

Cults & Counterfeits — Charismatics

Cults & Counterfeits — Charismatics (Baptism of Fire)

Matthew 3:11-12 NASB

"As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.** [12] His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

The Baptism here in Matthew 3:11 most likely refers to two events

(1) the coming hellfire where the wheat **sheep** will be separated from the chaff **goats** and will perish in everlasting fire and (2) the coming Day of Pentecost where the apostles would be baptized by the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:1- 4.

Cults & Counterfeits — Charismatics (Baptism of the Spirit)

The Baptism of the Spirit refers to two unique occasions

(1) the Baptism into Union with Christ Jesus as referenced in Romans 6:

Romans 6:3-7 NASB

Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? [4] Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. [5] For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, [6] knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; [7] for he who has died is freed from sin.

(2) The Baptism into the body of Christ as outlined in 1 Corinthians 12:12-13:

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 NASB

For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. [13] For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Cults & Counterfeits — Charismatics (Cascade Argument)

The Cascade Argument can be summarized thus:

- 1) There are no apostles of Christ on earth today.
- 2) Because there are no apostles of Christ, there are no prophets.
- 3) Because there are no prophets, there are no tonguespeakers.
- 4) In view of 1-3, there are no miracle workers on earth today.

1. There are No Apostles of Christ on Earth Today

A) To be an Apostle of Christ was itself a gift to the church, and the foremost of the gifts. 1 Corinthians 12:28-31 Ephesians 4:8-11 – Christ gave gifts to men, among them apostles.

B) The term "apostles of Christ" is to be distinguished from missionaries, aka "apostles of the churches," which is a different office. Only "apostles of Christ" are no longer among us.

C) To be an apostle of Christ, there were three distinguishing marks:

- i) Directly appointed by Christ (Mark 3, Luke 6, Acts 1:2, Acts 10:41, Galatians 1:1). That's why the lot was used.

ii) Physical eyewitnesses of the Resurrected Jesus (Acts 1:22, Acts 10:39, 1 Corinthians 9:1)

iii) They are able to confirm their apostolate by doing miracles (2 Corinthians 12:12).

D) The apostles of Christ spoke authoritatively for Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 14:37).

E) There are five reasons we know from Scripture that the Apostolate ceased:

i) Ephesians 2:20 The church is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, which alludes to Revelation 21:14. The analogy implies that the apostles and prophets were confined to the foundational period of church history.

ii) 1 Corinthians 15:8 Paul "last of all" was the last one to see the risen Christ. And since being a physical eyewitness to the risen Christ is one of the marks of an apostle, Paul is the last apostle.

iii) 1 Corinthians 12:31 and 14:1 indicate that Christians cannot seek the gift of Apostle of Christ – the greatest gift they could seek was prophecy, even though apostleship was identified as a gift.

iv) Galatians 2:7-9 Paul received the right hand of fellowship from the 12 apostles, but no one can today.

v) Ephesians 2:20 This passage describes the form of the New Testament as "apostles and prophets." If there were apostles and prophets today, the canon would be open, as those apostles/prophets continued to speak authoritatively. But Charismatics (nearly all) recognize that the canon is closed, therefore they ought to recognize that the apostolate is also closed.

F. Apostolic Gift is Linked to Impartation of Other Gifts (Acts 8) This suggests the cessation of the miraculous gifts.

2. There are No Prophets Today

A) The cessation of the apostolate creates the presumption or at least possibility of cessation of other gifts.

B) NT Prophets like the Apostles were foundational to the New Testament church. (Ephesians 2:20)

C) Definition of Prophet in Deuteronomy 13 & 18 was never rescinded, and this requires infallibility.

D) Just as the OT's authority is summarized as "the prophetic word" (2 Peter 1:19-21) and its form is also described in about a dozen NT references to "the law and the prophets" or "Moses and the prophets", so also the NT's canon is summarized in Ephesians 2:20 as "apostles and prophets" (the prophets in question are NT prophets as seen in Ephesians 3:5; 4:11 and 1 Corinthians 12:28).

3. There are No Tongue-Speakers Today because Tongues was a form of prophecy.

A) Acts 2 tongue speaking is explained by reference to Joel 2, where it is described as prophecy.

