

COULD THOSE WHO POSSESSED SPIRITUAL GIFTS CONTROL THE GIFT, OR DID THE HOLY SPIRIT HAVE CONTROL?

This question arises as a result of those who “claim” miraculous gifts were given to them by the Holy Spirit. As a result, their assemblies are often filled with a frenzied display of chaotic and undisciplined emotions. There are outbursts of movement and shouting as a result of what they claim as the “Holy Ghost” moving among them. Many seek to bare evidence of their “so-called” gift by supposedly “speaking in tongues.” These occasions are filled with disorder, chaos and confusion.

How can one concentrate and meditate upon the word of God and the reverent and solemn worship in which they should be participants? It is hardly an atmosphere conducive to orderly, acceptable worship.

If the Holy Spirit were directing such services, there would not be any confusion and disorder. The Scriptures, which were given by direction (inspiration, 2 Tim. 3:16-17) of the Holy Spirit, are very clear on this subject. First Corinthians 14:40 says, “**Let all things be done decently and in order.**” Verse 33 of the same chapter tells us, “*For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.*” The very subject of confusion and disorder was part of the reason the epistle of First Corinthians was written. The saints were told that such disorder and commotion did not come from God! The point being made was that the individual himself had control of the Spirit which was within him. There is no reason at all for the confusion and

disruption of their assemblies. Those who used their miraculous gift(s) were to take turns at doing so, making their use an orderly, methodical and peaceful event (1 Cor. 14:27,31,40).

The miraculous power within those who possessed it did not take control without the individual’s consent. The miracle did not cause confusion and chaos. The individuals themselves were to blame for the disorder and confusion. First Corinthians 14:32 very plainly says, “***the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.***” That is, the one who had a spiritual gift was able to control it!

Jesus said true worship is directed to the Father “in spirit and in truth.” “*God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth*” (John 4:24). To worship God “in spirit” is to be directed by the proper mind, attitude and intellect. This part of worship is from the heart, the seat of man’s conscience. To worship God “in truth” is to be directed by the proper actions and deeds. It is worship that is according to the Truth, God’s revealed will, the New Testament. It is not left up to man to worship God of his own emotion and imagination. God prescribed worship is *from the heart* AND *actions dictated from God’s Word.*

Miraculous gifts are no longer available today (1 Cor. 13:8-10). They are referred to as “baby things” and were done away at the coming of the completed revelation of God’s will — the Holy Bible.

—Garland M. Robinson