34:14
Matthew 5:9
James 3:18
Hebrews 12:14
James 3:17
Philippians 4:9
Proverbs 20:3
John 16:33
John 14:27
Psalm 4:8
Romans 8:6
Psalm 46:10
Isaiah 52:7
Colossians 3:13
Colossians 3:15
Hebrews 12:11
Isaiah 26:3
Jude 1:2
Romans 5:1

5.4. The Fruit of Patience
Patience is steadfastness in enduring trouble, and slowness in avenging wrong. We are to patiently endure if we are punished unjustly. Jesus was guilty of no sin but He entrusted His unjust punishment to the Father (1 Peter 2:20-23). When we are punished unjustly, we should endure it with patience and not avenge ourselves for we have been called for this purpose. Remember Jesus was punished unjustly and did not deserve any of the suffering that came upon Him. Vengeance belongs to God, and we need to leave that to Him, for He will repay on our behalf (Hebrews 10:30). We are clearly required to follow the example of Jesus in enduring suffering, and not try to avenge ourselves. The way in which Jesus responded to the unjust treatment came from the confidence in the Father. He endured mistreatment, wrongdoing, false accusations and rejection, patiently and without fighting back, because He trusted His Father to work it all out on His behalf. This is the patience we need to have. The provision for us to be made dead to sin was through the death of Jesus, but the working out of it in our lives, comes through suffering which produces patience (James 5:10).

21 Bible reserves about Patience:

| 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 | Proverbs 14:29 | Ephesians 4:2 | Romans 12:12 |
| 2 Peter 3:9 | Colossians 3:12 | Romans 15:5 | Romans 8:25 |
| Psalm 30:5 | Psalm 5:3 | Exodus 14:14 | Isaiah 30:18 |
| Psalm 103:8 | 2 Peter 3:8 | 1 Timothy 1:16 | Matthew 24:42 |
| Joel 2:13 |

5.5. The Fruit of Kindness

Kindness is treating people as we wish them to treat us. Matthew 7:12 states “Whatever you desire that others would do for you, do also for them”. Jesus mentioned various acts of kindness; loving our enemies; doing good to those who hate us; blessing those who curse us; praying for those who mistreat us; give to those who want to take from us; give to those who ask of us even when we know we may not be paid back, do not judge, give gifts, and whatever we deal out to others, will be what is dealt out to us. We must do what the Word says, not just hear it (Luke 6:27-49; James 1:22). This is all kindness in action.

What we give out is what we will get back (Luke 6:38). There is sometimes an interval between sowing and reaping. There is great emphasis in the scriptures in applying this principle to the poor. The Bible has a lot more to say about helping the poor than most people realize. In the Bible, there are 174 references to the poor, 61 references to the needy, 194 references to helping. When we help the poor, we are lending to the Lord and the Lord will repay us (Proverbs 19:17). We need to give without expecting anything in return, like the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-35).

18 Bible Verses about Kindness:

| Ephesians 4:32 | Hebrews 6:10 | Romans 2:4 | Galatians 5:22-23 |
| John 3:16 | Micah 6:8 | Romans 8:28 | Hebrews 13:2 |
| Ephesians 2:8-10 | Matthew 25:31-46 | 2 Corinthians 12:9 | Romans 12:10 |
| Acts 28:2 | Proverbs 16:18 |

5.6. The Fruit of Generosity

It is more blessed to given than to receive Acts 20:35. To be authentically generous is to go above and beyond what our fallen nature feels comfortable with. Generosity is to be used in humility for the service of others. Knowing that our lives are not our own but given freely to the service of God. We, as faithful Christians, out of pure love of God, offer all things in imitation of our Lord who was first generous to us.
To be generous means being selfless: as followers of Jesus Christ we are all called to unite ourselves and our will completely to the will of God. To want what God wants, to think how God thinks, to be living examples of how Christ Himself was when He walked the earth some 2000 years ago. Our focus is not on the here-and-now but on eternity with Him in heaven. Everything relating to the things of this world we are to look at as that they may help us in prosecuting the end for which we are created. Generosity isn't just donating money or simply giving in general. Being truly generous is being selfless in the service of others in terms of things created or actions performed. It's a complete giving of one's self for the sake of love of God and neighbor in every sphere of our lives; knowing that God, indeed, takes care of us and desires to give to us what we truly long for.

