Wolf in Sheep’s Clothing
There was a prophetic vision that I read in one of Rick Joyner’s books. I don’t remember if he had the vision or someone else. But in the vision there was an island that represented the kingdom of God. On the island were buildings that represented churches and denominations. There was constant war between these Christians. It was so sad, because the enemy didn’t have to do a thing. Buildings were destroyed and people injured. As the prophet looked closer, those that were in the war had bloodshot eyes. The Lord revealed to the prophet that the blood in their eyes was the blood of Cain, who was a murderer of his brother. There was a large satanic spirit over the island, but all he did was oversee that the war stayed going. The scripture comes to mind “Any kingdom divided against itself cannot stand (Lk 11:17).” This has been the primary satanic attack for centuries. God is going to separate the wheat from the tares in these end-times, and I believe the division among true believers will diminish tremendously because of that.

That is the angle I want to take this teaching. Those that are given over to a spirit of Cain will rarely listen, but maybe there are some that will repent after reading this. We must keep in mind that Jesus said what we do to the least of his, we do to him. Also, the Bible plainly states that if we hate our brother, we are not really true Christians that will be in heaven one day.

The nature of Christ vs. the nature of the wolf

We know it is God’s will that we all love one another as people of God and live in unity. Listen to the Lord’s heart on the night he was going to be betrayed. If this was one of my last prayers before death, I would pray the closest and most important issues of my heart, wouldn’t you?

John 17: 1. These things Jesus spoke; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son, that the Son may glorify Thee,
2. even as Thou gavest Him authority over all mankind, that to all whom Thou hast given Him, He may give eternal life.
3. "And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.
4. "I glorified Thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which Thou hast given Me to do.
5. "And now, glorify Thou Me together with Thyself, Father, with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.
6. "I manifested Thy name to the men whom Thou gavest Me out of the world; Thine they were, and Thou gavest them to Me, and they have kept Thy word.
7. "Now they have come to know that everything Thou hast given Me is from Thee;
8. for the words which Thou gavest Me I have given to them; and they received them, and truly understood that I came forth from Thee, and they believed that Thou didst send Me.
9. "I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom Thou hast given Me; for they are Thine;
10. and all things that are Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine; and I have been glorified in them.
11. "And I am no more in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to Thee. Holy Father, keep them in Thy name, the name which Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, even as We are.
12. "While I was with them, I was keeping them in Thy name which Thou hast given Me; and I guarded them, and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

The Disciples in the World
13. "But now I come to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy made full in themselves.
14. "I have given them Thy word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.
15. "I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.
16. "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.
17. "Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth.
18. "As Thou didst send Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.
19. "And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.
20. "I do not ask in behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word;
21. that they may all be one; even as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that Thou didst send Me.

Their Future Glory
22. "And the glory which Thou hast given Me I have given to them; that they may be one, just as We are one;
23. I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, that the world may know that Thou didst send Me, and didst love them, even as Thou didst love Me.
24. "Father, I desire that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am, in order that they may behold My glory, which Thou hast given Me; for Thou didst love Me before the foundation of the world.
25. "O righteous Father, although the world has not known Thee, yet I have known Thee; and these have known that Thou didst send Me;
26. and I have made Thy name known to them, and will make it known; that the love wherewith Thou didst love Me may be in them, and I in them."

I highlighted the part that talked of perfect unity is Christ’s desire for his people to live in, and thus we would share in his glory and the world would know God did send his son.

We know the nature of the wolf by studying it in wildlife. The wolf is ferocious and travels in packs. It will surround its prey and kill it and devour it. The wolves will study their prey for weaknesses. For example, if there is a weaker antelope that has been wounded, one that is older, or one that is too young to have the speed of the others, it will target that one for death. The spiritual nature of the wolf is to fault-find, critique, and then destroy. There is no love or remorse in a wolf for what it does. The pain that is suffered by the prey is of no concern as long as the wolf gets what it wants.

