

Charismatic Reflections

This environment is nothing new to me. I have been in such services often. Honestly, I would be completely comfortable in this type of worship service. However, certain Biblical stipulations should be made. For instance, there should be a translator for people speaking in tongues or they should be told to pray quietly to themselves and God (as I'll discuss later). Each of the issues of dancing, tongues, and falling on the ground will be discussed individually as they are individual issues.

Speaking of Worship

John 4:23-24 speaks of true worshippers who will worship in spirit and in truth. God does not want lip service in worship...He wants heart service. That's what this verse is getting down to. **1 Corinthians 14:33** says that "*God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.*" This passage implies that churches should not find themselves in a state of confusion or disorder. However, Scripture also says in **1 Thessalonians 5:19**, "*Do not quench the Spirit.*" As believers, we should expect God to work in our churches and be prepared when He does. **1 Corinthians 14** makes it clear that God expects the church to take steps in being prepared for Him to work.

Dancing

Dancing is strongly encouraged in worship according to the Scriptures. **Psalms 149:3**, "*Let them praise His name in the dance...*" **Psalms 150:4** "*Praise Him with the timbrel and dance...*" In **2nd Samuel 6**, we see David rejoicing and dancing before the Lord. David was a man after God's own heart (**1st Samuel 13:14**).

Tongues

Paul discusses tongues in **1 Corinthians 12-14**. Tongues is listed among several gifts given by the Holy Spirit. Tongues may not be singled out as a gift no longer existing today unless one rejects all the gifts listed in this passage. Tongues is still in existence today as "*that which is perfect*" has not come for we still "*know in part,*" nor do we currently see "*face to face.*" Paul, also makes it clear, that tongues must be interpreted otherwise the person speaking in tongues should be told to keep silent and speak to himself and God (**14:28**).

Falling

This is an interesting issue as it is not specifically addressed in the Bible. The question must then be asked what is happening here, is it consistent with the Scripture, and does it make sense. People here are simply being touched by the preacher and falling on the ground. This occurrence can be classified as a physical response to a spiritual encounter with God. So is there anywhere in Scripture that physical responses to a spiritual encounter with God evidences itself? The answer is absolutely. The most obvious example of this is Paul in **Acts 9** as he is blinded after encountering Christ. Another example is Moses meeting with God in **Exodus 34 (esp vs 29-35)** and having a shining face. **Acts 2:1-4** also points out such an occurrence. Other possible (though not concrete) examples of this are God putting Adam to sleep in **Genesis 1 and 2**, God wrestling with Jacob and injuring his hip (**Genesis 32:22-32**). Does this make sense? Absolutely. Let's take a look at emotions and physical responses. Crying can come in the form of tears of joy or of sorrow (one physical response for two emotions). Yawning can come from boredom or tiredness. Fainting can come as a result of sickness, of sheer joy, or of sheer shock. I believe that it is safe to say that we have a limited number of physical responses for a near multitude of emotions. It would make sense then that something like falling (which may be akin to fainting) is simply a physical manifestation of what God is doing. Could it be faked? Sure. Could it be real? Sure. An encounter with God is typically not going to result in a totally new physical manifestation other than those He created us with. So does it make sense? Sure.