50 Bible Verses about Generosity:

Gen 14:19 (Abraham’s give of 10%)  Ps 50:9-12 (God owns everything)
Gen 28:20-22 (Jacob decision to give 10% to God)  Prov 11:24-25 (Generosity is the pathway for more)
Exod 35:4-29 (Moses and the people’s gifts to build the tabernacle)  Prov 18:9 (Slackness in giving is the same as destroying things)
Lev 27:30 (Tithe of everything is the Lord’s)  Prov 22:9 (Generous man will be blessed)
Lev 27:32 (Every tenth animal is the Lord’s)  Prov 28:22 (Stingy man is eager to get rich, but gets poverty)
Num 18:21 (Tithes support ministers of God)  Prov 28:27 (Give and have enough, withhold and be cursed)
Deut 12:5-7 (Tithes, special gifts, freewill offerings)  Matt 6:25-34 (Don’t worry, but seek first the kingdom of God)
Deut 14:22-29 (Set aside a tenth to learn to revere God)  Mark 12:41-44 (Rich people giving and the widow’s mite)
2 Chr 31:2-12 (Hezekiah generosity & giving instructions)  Deut 16:10 (Give in proportion to the blessings the Lord has given you)
Neh 10:35-37 (Nehemiah’s giving instructions)  Deut 16:16 (No man should appear before the Lord empty-handed)
Neh 12:43-47 (Faithful giving to God’s ministers)  Deut 16:17 (Each person should give in proportion to the way God has blessed them)
Neh 13:11-13 (Nehemiah’s rebuke & the results)  1 Cor 16:2 (On the first day of each week, give according to God’s blessing)
Mal 3:7-12 (Holding back tithes & offerings is stealing from God)  1 Tim 6:6-11 (Cautions about the materialism and the love of money)
Matt 23:23 (Jesus’ affirmation of tithing)  1 Tim 6:17-19 (Instructions to be generous and willing to share)
Luke 11:42 (Jesus’ affirmation of tithing)  1 Sam 30:24 (Those who stay with the supplies share with those on the front lines)
I Kings 17:8-16 (Elijah and the starving widow)  Matt 6:19-21 (Do not store up for yourselves treasure on earth – heart & treasure linked)
Deut 8:18 (God gives people ability to produce wealth)  Heb 6:10 (God is not unfair, He will not forget the help you gave)
Prov 3:9-10 (Honor the Lord with your wealth & first fruits)  Isa 32:8 (Noble man makes noble plans)
Exod 36:3-6 (Moses restrains people from bringing offerings)  Acts 2:44-45 (Believers had everything in common)
Hag 1:4-11 (Haggai’s giving challenge)  Rom 12:13 (Share with God’s people who are in
1 Chr 29:2-9 (David’s generous gift & giving challenge)
1 Chr 29:11-17 (Everything we have and gives comes from God)
Luke 6:38 (Give and God will see others give to you)
2 Cor 8:2-21 (Rich generosity in the midst of extreme poverty)
2 Cor 9:5-15 (God loves a cheerful giver)
Deut 28:12-13, 43-45 (Blessings & curses for obedience)
Heb 13:16 (Don’t forget to do good and share with others)
I Jn 3:17 (Do you see brothers in need – help them)
Luke 18:22-25 (Rich man turns away from Jesus)
Gal 6:6 (Support financially those who teach you the Word of God)
Matt 25:35-40 (Helping the least of the brethren is helping Jesus)
Acts 20:35 (It is more blessed to given than to receive)

5.7. The Fruit of Faithfulness

Faithfulness is being dependable and trustworthy despite situations that may tempt us to act otherwise. God is faithful to man. God wants us to be faithful to Him. ‘He who is faithful in a little, is faithful also in much’ (Luke 16:10). Faithfulness starts with small things, like keeping a promise for example.