We can conclude here that satan is the one that desires that most for the body of Christ to stay divided so that it cannot stand. Not only that, but if we are fighting each other, we will never turn on our true enemy….namely satan himself.

Who are the true wolves?

There are people that throw words around flippantly like false-prophet, false-teacher, deceiver, or even calling someone a wolf in sheep’s clothing. They claim to be “watch-dogs,” but in fact are “watch-wolves.” So who really are the true wolves? I would say they are those that carry the nature of satan and not that of Christ. Those are the true wolves. Just look at the description I gave of the way wolves operate. Do you not see this in the self-proclaimed “watch dogs” of the body of Christ? They are trying to expose things, but they themselves do far more damage to Christ and his kingdom than principalities, powers, and even those they are trying to expose ever will.

Satan is called the “Accuser of the brethren” in Revelation 12:10. How can satan who only visits the throne of God periodically, as seen in the first chapter of Job, continually accuse God’s people day and night? Could it be that he does this through human beings that allow themselves to be used of the enemy and take on the nature of the wolf. Ironically, the very people who are always going around calling everyone a wolf in sheep’s clothing are actually much more the wolf in sheep’s clothing than those they are accusing. The main difference between the sheep and wolves is their nature.

The Anointing

Jesus has called us that are his true people to be as lambs among wolves. That means we are to keep the nature of the lamb. Please remember this people of God. Satan cannot cast out satan. Evil will not triumph over evil. We have to love those that hate us, pray for those that abuse us, be quick to forgive, and bless those that curse us. When wolves surround us with their vicious attacks, we must bind the spirits that are using them. Remember we don’t wrestle against flesh and blood.
The power of God has and always will attract controversy. Satan hates the power of God. Steve Hill did a magnificent job in a sermon he entitled White Cain Religion. The sermon went on stating that if the blind lead the blind, they will both fall into a ditch. I have an excerpt of that video on our website. It is a video in which he preached about fifteen minutes at a Pastor’s Conference. We have it posted on our website on the discipleship page under videos. That will strongly compliment the teaching I am presenting here. Please take the time to watch that for your own benefit. I remember the little boy that kept crying wolf. Many of these critics have lost all credibility anyway, but are still crying out.

We must be careful who we are listening to. The Bible states that bad company will corrupt good character (1Cor 15:33). We need to separate ourselves from evil. I know it may seem like a strong statement, but those that seek the destruction of their brothers and sisters in Christ are murderers in God’s eyes. They hate their brothers enough to try to destroy them. I am exposing the spirit behind this for those that are discerning. It is a spirit of treachery and murder.

I will return to the statement I made at the beginning of this teaching about the anointing attracting controversy, but right now I want to expose a few more spirits of satan’s kingdom. Jezebel sought to kill, silence, and destroy the true prophets while feeding and blessing the false. Leviathan is a spirit that operates through the prideful. What else is an earmark of blatant arrogance than to fault-find and criticize others. Doesn’t the person doing the criticizing feel superior to those he/she is demeaning. Leviathan literally means twisted or confused. That is why you see these people taking excerpts of other peoples sermons, parts of sentences, or dissecting piece by piece teachings of others to make them say what they want. Haven’t you seen this? The wolf will take someone’s teaching, but only use part of a sentence to start calling them a false-teacher. The Leviathan spirit tries to confuse, distort, and twist things to make someone look bad, when in fact they are a true servant of God. These wolves are really given over to this spirit. Lastly, the antichrist spirit is at work as well. Christ is a word that literally means “The Holy and Anointed One of God.” Preachers that preach against sin and call people to repentance seem to attract the attack of this antichrist spirit. It hates holiness preaching. Also, any anointed ministry attracts major satanic attack. The satanic attack causes controversy and persecution. The antichrist spirit is an anti-anointing spirit.