B) 1 Corinthians 14:5 asserts the equivalence of the two gifts, if tongues is interpreted.

C) In both tongues and prophecy, the speaker is uttering mysteries, which refers to prophetic revelation (1 Corinthians 13:2, Revelation 1:3, 1:20, and 10:7).

4. There are No Miracle-Workers Today There may be miracles today, but there is a difference between miracles and miracle workers

Website Reference: <https://www.aomin.org/aoblog/2013/11/11/waldrons-cascade-argument/>

Cults & Counterfeits — Charismatics (Eye of the Needle)

Question: "What did Jesus mean when He said it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to get into heaven?"

Answer: There are several different schools of thought on what Jesus was referring to in saying it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to gain eternal life (Matthew 19:24; Mark 10:25; Luke 18:25). The Persians expressed the concept of the impossible by saying it would be easier to put an elephant through the eye of a

needle. The camel was a Jewish adaptation (the largest animal in Israel was a camel). Some theorize that the needle Jesus was speaking of was the Needle Gate, supposedly a low and narrow after-hours entrance found in the wall surrounding Jerusalem. It was purposely small for security reasons, and a camel could only go through it by stripping off any saddles or packs and crawling through on its knees. The problem with this theory is there is no evidence such a gate ever existed. Beyond that, what sane camel driver would go through such contortions when larger gates were easily accessible? Others claim that the word translated "camel" (Greek: kamelos) should actually be "cable" (Greek: kamilos). Then the verse would read that it is easier for a cable (or rope) to go through the eye of a needle. To believe this, however, brings up more problems than it solves, namely casting doubt on the inerrancy and inspiration of Scripture. The most likely explanation is that Jesus was using hyperbole, a figure of speech that exaggerates for emphasis. Jesus used this technique at other times, referring to a "plank" in one's eye (Matthew 7:3-5) and swallowing a camel (Matthew 23:24). Jesus' message is clear—it is impossible for anyone to be saved on his own merits. Since wealth was seen as proof of God's approval, it was commonly taught by the rabbis that rich people were blessed by God and were, therefore, the most likely candidates for heaven. Jesus destroyed that notion, and along with it, the idea that anyone can earn eternal life. The disciples had the appropriate response to this startling statement. They were utterly amazed and asked, "Who then can be saved?" in the next verse. If the wealthy among them, which included the super-spiritual Pharisees and scribes, were unworthy of heaven, what hope was there for a poor man? Jesus' answer is the basis of the gospel: "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God" (Matthew 19:26). Men are saved through God's gifts of grace, mercy, and faith (Ephesians 2:8-9). Nothing we do earns salvation for us. It is the poor in spirit who inherit the kingdom of God (Matthew 5:3), those who recognize their spiritual poverty and their utter inability to do anything to justify themselves to a holy God. The rich man so often is blind to his spiritual poverty because he is proud of his accomplishments and has contented himself with his wealth. He is as likely to humble himself before God as a camel is to crawl through the eye of a needle.

Website Reference: <https://www.gotquestions.org/camel-eye-needle.html>

Cults & Counterfeits — Charismatics (Financially Poor)

Ecclesiastes 5:10,13-15 NASB

He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income. This too is vanity. [13] There is a grievous evil which I have seen under the sun: riches being hoarded by their owner to his hurt. [14] When those riches were lost through a bad investment and he had fathered a son, then there was nothing to support him. [15] As he had come naked from his mother's womb, so will he return as he came. He will take nothing from the fruit of his labor that he can carry in his hand.

Matthew 10:9-10 NASB

Do not acquire gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts, [10] or a bag for your journey, or even two coats, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker is worthy of his support.

Mark 4:19 NASB

but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

Mark 10:25 NASB

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

Luke 12:15 NASB

Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

Luke 12:20-21 NASB

But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' [21] So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Luke 12:33-34 NASB "Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys. [34] For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Luke 16:10-13 NASB

"He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. [11] Therefore if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you? [12] And if you have not been faithful in the use of that which is another's, who will give you that

which is your own? [13] No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

Luke 18:18-23 NASB

A ruler questioned Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" [19] And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone. [20] You know the commandments, 'DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.'" [21] And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." [22] When Jesus heard this, He said to him, "One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." [23] But when he had heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich.