The following questions can help measuring our faithfulness: Do we make promises then break them or forget we made the promise? Do we turn up late for an appointment? Do we allow our accounts to become overdue? (We are told to keep out of debt and owe no one anything (Romans 13:8), so we must pay our bills on time, and that includes paying our taxes (Romans 13:7)) Do we borrow things from others and not repay or return it when we promised? Do you have in your possession a book that you borrowed? Should it be returned? Do you owe somebody a sum of money? It is true that money is not spiritual, but this is not about money – it is about our character. ‘If you have not been faithful with unrighteous mammon, who will entrust you to true riches?’ (Luke 16:11).

60 Bible Verses about Faithfulness:

Ephesians 3:16-17
James 1:6
2 Corinthians 5:7
1 Timothy 6:11
John 6:35
John 3:16
1 John 5:1
1 Corinthians 13:13
John 7:38
Philippians 1:29
1 Timothy 6:6
Romans 3:21-22
Romans 14:4
Galatians 2:15-16
John 3:18
Mark 11:24
Hebrews 11:6
John 11:40
1 John 5:4
Mark 10:52
Galatians 3:26-27
John 6:29
2 Thessalonians 1:3
Galatians 2:20
Romans 10:9
Mark 11:23
Galatians 5:6
1 Corinthians 15:1-2
Romans 10:4
1 Timothy 6:12
Hebrews 11:1
John 11:25-26
1 Corinthians 13:2
Romans 10:10
Mark 16:16
Acts 16:31
Matthew 21:22
1 Timothy 4:12
Romans 12:3
Galatians 3:22
John 1:12
Romans 1:16
Romans 5:1

5.8. The Fruit of Gentleness (Meekness)

Meekness means humbly patient or docile, as under provocation from others. Meekness is not weakness. Moses was the meekest; the most gentle, kind and humble man on the face of the earth (Numbers 12:3), but he most definitely was not weak and did not in any way lack authority.
At 80 years old he led a nation to victory and twice, he climbed a mountain wearing only a robe and sandals. Moses developed this meekness through the course of time. Meekness is the demonstration of divine strength. When we come to the end of our own human strength, then God will come in with His strength (Isaiah 40:29), just like He did with Moses.

People who shout, stamp their foot and abuse others, are not showing strength – they are showing weakness of character. Gentleness and meekness go together with authority. We need to lead by humility. A meek person understands that when God calls us, we do not have to try anymore, we have to surrender. A surrendered will, will happily and meekly obey God’s will, no matter what the cost.

46 Bible Verses about Gentleness:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Galatians 5:23</th>
<th>Ephesians 4:2</th>
<th>Philippians 4:5</th>
<th>Acts 2:38</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Corinthians 10:1</td>
<td>James 3:17</td>
<td>Galatians 5:23</td>
<td>Proverbs 26:17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romans 15:7</td>
<td>Isaiah 40:11</td>
<td>2 Timothy 2:24-26</td>
<td>Isaiah 40:1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Corinthians 10:1</td>
<td>Philippians 2:1</td>
<td>Hebrews 5:2</td>
<td>Mark 1:40-42</td>
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<td>Mark 5:25-34</td>
<td>Mark 10:13-16</td>
<td>John 8:3-11</td>
<td>Proverbs 15:1</td>
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<tr>
<td>James 3:17</td>
<td>Proverbs 25:15</td>
<td>Matthew 5:5</td>
<td>1 Peter 3:1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colossians 3:12</td>
<td>Galatians 5:22-23</td>
<td>Ephesians 4:1-2</td>
<td>1 Timothy 6:11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galatians 6:1</td>
<td>2 Timothy 2:24-25</td>
<td>1 Peter 3:15-16</td>
<td>1 Thessalonians 2:7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Titus 3:1-2</td>
<td>Ephesians 4:32</td>
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5.9. The Fruit of Self-Control

This is also self-discipline. God actually expects us to develop and exercise both self-discipline and self-control. The Holy Spirit does not control us – we have our own free will and we must choose to be of good behaviour and temperate in our conduct. We cannot exercise God’s standard of conduct without the help of the Holy Spirit, and He will not do anything without our co-operation. Even our very salvation depends on our co-operation with the Lord. Self-control and self-discipline affect every area of our lives: do we discipline our time; how much time do we set aside for prayer? Fasting? Fellowship? Bible study? Do we waste God’s precious time by reading books or magazines of no spiritual value? Do we discipline our food and liquid intake? Are we eating healthy foods? Are we eating too much food? Are we drinking too much soft drink? Are we secretly drinking alcohol? Are we drinking enough water? Do we discipline our rest periods?