Things anointed ministers say are twisted and misused. They are criticized. I have seen so much hate for Benny Hinn by these wolves, even on forums I disassociated with because of this, people were making fun of his clothes, the way he talked and sang, and falsely accused him of everything you could imagine. God figure that. One of the most anointed men of my life-time, and he has so many so-called Christians that hate him enough to do these things and think nothing of it. Remember my friend, Paul admonishes us to examine ourselves and make absolute sure we are actually in the faith in 2 Corinthians 13. I believe these wolves are actually tares among the wheat that will perish in the end. If they were really God’s elect, they would love the brethren, and they would be convicted by their evil actions.

Both the Bible and church history point out the attacks against the anointing. It seems to be the greater the anointing, the greater the attack. Let me give you some true accounts throughout history. Instead of re-inventing the wheel, I am going to use some pages out of John Kilpatrick’s book called Feast of Fire to let him also speak to you on this subject. The Bible speaks of listening to the mouth of two or three witnesses. So open your heart and hear what this great man of God is saying.
wrong reaction to the Holy Spirit’s workings. As God
takes us “from glory to glory,” He will also take us
out of our comfort zones. When new and different
things happen, we must be careful that we rejoice, and
enter into all God has for us. If not, we may never
taste of the next “glory” God is bringing.

The Controversy of Pentecost

As God took the early church to the glory of
Pentecost, controversy emerged. Onlookers accused
those filled with the Spirit of being drunk (Acts 2:4-
13). Their carnal minds could not understand these
new manifestations of the Holy Spirit. A move and
outbreak of the Holy Spirit has always caused
misunderstanding.

After Jesus was baptized, when the Holy Spirit
descended upon Him as a dove, He entered His public
ministry. Throughout the following months, Jesus
healed the sick, cast out demons, raised the dead, and
fed the multitudes with loaves and fishes. Yet,
although Jesus’ words and works manifested the
power and grace of the Holy Spirit, the religious
crowd accused Him of having “a devil” (John 8:49).

Greed had turned God’s house of prayer into a
temple of merchandising. Jesus “cast out all them that
sold and bought...overthrew the tables of the money
changers, and the seats of them that sold doves”
(Matthew 21:12). Then the blind and lame gathered
around Jesus, and He healed them (Matthew 21:14).
When the children saw this, they responded to the
Holy Spirit by crying; they shouted “Hosanna to the son of David!”

But instead of rejoicing, the chief priests and scribes were “sore displeased” (Matthew 21:15b) with Jesus. Jesus then pointed out that the praise manifested by the children fulfilled Scripture: “Have you never read, ‘Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise?’” (Matthew 21:16; fulfillment of Psalm 8:2).

The religious people were raising a raucous about the children manifesting in the temple. Jesus rebuked them and defended the children’s actions. The following verse states, “He left them” (Matthew 21:17).

When the Holy Spirit is present, people always manifest in different ways: such was true with Jesus, and such was true at Pentecost.

We Pentecostals have always been willing to be misunderstood because of speaking in tongues. But what about the other manifestations? Are we also willing to be misunderstood because of people falling to the floor, “slain in the Spirit”, because some jerk, shake or tremble when the Holy Spirit touches them?

Are we going to be like David’s wife Michal? She looked out a window and saw David leaping and dancing before the Lord, and “she despised him in her heart” (2 Samuel 6:16b). Instead of rejoicing with David as he manifested joy before the Lord, she rejected his actions as not befitting a king. Michal
wanted a “home and gardens” religion, everything nice and proper; and Michal was childless until the day of her death (2 Samuel 6:23).

If you desire God to bring a genuine move of the Holy Spirit in your church, know this for a fact: controversy will come; and when it does, you have a choice. Are you going to respond with Jesus’ anointing of continued obedience to the Father no matter what others say (even those you respect)? Or will you have a “Michal anointing,” rejecting the Spirit’s manifestations because they do not “beyit” a believer, and remain barren in your spiritual growth?

It’s time we believers be strong men and strong women of God, and realize that misunderstanding and controversy go with the territory. I do not want sterility in my soul, nor do I want the Dove to fly from my church.

