

*“Only when we are captured by an overwhelming sense of awe and reverence in the presence of God, will we begin to worship God in Spirit and in truth.”*

Alistair Begg

Prayer Study #316

## **BEING SLAIN IN THE SPIRIT**

First Love Ministries, Inc., of Perry, Georgia

We at First Love Ministries strongly believe that all manifestations and spiritual phenomena should have some precedent in the Word of God to be authentic. If we cannot find the precedent, we are doubtful that the phenomenon or manifestation is valid. Admittedly, sometimes there may be a scriptural precedent, which we have not yet seen in scripture, but we welcome others to show us through the Word of God our error. That’s why we are skeptical of jewels falling from the sky and gold dust and other unusual things happening in our day in Christian services.

We do find scriptural precedence for the phenomenon known as being *Slain in the Spirit*. However, we are very offended by those ministers who push people over. The Holy Spirit does not need help!

We find at least two passages of scripture that indicate that men fell at the power of the glory of the Lord. First, we look at 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 5:13-14 AMP: *And when the trumpeters and singers were joined in unison, making one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and other instruments for son and praised the Lord, saying, For He is good, for His mercy and loving-kindness endure forever, then the house of the Lord was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.*

We know this cloud as the Shekinah. It is the radiance, glory or presence of God dwelling in the midst of His people. It is the nearest Jewish equivalent to the Holy Spirit. When this cloud or Spirit came into the temple, the priests were overcome and could not stand. The glory of the Lord often comes in meetings and is often described as a heaviness or weight. The glory of Israel was not her armies or wealth and splendor but was Yahweh (Jeremiah 2:11). This glory was also found in the cloud, which the Israelites followed by day as they journeyed from Egypt to the Promise Land.

The second place in the Word where the glory of God was so strong that men, in this case unsaved men, could not stand was in the garden where Jesus was betrayed. John 18:4-8 records this: *Jesus, therefore, knowing all*

*things that should come upon Him, went forth and said to 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 said unto them, "I am He," they went backwards 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."*

There are other possible examples of this experience in scripture:

1. Daniel, as recorded in Daniel 10:9-10, falls on his face, as one in deep sleep, when the Lord's Glory came down, and the Lord spoke to Daniel.
2. Peter, James, and John fell on their faces in fear at the Mount of Transfiguration when God the Father spoke in Matthew 17:1-13.
3. Paul's conversion experience might be an example of this. Paul, in Acts 9:3-4, falls off his horse on the Damascus Road when the Lord spoke to him.
4. John on the Isle of Patmos fell at the feet of Jesus as one who was dead when John saw the Lord in Revelation 1:17.

Notice that, in all six of these examples, no one touched any of these men. The Lord did this work in each of them sovereignly. There was absolutely no pushing or even breathing on these men or any other human intervention. The breathing, however, has scriptural precedent as this is what Jesus did when He invoked the disciples to receive the Holy Spirit.

I truly believe that there is a phenomenon where the Lord's presence is so strong that people do fall down, and I believe there is scriptural precedent in at least two cases, one Old Testament and one New Testament, and in possibly 4 other cases. But I urge people to be cautious and not look to ministers but to the Lord. Do not give a courtesy drop when someone pushes you. Do not allow the enemy to sike you up and do a copycat drop just because everyone else is doing it. Take a pastor or minister aside and in a loving way question his or her methods when you feel that he or she is pushing you over.

And to ministers, let me say loud and clear, "People being slain in the spirit is not a sign of your maturity or power," and if you are pushing people, you are operating in a wrong spirit. This spirit is usually rooted in pride and feeds something fleshly in you that wants men's approval.

### **Some interesting facts about this phenomenon:**

1. This same experience with similar symptoms continues today to happen in Hindu and cult/occult circles. The Hindus call this *Shapktipat* or *Divine Touch*.
2. I don't know if there is any significance of this, but in Biblical accounts, almost always believers fall forward on their faces while sinners fall backwards. In today's charismatic circles, people almost always fall backwards.

### **Additional Information:**

Slain in the Spirit is also called *Resting in the Spirit*, *Falling under the Power*, *Overcome by the Spirit*, or just *Falling Out*. It generally happens when a minister or speaker lays hands on a person's forehead (although some ministers 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 the minister pushed them, and some admit to giving a "courtesy drop." Some hop right back up, while others remain on the floor for hours.

I do believe in this experience but prefer to call it *Falling under the Power of the Spirit* than *Slain in the Spirit*. I do believe, however, from my own observations and discernment that upwards to 90% of the people who fall out were not *Slain in the Spirit* but either pushed or reacting to people's expectation.

If you have ever truly fell under the power of the Holy Spirit, you know that it can be a sweet time between you and the Holy Spirit and can fill you with so much peace and joy. If you are pushed, the experience can make you discouraged, embarrassed, and bitter. You must forgive and recognize that people do inappropriate things in ministry sometimes because of their own woundedness and search for men's approval.

This is a phenomenon that rarely happens at Epworth. We want to gently teach people that there is MORE than they sometimes have experienced or been taught, and we trust the Lord to manifest His presence in any way He chooses. Yet we know that God is a God of Order and we, as His bond slaves, are to walk in balance and in obedience. After all, these meetings are about Him, not about us, and as much as we love you and love being with God's people, if He is not there, we don't want to be there either.

### **I CAN'T EVEN WALK**

Lord, I can't even walk without You holding my hand  
I thought that number one would surely be me  
I thought I would be what I wanted to be  
I thought I could build on life's sinking sand,  
But I can't even walk without You holding my hand

I thought I could do a lot on my own  
I thought I could make it all alone  
I thought of myself as a mighty big man  
But I found out later I can't even walk without You holding my hand  
Sometimes I steal away all by myself  
And I tell the Lord just like this

Lord, I can't even walk without You holding my hand  
How many of you tell the Lord just like this sometimes  
The mountain is too high and the valley is too wide  
Down on my knees, thank-you Lord, I learned to stand  
Because I can't even walk without You holding my hand.