52 Bible Verses about Self Control:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proverbs 29:11</th>
<th>Proverbs 1:1-5</th>
<th>Galatians 5:22-23</th>
<th>Titus 2:11-12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Timothy 3:2</td>
<td>Titus 1:8</td>
<td>Titus 2:2</td>
<td>2 Peter 1:5-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Corinthians 9:26-27</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 7:36-38</td>
<td>1 Thessalonians 4:3-7</td>
<td>1 Peter 1:13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Thessalonians 5:6-8</td>
<td>1 Peter 4:7</td>
<td>1 Peter 5:8</td>
<td>Psalm 141:3</td>
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<tr>
<td>James 1:19</td>
<td>Psalm 17:3</td>
<td>Proverbs 16:23</td>
<td>Proverbs 21:23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genesis 39:7-12</td>
<td>1 Samuel 24:1-7</td>
<td>1 Samuel 26:7-12</td>
<td>2 Samuel 16:9-10</td>
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<td>1 Corinthians 4:12-13</td>
<td>1 Corinthians 9:24-27</td>
<td>Proverbs 18:7</td>
<td>Jeremiah 14:10</td>
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<td>1 Corinthians 7:9</td>
<td>Colossians 2:23</td>
<td>2 Peter 2:12-14</td>
<td>Proverbs 13:3</td>
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<td>Romans 6:12</td>
<td>Galatians 5:22</td>
<td>Proverbs 16:32</td>
<td>Revelation 21:7</td>
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</table>
6. **The Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

“John answered them all, I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire” (Luke 3:16). The Greek word for baptism means immersion. When we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, we are completely enveloped in the power of the Holy Spirit. In the natural realm, there are two possible ways we can be immersed under water. We can go down under the surface of the water and then come up out of it. This is what happens when we are water baptized. The other way is if the water is poured over us until we are completely immersed and enveloped by it. In the natural, this experience would occur if we stood underneath a pouring waterfall. This is the type of immersion that occurs when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit. This is why the Bible, when describing the baptism in the Holy Spirit, uses language such as “I will pour out My Spirit” and “He poured out this which you see and hear” and “the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word” and “the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles (Acts 2:33).” We should also note the terms, “baptism of the Holy Spirit,” “promise of the Holy Spirit” and “gift of the Holy Spirit” are used interchangeably to describe the same Biblical experience (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5; 2:33,38; 10:44-45; 11:15-17). Also, after Pentecost Sunday, the term “received the Holy Spirit” always refers to receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:17; 10:47; 19:2).

The difference between the Baptism into the Body of Christ and the Baptism in the Holy Spirit can be summarized as follow:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Baptism into the Body of Christ</th>
<th>Baptism into the Holy Spirit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Baptizer:</td>
<td>Holy Spirit</td>
<td>Jesus(Mark 1:8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Element of Baptism:</td>
<td>The Body of Christ</td>
<td>Holy Spirit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpose of the Baptism:</td>
<td>Newness of Eternal Life</td>
<td>Power to witness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.1. **Old Testament Prophecy concerning the Baptism into the Holy Spirit**

*Prophecy 1: Isaiah 28:11-12*

“Very well then, with foreign lips and strange tongues God will speak to this people, to whom he said, “This is the resting place, let the weary rest”; and, “This is the place of repose”—but they would not listen. New Testament Fulfillment of this Prophecy: 1 Corinthians 14:21 “In the Law it is written: “With other tongues and through the lips of foreigners I will speak to this people, but even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord.”

*Prophecy 2: Joel 2:28-29*

“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. New Testament Fulfillment of this Prophecy: Acts 2:16-18 ‘No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy’.”

6.2. **New Testament Prophecy concerning the Baptism into the Holy Spirit**

John 1:26,29,32-34 states: “I baptize with water,” John replied, “but among you stands one you do not know… The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One’.”
6.3. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit with Fire

There is one more very important aspect of the baptism in the Holy Spirit we need to point out. John the Baptist called this “the baptism in the Holy Spirit with fire (Matthew 3:11).” Fire represents the holiness of the Lord. Therefore, when Jesus baptizes us in the Holy Spirit, He intended it not only to empower us but to also purify us. Our immersion into Christ’s Spirit of holiness is meant to expose, convict, purge and burn away all the dross from our lives. The Holy Spirit’s purifying fire in our lives is essential if we want to be Jesus’ holy witnesses.