The Witness of Church History

The annuals of revival in church history bear witness to God doing unexpected and controversial things. When revival came to Azusa Street, the following was written: “Proud, well-dressed preachers came in to ‘investigate.’ Soon their high looks were replaced with wonder, then conviction comes, and very often you will find them in a short time wallowing on the dirty floor, asking God to forgive them and make them as little children . . .

“Many churches have been praying for
Pentecost, and Pentecost has come. The question is now: Will they accept it? God has answered in a way they did not look for. He came in a humble way as of old, born in a manger.” (1)

Read how revival affected some in Azusa Street. About one eight-year-old boy, it said the Holy Spirit “fell on him, and his hands began to shake and he sang in tongues.” (2) It was further reported that “the meetings begin about ten o’clock in the morning and can hardly stop before ten or twelve at night, and sometimes two or three in the morning, because so many are seeking, and some are slain under the power of God.” (3)

One quote caught my attention: “While some in the rear are opposing and arguing, others are at the altar falling down under the power of God, and feasting on the good things of God. These two spirits are always manifest, but no opposition can kill, no power in earth or hell can stop God’s work, while He has consecrated instruments through which to work.” (4)

The Holy Spirit’s expressions, or manifestations, were not limited to the Azusa Street revival. “At a meeting recently held in a cottage near the church, one sister was baptized with the Holy Ghost on the front porch. She lay under the power of God for something like two hours, praising God and speaking in an unknown language.” (5)

Daniel Williams recorded instances of phenomena in the Welsh Revival of 1904: “The
manifestation of the power was beyond human management. Men and women were mowed down by the axe of God like a forest...The weeping for mercy, the holy laughter, ecstasy of joy, the fire descending, burning its way to the hearts of men and women with sanctity and glory, were manifestations still cherished and longed for in greater power. Many were heard speaking in tongues and prophesying. So great was the visitation in Penygroes and the districts that nights were spent in churches.” (6)

In his autobiography, James Finley writes of the Cane Ridge Revival of 1801: “A great revival broke out in the state of Kentucky. It was attended with such peculiar circumstances as to produce great alarm all over the country. It was reported that hundreds who attended the meetings were suddenly struck down, and would lie for hours and, sometimes, for days, in a state of insensibility; and that when they recovered and came out of that state, they would commence praising God for His pardoning mercy and redeeming love.” (7)

Physical prostrations and contortions were quite common under the ministries of George Whitfield and John Wesley. John Wesley wrote in his journal how Whitfield’s initial alarm at these powerful manifestations later modified: “I had an opportunity to talk with him (Whitfield) of those outward signs which had so often accompanied the inward work of God. His objections were chiefly founded on gross misrepresentations of matters of fact.

“But the next day he (Whitfield) had
opportunity of informing himself better: for no sooner had he begun (in the application of his sermon) to invite all sinners to believe in Christ, than four persons sunk down, close to him, almost in the same moment. One of them lay without either sense or motion; a second trembled exceedingly; the third had strong convulsions all over his body, but made no noise, unless by groans; the fourth, equally convulsed, called upon God, with strong cries and tears. From this time, I trust, we shall all suffer God to carry on His own work in the way that pleaseth Him.” (8)

**No Different at Brownsville**

“Manifestations” are outward, visible signs of an inner working of the Holy Spirit; they can either be responses or reactions to the presence or work of the Holy Spirit. We quickly discovered that manifestations in the revival at Brownsville were similar to what the Holy Spirit did in past revivals. After the Holy Spirit touched me in new ways, and I personally experienced many manifestations, I was more hesitant to stop and hinder others from doing the same.

Yet no matter what the manifestation, we found it helpful to ask five questions to discern whether it was of God or not:

1. Is Jesus being lifted up?
2. Is this creating a greater hunger for God and His Word?
3. Is this leading people to love God and each other more?
4. Is this bringing truth and greater spiritual depth?

5. Is there any practical change taking place (sometimes this must be judged over a period of time)?

We trained our altar workers, ushers and monitors how to recognize a genuine manifestation of the Holy Spirit, as well as how to deal with those who were reacting in the flesh. And while 90-95 percent of what has occurred in the revival services is genuine, my ushers and altar workers have had to take some aside and deal rightly with them.

