

# The Biblical Basis for Physical Manifestations

*Dealing with Major Questions*

## **I. How can the manifestations be from God if they are not in the Bible?**

- A. The first principle in rightly dividing the Word of God is that the Bible does not contain God. God contains the Bible.
  - 1. John 21:25 states that there would not be enough books to contain all of God.
  - 2. The Bible is a guide to help us determine if something is from God.
- B. We must measure the manifestations against the principles and character of God outlined in the Bible.

## **II. Are the physical manifestations in keeping with the principles and character of God found in scripture?**

- A. There are major themes throughout the scripture that help us to determine the will and character of God.
  - 1. God is creative- He ever does anything the same way twice.
    - a. Creation is an example of His diversity and creativity.
    - b. When Jesus healed in the New Testament and God delivered Israel in the Old Testament it was never the same way twice. Consider; Jericho, Gideon's army, Saul being knocked off his horse, the blind man was asked to put mud on his eyes.
- B. It is definitely in keeping with the creativity of God that He would make people do something creative to receive from Him.

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1. God often asked or lead people in the Bible to do strange things as a sign of His presence.
2. Ezekiel was asked to lay on the floor on one side for a certain period of time and then on the other. God never explained the significance, He was looking for obedience.
3. In psalms the Lord commands all kinds of physical expressions for worship; dancing, shouting, laughing, kneeling, laying on the floor, wailing, clapping, loud instruments etc.
4. It is definitely in keeping with God's ways to require strange physical expressions that have no apparent purpose. He is just looking for obedience.

### III. Why are we afraid of the physical manifestations?

- A. It is the nature of man to criticize the unknown (Rom.8:7)
- B. Man has an issue with control and pride. The physical manifestations address both these issues by humbling and compelling us.

### IV. What is the purpose for physical manifestations?

- A. Romans 12:1 tells us to present our whole body to God as our reasonable form of worship. Worship that does not involve all of us is not even reasonable!
- B. God is looking for a broken and contrite spirit.

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