Jesus said His disciples would be salted with fire (Mark 9:49) but if they lose their saltiness (holiness), they are not good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by the world (Mark 9:50; Matthew 5:13). Without holiness, we cannot display God’s power. Without holiness, we cannot be Christ’s witness. Without holiness, we cannot know Jesus Christ. Of course, we must always remember we cannot possibly live in Christ’s holiness (even if we have been baptized in the Holy Spirit with fire) if we don’t know (believe and act on) the truth that we have been crucified with Christ. The gospel of Christ crucified reveals the power that God has provided for us to abide in Christ and overcome sin, the world and the devil.

Four things the fire establishes in the life of the baptized: (1) You heart will burn, but you will not burn up; (2) Your heart will burn, but you will not burn out; (3) You will burn with a desire to burn up everything in youth that does not please the Holy Spirit; (4) You will burn on with zeal for the Lord - all the way to the end. You will remain dangerous to the devil!

6.4. Jesus emphasis on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and defines its purpose

Jesus commanded His disciples to be baptized in water (Matthew 28:19). Water baptism is the outward expression of the inward transformation that occurred within us when we were saved: our old man of sin died in Christ when we were born again of His Spirit and we are now a new man in Christ (Romans 6:3-11). However after they were saved, Jesus commanded His disciples to also be baptized in the Spirit (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:5-8). Therefore, we see that water baptism is associated with salvation, whereas Spirit baptism is associated with something more than salvation: Empowerment to be Christ’s Witnesses.

Jesus defined the purpose of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit in Acts 1:8: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not for the purpose of cleansing from sin, but for the purpose of empowering for service. The Biblical examples of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit are: The Disciples in Jerusalem Baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4), the Disciples in Samaria Baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14-17); The Disciples in Ephesus Baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:1-6).

6.5. How to Receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

You can receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit the same way you received Christ when you were saved – by faith (Galatians 3:2). Jesus said, “If you being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him (Luke 11:13)?” Our heavenly Father has promised to give you the baptism of the Holy Spirit and His Son is the One who will baptize you in the Spirit. Remember the baptism in the Holy Spirit is not an emotional experience; it is a divine promise and gift which you receive by faith. You may or may not express any emotion when you receive it. When you ask Jesus to baptize you in the Holy Spirit, you can count on the Word of God that He will. Just ask Him.

6.6. Receiving the Holy Spirit differs from the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1-4 describes how to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and shows the signs that follow the baptism in the Holy Spirit as follow: “When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one
place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them”.

Receiving the Holy Spirit upon conversion and being baptized in the Holy Spirit are two separate and distinct experiences as proved by the following examples: (1) The disciples received the Holy Spirit on the day of Christ's resurrection for the New Testament experience of salvation. At this moment the disciples passed from Old Testament salvation to New Testament Salvation (John 20:21-22). Fifty days later they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the upper room. Jews then came to Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost, heard the 120 speaking, declaring the wonders of God in their own national languages. Others could not understand them and said they were drunk (Acts 2:14-18). (2) We have Paul receiving Jesus on the road to Damascus. He often referred to the Damascus Road experience as his conversion experience (Acts 9:3-9). However, he did not receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit until three days later when Ananias laid hands on him (Acts 9:10-19).

6.7. Eligibility to the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Two conditions are required: Repenting and Receiving Christ as Savior. Fulfilling the two conditions, you are eligible to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. "Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call” (Acts 2:38-39).

6.8. What does the Baptism in the Holy Spirit do for the baptized?

(1) You speak to God: In fact, When Jesus baptizes us in the Holy Spirit, He gives us the ability to speak to God in the spirit through a new language or what the Bible calls a “new tongue” or “other tongue”. who speaks in tongues, speak to God (1 Corinthians 14:2); (2) You are edified or charged up spiritually (He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself: 1 Corinthians 14:4); (3) When you don't know how to pray properly about a situation, you can pray int he Spirit (Romans 8:26-27); (4) You may be used in the gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:1-11); (5) Your prayer language is a permanent gift, but the gifts of the Holy Spirit are supernaturally given to individuals as the Spirit wills; so we cannot claim any permanent gifts of the Holy Spirit; (6) You may be used in a church in a ministry gift (1 Corinthians 12:28-31).