John 2:15-16 NASB

And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables; [16] and to those who were selling the doves He said, "Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a place of business."

Acts 8:20-22 NASB

But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! [21] You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. [22] Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you."

1 Corinthians 4:11-13 NASB

To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless; [12] and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure; [13] when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, even until now.

1 Timothy 3:3 NASB

not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money.

1 Timothy 6:8-10 NASB

If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. [9] But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. [10] For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

2 Timothy 3:2 NASB

For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

Hebrews 13:5 NASB

Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"

James 2:5 NASB

Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

Revelation 2:9 NASB

'I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. God may gift you with wealth but if that wealth becomes all you strive for in life, it is money that you love and not God.'

Cults & Counterfeits — Charismatics (NAR)

"The New Apostolic Reformation is an extraordinary work of God that began at the close of the twentieth century and continues on. It is, to a significant extent, changing the shape of the Protestant world."

— Ted Haggard, The Life-Giving Church, 2001, 14.

"Our theological bedrock is what has been known as Dominion Theology. This means that our divine mandate is to do whatever is necessary, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to retake the dominion of God's creation which Adam forfeited to Satan in the Garden of Eden. It is nothing less than seeing God's kingdom coming and His will being done here on earth as it is in heaven."

— C. Peter Wagner, letter, May 31, 2007.

"We need a true jubilee of love and mercy to sweep our land.... join a great multi-ethnic, multi-denominational, multi-generational assembly as we strike a match for awakening in our day."

— The Call Website advertising Azusa Now 2016.

"Now there's still real differences, no doubt about that. But the most important thing is if you love Jesus, we're on the same team... The unity that I think we would see realistically is not a structural unity but a unity of mission."

— Rick Warren, Interview by Catholic News Service.

"In the words of one of the greatest theologians of the twentieth century, Jesuit philosopher of religion/dogmatist Karl Rahner, 'The Christian of tomorrow will be a mystic, one who has experienced something, or he will be nothing.'

— Leonard Sweet, Quantum Spirituality.

"You haven't fully preached the Gospel of Christ if you haven't done it with miracles, signs, and wonders... In my ministry, I teach my disciples, 'Power first, then the Word. Go in and prophesy first, or demonstrate the power of God first in some way.' "

— Todd Bentley.

"This commissioning represents a powerful spiritual transaction taking place in the invisible world. With this in mind, I take the apostolic authority that God has given me and I decree to Todd Bentley, your power will increase, your authority will increase, your favor will increase, your influence will increase, your revelation will increase."

— Peter Wagner, CBN report 2008.

"I believe that the government of the church is finally coming into place and that is the, the scripture teaches in Eph. 2 that the foundation of the church is apostles and prophets."

— Peter Wagner, CBN interview Jan.3, 2000.

"The second apostolic age began in the year 2001" "What's important is that you're the people of God out there, you're representing the kingdom of God, and you know this, but nothing has happened because the government of the church has not come into place."

— C. Peter Wagner, Arise Prophetic Conference Gateway Church San Jose, CA 10/10/2004.

"It is not new, it is not apostolic, and it is not a reformation."

— John MacArthur, on the New Apostolic Reformation.

"Jesus set aside His divinity, choosing instead to live as a man completely dependent on God."

— Bill Johnson, Face to Face with God, 108.

"[Jesus] laid His divinity aside as He sought to fulfill the assignment given to Him by the Father."

— Bill Johnson, When Heaven Meets Earth, Ch.7.

"While Jesus is eternally God, He emptied Himself of His divine powers and became a man (see Phil. 2:7). It's vital to note that He did all His miracles as a man, not as God. If He did them as God, I would still be impressed. But because He did them as a man yielded to God, I am now unsatisfied with my life, being compelled to follow the example He has given us. Jesus is the only model for us to follow."

— Bill Johnson, Charisma Magazine.

"You can actually have the Word so strongly inside of your heart that you never have to slip, people are like well that's false, that's not true, well they're wrong, I live with me."

— Todd White, <https://youtu.be/jnSvOrqb7N8>