

## Studies on Revival

## Counterfeit Revival

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” – 1 John 4:1

## I. Satan is a Counterfeiter.

- Satan seeks to be “like” God because he cannot be God – Isaiah 14:12-15
- God has true doctrine (II Timothy 1:13) while Satan has false doctrine (I Timothy 4:1)
- Satan will counter displays of God’s power with his own - Exodus 7:10-12

## II. Why counterfeit revival?

- It is psychological warfare not a direct assault
- Counterfeiting is effective – Genesis 3:1
  - “hath God said?” – he twisted God’s words but did not contradict them
- To sow confusion – Matthew 13:24-30
- To disrupt the true work – Nehemiah 6:1-3
- To discourage Christians

## III. Signs of False Revival

- Redefining what Revival is
  - Revival is not a protracted meeting
  - Revival is not spiritual progress
  - Revival is not excitement
- Uplifting the wrong person
  - Not the Holy Spirit – His mission is to uplift Christ and not Himself – John 16:13-14
  - Not ourselves – Psalm 115:1
  - Christ should be exalted – John 12:32, 17:1-3
- Exaltation and Exploitation of Emotions
  - Hearts may stir and tears may flow but not from the Spirit’s moving on our hearts - I John 4:1
- The promotion and use of tongues
  - The Greek word is *glossa* (Strong’s Greek #1100)
  - Can mean either the physical tongue or a language
  - In the Bible
    1. Foretold by Christ – Mark 16:17-18
      - a. Side note – we see snake handlers and faith healers, where are the poison drinkers?

2. Seen at Pentecost – Acts 2:4-11
    - a. Note – Jewish/Galilean believers are speaking known human languages they did not have the natural capacity to know or speak
  3. Seen at conversion of Cornelius– Acts 10:46-48
    - a. Used here as a sign that the Gentiles had truly been converted.
  4. Seen at conversion of John’s disciples at Ephesus – Acts 19:6
    - a. Again, used as a sign they had truly been converted
  5. Misuse of Tongues at Corinth – I Corinthians 12-14
    - a. The natural use of the word *tongues* indicates known human languages and not ecstatic gibberish
    - b. The greatest expression of Christianity is not spiritual gifts, but in Faith, Hope, and Love – I Corinthians 13:13
    - c. Paul points out the use of languages unknown to the others present in the church is selfish (14:2-3), does not edify fellow believers (14:5), causes confusion (14:5), does not work in both spirit and understanding (14:15), turns unbelievers away from the Gospel (14:22-25), requires an interpreter (14:27-28), and leads to confusion (14:33). In short, the common language should be used.
- Analysis
    1. There is a promise that believers would speak in tongues but no commandment for anyone to do so
    2. They are used in Acts to certify God’s anointing on the church at Pentecost and to certify two controversial conversions
    3. We have utter silence on the subject in the rest of the New Testament outside of I Corinthians, which leads me to believe the use of tongues was not widespread or promoted in the early church.
  - Run from any so-called revival that features charismatic elements such as tongues – Azusa Street Revival, Latter Rain movement, Third Wave movement, etc.

“I am more afraid of false revival than of no revival—a false revival with a false gospel, false evangelists, false converts, false joy. It will seem so genuine that it would deceive, if possible, the very elect. Many church leaders will endorse it. Other good people will be afraid to oppose it for fear that they might be fighting against God.” – Vance Havner