As revival continued, we found nine “categories” or ways that the Holy Spirit expresses Himself.

**Falling on the floor** In the revival people often fall on the floor. Termed “slain in the Spirit” by some, and “falling under the power” or “resting in the Lord” by others, one does not have to look long to see that something is happening inside those “horizontal before the Lord.” Such was the response of people like Ezekiel (Ezekiel 1:28; 3:23), Daniel (Daniel 10:9), and John (Revelation 1:17). After the ark was brought into Solomon’s temple, “the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God” (2 Chronicles 5:14), perhaps indicating that these priests had “fallen under the power” of God.

The Holy Spirit seems to do a wide variety of
things in a person’s life during this time: a renewed understanding of God’s holiness, an inward healing of emotions, anointing for ministry, a giving of direction for life, a refreshing of God’s love, and, in limited cases, the giving of a vision from God.

**Shaking, jerking or trembling** When the Holy Spirit began to touch others, they would respond or react by shaking, jerking or trembling. A few would shake or jerk their entire bodies; others would shake or jerk hands, feet, or heads. Such seemed to be the response of the men around Daniel (Daniel 10:7), of Jeremiah (Jeremiah 23:9), and of Habakkuk (Habakkuk 3:16). The psalmist suggested that the people of God should “tremble” in His presence (Psalm 99:1; 114:7), as did God suggest when He spoke to Jeremiah (Jeremiah 5:22).

We later found that something deep had happened in the person trembling, shaking or jerking—a dramatic change in attitudes, a cleansing of sin or of sinful habits. In the Brownsville revival, a number of children began to shake, jerk or tremble when the Holy Spirit touched them. The negative reaction of religious adults has been interesting. It almost seemed these adults would be more comfortable watching young people shaking on a disco floor in a night club, than watching them shake under the power of God in church.

**Groaning and travelling** Romans 8:26 explains, “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for.
as we ought: but the Spirit Himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” Paul wrote the Galatians that he would “travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you” (Galatians 4:19).

When the Holy Spirit expresses Himself like this in a person, it can sound like the person is heaving and in great pain. In reality, this person is praying, and might even be brought into a ministry of intercession. Groaning and travailing is nothing new in Pentecostal circles; I have been hearing this in church services since I was a boy.

**Deep bowing** Both Ezra (Ezra 10:1) and David (Psalm 35:13-14) bowed deeply before the Lord, and both were intercessors for their people. Even today you can observe Jewish people at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem doing this. This manifestation is done in connection with prayer and is often seen in intercessors.

**Heavy weeping and crying** Scripture records that both Nehemiah (Nehemiah 1:4) and Ezra (Ezra 10:1) cried or wept heavily. God warned a sin-filled Israel, “Turn ye even to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning” (Joel 2:12). The psalmist declared, “They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him” (Psalm 126:5-6). Many times heavy weeping or crying can be part of the process of repentance, healing inner hurts, grieving, or even intercession.
Laughing. A merry heart is “like medicine” (Proverbs 17:22a), and laughter is a viable response when God brings one freedom: “When the Lord brought back the captives to Zion, we were like men who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, and our tongues with songs of joy...The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy” (Psalm 126:1-3, NIV).

We Christians have grieved and been oppressed so long, we’ve lost the ability to laugh. Unfortunately, the abnormal has grown to seem normal, and some believers reject “laughing in the Spirit.” But greater healing and wholeness comes through holy laughter. Many occasions I have seen people “laugh in the Spirit,” bringing with it a needed restoration of joy and love in their lives.

Being still or solemn. King David frequently wrote of “waiting on the Lord,” of “resting” and being patient in God’s presence, of how he “quieted” himself (Psalm 25:5; 27:14; 37:7a; 131:2). This manifestation is a choice one makes in response to His presence. As one is still and silent before the Lord in revival, there is often personal, intimate communion shared, with God giving words of comfort, refreshing or instruction.

