

And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear sound, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle? 1st Corinthians 14:8 NLV

First Love Ministries, Inc.

PRAYER STUDY #170

SLAIN IN THE SPIRIT

THE BIBLICAL EVIDENCES

It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music and praised the LORD, saying, For He is good; for His mercy endureth forever—that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.

2nd Chronicles 5:13-14

(This event happened when Solomon's temple was finished and the elders brought the Ark of the Covenant out of the city of David, which is Zion, and took it into the temple at Jerusalem.)

Slain in the Spirit: This experience, also called Resting in the Spirit, Falling under the Power, Overcome by the Spirit, or just Falling Out, generally happens when a minister or speaker lays hands on a person's forehead (although some like Benny Hinn just wave their hands and masses of people fall down at one time), and the person falls backwards. Some Charismatics say this happens when God's presence comes on the human body and a person simply cannot stand under the weight of God's presence. Generally, the person "slain" just lies quietly, but sometimes there are violent movements, and sometimes people react as if they are having an epileptic seizure. Most say they just experience peace and a pleasant sense of calm while others feel like they are under a heavy weight. Some see visions. Some remain in an unconscious, catatonic state. Often people report that they were pushed by the minister, and some admit to giving a "courtesy drop." Some hop right back up while others remain on the floor for hours.

Some interesting facts about this phenomenon:

1. This same experience with similar symptoms has happened in ancient Hindu ministry and continues to happen in Hindu and cult/occult circles. The Hindus call this *Shaktipat* or *Divine Touch*.
2. In the Biblical accounts almost always believers fall forward on their faces while sinners fall backwards. In today's Charismatic circles, people almost always fall backwards.

3. All similar acts, of which there are very few, in the Bible, were a sovereign act of God. There is no example in the Bible of people being slain in the spirit or falling out when someone laid hands on them or even waved their hand. Also, no ministers or prophets in the Old or New Testament caused people to be slain in the spirit by the laying on of hands or by breathing on them.

There are two main incidents in the Bible where something similar to this phenomenon happened:

1. First, the passage in II Chronicles 5:11-14, cited above concerning the overwhelming presence of the Lord in the new temple that Solomon built when the Ark of the Covenant was brought in, tells of the Shaking Glory of the Lord coming in a cloud so heavy or thick that the priest could not stand to minister.
2. Then the passage in John 18:4-8 tells of non-believers who fall backwards when Jesus identifies Himself: *Jesus, therefore, knowing all things that should come upon Him went forth and said unto them, "Whom seek ye?" They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said unto them, "I am He." And Judas also, who betrayed Him, stood with them. As soon, then, as He had said unto them, "I am He," they went backward and fell to the ground. Then asked He them again, "Whom seek ye?" And they said, "Jesus, of Nazareth". Jesus answered, "I have told you that I am He; if therefore, ye seek Me, let those go their way."*

Other Biblical incidents, (although with different characteristics than modern "slain in the spirit" situations), that are used to justify "Being Slain in the Spirit," are the following:

1. Daniel's falling on his face and being as one in deep sleep when the Lord's Glory came down and the Lord spoke to Daniel: Daniel 10:9-10
2. When the disciples fell on their faces in fear at the Mount of Transfiguration when the Father spoke: Matthew 17:1-13
3. Paul's conversion experience when he fell off the horse on the Damascus Road when the Lord spoke to him: Acts 9:3-4
4. John on the Isle of Patmos who fell at the feet of Jesus as one who was dead when he saw the Lord: Revelation 1:17

Notice again that no one touched any of these men. The Lord did this work in each of them sovereignly. There was absolutely no human intervention.