

Seek Discernment

There was a time when any supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit in the traditional churches were unheard of. That has changed and we praise the Lord. But the very change has brought dangers. The supernatural, prophecies, even healings are not always signs of the Kingdom of God. The early church alive with the Holy Spirit discovered this. “The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders,” wrote St Paul. 1 Thes. 2:9

Jesus said to the disciples to “watch out.” He says it to us, also. “Watch out!” “Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then, I will tell them plainly, I never knew you.” Matt 7: 22. So there can be a counterfeit and not only by Satan but also what the bible calls “the flesh”. That means it is human, not from God. Sometimes, there is a mix, the Holy Spirit at work but also “the flesh”.

It is dangerous when we are taken in by “signs and wonders” and we don’t stop to ask where they are coming from. The word, although we may find it hard to apply to ourselves, is gullible for that is what we are when we naively accept. Sometimes there is a warning voice within, saying in effect there is something wrong here and we take no notice. The warning voice is the Holy Spirit speaking to us.

The first step is to cease seeing miracles, healings and prophecies as infallible signs of a work of God. They may be but they may not. Seek discernment; listen to the warning voice of the Holy Spirit. If grace, love, forgiveness and holiness are absent then however spectacular the miracles or the prophecies they are not from the Lord. The fruits of the Holy Spirit cannot be counterfeited but the gifts can be.

Look for holiness, it is unmistakable, then rejoice when within that context there are miracles that the Lord gifts to us.



Watch out!
Things are not
always what they
appear to be.