Being “drunk” in the Spirit. At Pentecost, onlookers mocked and accused believers of acting drunk: “These men are full of new wine” (Acts 2:13). Paul instructed the Ephesians, “Do not be drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18).
Often, as with the believers who spent time in prayer prior to Pentecost, this occurs after spending a lengthy time in the Lord’s presence. You sense the Holy Spirit so strongly that normal activity is difficult to perform. This also involves an inner work that God is completing, a ‘breakthrough’ that He has wrought. For me, the many times during this revival that I have been “drunk” in the Spirit, I have been unable to move.

**Having visions and dreams** These often take place while a person is “resting in the Lord.” It can be similar to a trance, such as was Peter’s vision (Acts 10:9-17). After all, Joel did prophesy that “old men shall dream dreams, and young men shall see visions” (Joel 2:28b).

When the Spirit is present in outpouring, visions and dreams are commonly reported among believers of all denominations. Even my own conservative sons, 19 year-old John Michael and 25 year-old Scott, have received several visions during the Brownsville revival. I know my own sons; they wouldn’t fake it for anyone. And what God fulfilled at Pentecost is still true today.
If you have read this and you feel that the conviction of the Holy Spirit because of living this way, that is a good thing. The Bible says, God disciplines those he loves and are his children. If you are not being disciplined by the Lord, you are not his child. Hebrews 12

There is a scary place in scripture that talks about the blasphemy of the Spirit. Jesus was driving out a demon, and the Pharisees said he was doing it by the power of satan, but actually Jesus was doing this by the power of the Holy Spirit. I always cringe when I hear of people mocking those that are being touched by God. People ridicule what the Holy Spirit is doing. Some go so far as to teach things of the Holy Spirit like speaking in tongues, falling under the power, or other ways the Holy Spirit is moving are actually demonic manifestations. Like the book of Jude records in verse 10, “these speak abusively about what they do not understand.”

It would be so much better for people to have the humility of a little child. Children are humble, teachable, able to be corrected, inquisitive, and open-minded to learn. It is the opposite of the wolves. They are closed to anything they do not understand, and viciously attack the work of the Holy Spirit. They are too prideful to ever accept correction, or consider that they could be wrong. Would it not be better for them to just have the attitude of “God if this is you I want it, but if it is not I don’t want it?”

It is so sad that many of the wolves are only tares among the wheat. They are not even real Christians to begin with, but yet many are not even questioning them. These that fall prey to this great deception will never have the joy of the Lord’s presence in their lives. They will never experience the ecstasy of being touched by almighty God in an awesome way. They will never know what it is like to see someone healed before their very eyes, see the tears of joy as someone is delivered of an evil spirit that tormented their lives. They will never know what it is like to feel God do these things through them, and how powerful and rewarding that can be. They will never see a mother’s amazement and joy as her dead baby came back to life after praying for it. Man, these don’t even believe that these things are possible. They serve a small god that is dead and defeated, but to the real Christian born of the Spirit, we serve the risen Christ or has conquered satan and is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

God will hold us accountable for every careless word that comes out of our mouths. It is time to stop gossip, stop attacking our brothers and sisters, and stop being critical. If we have true discernment, we won’t have to be suspicious, fearful, and fault-finding. We will know by the Spirit of God and his word whether it be of God or not. Remember we reap what we sow. God gives his grace to the humble but opposes the proud. I would rather have every demon chasing me at once, rather than have God oppose me for ten minutes. I believe this division and attacking Christians is a serious offense in God’s eyes.

I challenge you to repent if you have been this way. Give it over to God. If you see something is off in a ministry, God can stop it without your help. Pray for them and quit attacking them with your mouth. Most people that are critical are blinded by satan so much that things are not nearly as far off as they perceive them to be. This is a great deception in these end-times. It is time to get right before God. Repent means to turn away and stop doing it. We love you, and I hope this teaching was a strength to you. May God bless you,

Pastor Scott Boyd