7. Satan’s counterfeit Miracles, Signs and Lying Wonders

Scripture’s Alert about Satan as Counterfeiter: “And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (2 Thessalonians 2:8-12).

Satan is a great counterfeiter. He devises false teachers and false prophets (2 Peter 2:1), false apostles with false gospels (2 Cor 11:1-15) and false miracles (2 Thess 2:9).

In the end times these will combine into a powerful deception that will even seem to threaten the existence of the church itself. Scripture states seven times that false miracles will mislead many (Matthew 7:21-23, 24:24, Mark 13:22, 2 Thess 2:8-12, Rev 13:13,14, 16:14,19:20) and it seems that this will involve a large section of the world's population. Those deceived will believe that they are serving God in the name of Jesus when in fact they are "workers of iniquity".
8. How to Discern True from False Messengers?

When God sent Moses to deliver the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, He performed miraculous signs through Moses to prove that Moses was indeed His messenger. However, Exodus 7:22 states, “But the Egyptian magicians did the same things by their secret arts, and Pharaoh's heart became hard; he would not listen to Moses...” (see also Exodus 7:11 and 8:7). God later demonstrated His superiority by performing miracles the magicians, or more accurately, the demons who were empowering the magicians, were not able to replicate (Exodus 8:18; 9:11). But the fact remains that Pharaoh’s magicians were able to perform miracles. So, if miracles can be from either God or the demonic world, how are we to discern the difference?

The Bible gave specific instructions on how to recognize counterfeit messengers. “You will recognize them by their fruits” (Matthew 7:16, 20). First John 4:2-6 elaborates, “This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist ... They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.”

These two passages present two methods for recognizing a false teacher: First, examine his/her fruit. Does he/she display the Christ likeness that is a qualification for a messenger from God (1 Timothy 3:1-13)? Second, examine his/her teaching. Is what he/she teaches in agreement with God’s Word (2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16-17; 4:2; Hebrews 4:12)? If the teacher fails either of these tests, he/she is not from God. It does not matter how many miracles are present. If a person does not walk the truth or teach the truth, we can discount any miracles he/she performs. Miracles performed by a false teacher are not from God.

In the New Testament, miracles were performed almost exclusively by the apostles and their close associates. The miracles served to validate the gospel message and the ministry of the apostles (Acts 2:43; 5:12; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:4). While we should never doubt God’s ability to perform miracles, the biblical purpose of miracles should give us a degree of skepticism concerning reports of modern-day miracles. While it is not biblical to say that God never performs miracles, the Bible is clear that we are to seek after truth, not miracles (Matthew 12:39). It is an interesting conundrum that miracles in the Bible validated the messenger, and yet today, miracles are not necessarily an indicator for a true messenger of God. The difference is God’s Word. Today we have the complete canon of Scripture, and it is an infallible guide. We have a more sure Word (2 Peter 1:19) we can use to discern whether a messenger and a message is from God. Miracles can be counterfeited. That is why God points us to His Word. Signs and wonders can lead us astray. God’s Word will always light the true path (Psalm 119:105).

Conclusion

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms”

(Ephesians 6:12 NIV)

The present research was about the problematic of today’s counterfeit miracles, tongues, healing and prophecies proliferated by those who consider themselves publically as messengers of God. The number of such said “prophets” increases day to day and their teachings continue delighting a big number of Christians. A big number of churches in Rwanda are characterized by such methods of preaching in a kind of competition for adherents. Their prophecy consists of predicting the future of adherent in a kind of a vision, and the message is delivered in tongues interpreted by the same
messenger. Going to such Churches is no difference as going to sorcerers. Having found that the ignorance of the person of the Holy Spirit, His Gifts and His Works, is the heart of such deviation, the present research has lighted Christians in this line. The researchers used the Bible as unique reference.

