

*There is someone who came to my church a few days ago that seemed strange. When he prayed, he snapped his fingers, clapped his hands, and blew on people. He said the snapping of the fingers is for his own brain and that when he blows it is the Holy Spirit blowing through him. Everyone he prayed over fell over backwards and were caught by people. He made everyone look at him in the eyes. He said that saw weird things in their eyes and they said that they saw weird things in his eyes.*

Pentecostal services have false ministers (2 Cor. 11:14-15) who perform false signs (2 Thess. 2:7-12). They point to themselves rather than to Christ. They serve Satan not the Lord. When the real Spirit is removed from the world;<sup>1</sup> these charlatans will be left behind in their foolishness.

The Bible warns about false religion (Jas 1:26). The inequity (2 Pe 2:1b–1c, 3a, 10, 12, 13b–14, 17a–17b, 22) and corruption<sup>2</sup> of false teachers is described. They are symbolized as: brute beasts (2 Pe 2:12b), stains upon Christianity (2:13b), dried-up springs of water (2:17a), unstable, storm-driven clouds (2:17b), dogs returning to their vomit (2:22a) and hogs wallowing in the mud (2:22b).<sup>3</sup>

Men who preach and teach should remain true to God in word and deed. Christians can be like the Bereans who searched the scriptures to see what was true (Ac 17:11).

Congregants should not be disruptive in worship services. Paul warned that unsaved individuals may come to church and conclude that believers are out of their minds (1 Co 14:22–23). All things should be done in a fitting and orderly way (1 Co 14:33, 40). Ushers can ask disruptive individuals to refrain from their odd displays or leave the service.

When Paul contrasted and compared tongues and prophecy gifts in First Corinthians chapter 14, he said: “For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.” 1 Co 14:33.

There are many (Mk 5:8, 9) unclean spirits in the world (Mt 10:1). It would not be unusual for some of them to appear in church (2 Co 11:14).

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<sup>1</sup> The Holy Spirit had different missions at different points of time in history. After the rapture of the church, the world will experience an all-new dispensation.

<sup>2</sup> Including: propagating destructive heresies (2:1b), denying Christ (2:1c), materialism (2:3a, 14c), lust and adultery (2:10a, 14a), pride and arrogance (2:10b), scoffing at the “glorious ones” (2:10c), blasphemy (2:12a), seducing the unstable (2:14b, 18b), boasting (2:18a), hypocritical lying (2:19–21). Willmington, H. L. (1999). The Outline Bible (2 Pe 2:1–21). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.