Key findings outlined by the research are the following:

(i) The gifts are manifested for the good of the church members to profit withal for the good of all and not for making the “star” person as is observed today. Prophecy is for edification, exhortation, comfort not for making money. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are for the good of all Christians, of every era. Christians will no longer need the gifts of the Spirit including miracles, Healing and Prophecy until When the Lord Jesus comes and we are caught up to meet him in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:14-18).

(ii) The purpose of life is to become what God made us to be- Images of Him. This is achieved by bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Unfortunately, So many today seek the Gifts without first acquiring the Fruit in their life. We must have the Fruit of the Spirit at work, if we want God to entrust us with the Gifts of the Spirit. As the Corinthian church, today’s Churches had the gifts of the Holy Spirit in operation, but as Paul Apostle, it is necessary to reprove them and set things in order. Some of them are carnal Christians (gifts do not necessarily mean spirituality) and are misusing the gifts. This situation is so alarming that some Christians use Satan’s techniques to produce miracles, speak in fun tongues combined with prophecies in order to get money and become “Stars in the Church”! This leads to severe confusion that results in abandoning Church or vagabondage passing from the Church to another searching where can be found truth.

(iii) The Power of the Holy Spirit overcomes such Satan’s confusion. In fact, confusion comes of the devil, because there is no truth in him. He is a liar and a thief, and Lucifer will always try and confuse, confound, and mislead us (John 8:44). We can overcome confusion through the Word, and through the Blood of our precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. However, we know that Jesus came to destroy ALL the works of the devil, even confusion and the obstruction of truth (1 John 3:8). God is a God of order. He created the universe and the very laws of science that hold everything in place. He gave us His Word and He gives peace. God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints (1 Corinthians 14:33). We must not allow ourselves to concentrate on the confusion or the lies, but look instead to the author and finisher of our faith. Jesus spent little time being distracted by the works of the devil. In fact He would not allow the demonic to even speak but commanded to “hold their peace” or to not speak forth things that would add confusion (Luke 4:35).

(iv) In Christ, every believer has authority: In fact, when confusion comes in, we must take authority over the confusion by pleading the Blood of Jesus Christ and by standing on what God promises us as believers and children. We must be proactive in our warfare against confusion as Paul states “For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

(v) Christians should avoid fearing this warfare but have knowledge that through Christ there is love, power and clarity of thought (2 Timothy 1:7). Praying in the Spirit helps to bring us
out of these times of confusion because when we know not what to pray the Spirit will intercede (Romans 8:26). Pray without ceasing in the Spirit especially during those times when confusion abounds because we are promised (Isaiah 59:19).

(vi) Finally, we have to be proactive in giving your mind a preventative remedy against the confusion returning as stated by Paul in Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things”. God still performs miracles and heals in our day (Jn.14:12; Acts 4:30), but so does the devil (Revelation 16:14)! The Bible is final authority and will help us distinguish the dangerous and deceptive satanic miracles from miracles of God.

Recommendations

Concerning Speak in tongues:

People should be careful making fun of tongues, because when people make fun of tongues, they are making fun of the Holy Ghost. When you pray in tongues, it is your spirit praying by the Holy Spirit within you. It is the Holy Spirit within giving you the utterance, and you are speaking from out of your spirit. You do the talking; the Holy Spirit gives the utterance. By praying with groaning and with other tongues, the Holy Spirit is helping you to pray according to the will of God — to pray as things should be prayed for. This isn't something the Holy Ghost does apart from you. He doesn't groan or speak in tongues apart from you. Those groaning that cannot be uttered in articulate speech come from inside of you — from your spirit — and escape your own lips. If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and to God (1 Corinthians 14:28).

Concerning Prophecies

People should analyze and distinguish the true from false prophet by the following elements: Agreement of the prophecy with the Word of God; Checking the realization of the prophecies; and Checking the fruits of the said prophet (1 Timothy 3:1-13).

Concerning Healing and Miracles

People should such for blessing than miracles. In fact, miracles were for validating the messenger of God. Today, miracles are not necessary because we have the complete canon of Scripture, and it is an infallible guide.

Concerning the best position towards nowadays’ miracles

For some believers who have decided that since Satan will work miracles at the end of time, and found that the safest plan is simply to reject all miracles, the present research recommends- with Apostle John- to do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1).