

General Topics :: EXPERIENCE - and the Rise of Emotionalism**EXPERIENCE - and the Rise of Emotionalism - posted by a-servant, on: 2017/8/7 8:02**

by William (Bill) Davis

"I would like to begin by giving some background information concerning my roots in Pentecostalism. I believe it is important for anyone reading this to understand that I am not someone new to the Pentecostal or Charismatic movement. My roots go down deep into Pentecostalism. I was a third generation Pentecostal. My maternal grandparents were "old time" Pentecostals and my grandfather was a Pentecostal preacher of the old style. As a matter of fact, I was a Pentecostal before there was anyone known as a "charismatic."

"I was in Pentecostalism over 50 years of my life. As a boy I can remember the old camp-meeting days when we worshiped under a tin roof and sawdust on a dirt floor. My family's roots were originally in the Congregational Holiness denomination - a group that splintered off from the Pentecostal Holiness. I grew up in Jacksonville, Florida, a fairly large city, where you could always find a variety of Pentecostal churches to attend. While attending the Arlington Church of God at the age of twenty, I believed I was being "called" into the ministry and so I started preaching. The following year I was married. In time, my wife and I eventually ended up in the Assemblies of God where I was a licensed preacher for 27 years."

PENTECOSTALISM PLACES A PRIMARY IMPORTANCE ON EXPERIENCE

"The Bible has a secondary place with Pentecostals as compared to experience. This does not mean they do not claim to love and honor the Word of God. They do. However, they constantly show by their actions that experience is far more important than what Scripture says.

Pentecostalism is all about feeling good. Charismatics speak about celebrating where worship is concerned. They all want an emotional high when they come together for worship. They believe these positive emotions are an indicator of the presence of God and that presence takes priority over what is written.

Listen to one of the leaders in the Assemblies of God. George O. Wood writes: "As Pentecostals, we intuitively approach the biblical text in a manner different from most of our evangelical brothers and yes, sisters. We factor in the element of experience as a lens through which we look at Scripture.

The problem with this is that it leads to subjectivism. When experience is your highest priority, truth becomes subjective, Scripture is ignored."

"Pentecostals wrongly believe that their precedent for emotionalism was established on the day of Pentecost. They believe the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost was more about an emotional experience than anything else. They stumble over the simple truth that the apostles spoke foreign languages by the operation of the Holy Spirit in order to communicate the wonderful truth of God (Acts 2:11). The context of Acts chapter two never reveals that the Holy Spirit came as an emotional experience as we see Pentecostals encouraging today. Emotionalism was not the purpose of the Spirit's coming. There is nothing bizarre taking place in Acts two or any other place in the New Testament. The Holy Spirit did not come to excite anyone. He did not come to stimulate anyone. He did not come to cause anyone to flail, thrash or whirl about uncontrollably. The Spirit came sovereignly, filled the apostles and they spoke in languages they had not learned."

"During my 50 plus years as a Pentecostal, I had been involved in countless Pentecostal and charismatic influences. It would be safe to say that I have been in hundreds of various meetings or gatherings in one form or another. I attended several meetings involving the "Prophetic Movement." In one conference we were taught how to prophesy to people. They call it being "activated." My wife and I made two trips to Toronto for "Catch The Fire" conferences. This is where the famed "Toronto Blessing" took place."

"After all the claims of healings, salvations and miracles, no one was any different. After the scores of people who attended and our building being packed night after night, our attendance was less and our finances depleted. By this time, my wife and I felt depleted ourselves. We had put our hearts and souls into these efforts because we believed it to be God-

proved; and who doesn't want to experience the same power and miracles we read about in the New Testament? I can't tell you how many hours we spent in prayer or the number of meals we fasted, all because we wanted nothing more than God. But after all of this, it wasn't God that we saw, it was man. From Toronto, to Brownsville, to Cottage Hill, and many more places I could name, there were no miracles, no power, no gifts, no healings, nothing but the theatrical antics and delusions of men. What was claimed for the great power of God was nothing more than musical hype and psychologically induced emotionalism. "

The Rise of Emotionalism

By Jerry Wragg

"Evangelicalism's descent into spiritual lethargy and sensuality over the past forty years has been noted by almost every student of the church and culture. The naked result from years of entrenched pragmatism is a superficial, narcissistic Christianity that exalts emotional experience over just about every other consideration. Emotionalism plagues our corporate praise, our counseling, our preaching, and our approach to spiritual growth."

"Truth is utterly objective. It comes from God—from outside of us—and is revealed to us by His special grace. As its subjects, we are called to respond to its inherent objectivity, clarity, and authority. It is neither legitimate nor wise to debate with God or to filter His revelation through our own subjective judgments. And it is exceedingly dangerous to pursue and measure a relationship with God by means of sense and experience. The word of God alone grants us everything pertaining to life and godliness (2 Pet 1:3). When we entrust ourselves wholly to divine truth we are never on unstable ground. In fact, humble faith—not feelings—is how the believer walks in the power of the Spirit and grows strong against temptation (Galatians 5:16)."

By Brian Schwertley

"It is ironic that Charismatics, who consider themselves experts on the Holy Spirit, completely misunderstand the purpose of the Holy Spirit's ministry. Does the Bible teach that the Holy Spirit came so that we could have a wonderful, subjective experience? So that we could have wonderful religious sensations? So that we could feel electric current in our bodies? So that we could have an exciting, mind-blowing experience? So that our worship services would make people go, "Wow, how thrilling"? Does the Bible teach that the Holy Spirit came so that people would focus on the Holy Spirit? So that people would hang banners with representations of doves in their churches and have seminars on Spirit-baptism, etc.? No, not at all. Listen carefully to what Jesus Christ says about the Spirit's ministry: "When He, the Spirit of truth, has come...He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you" (Jn. 16:13-14). The Holy Spirit came to point men to Christ and to glorify Christ. "

Re: EXPERIENCE - and the Rise of Emotionalism - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2017/8/7 11:29

a-Sevant,

Thanks for posting this article. Am wondering - is this article detailing your experience or is it of another? We have limited interaction with Pentecostals but those that do are left shaking their heads with the lack of holiness as demonstrated by them.

In my experience as a counselor at a CPC the most difficult client I would see was one who was raised in the Pentecostal tradition. They were defiant to an extreme - no matter what you said they would contradict it; they were bitter. Clients who were raised in the Baptist or Catholic or whatever never demonstrated this kind of behaviors. Often wondered why. Maybe you would have an insight to this?

Sandra

Re: EXPERIENCE - and the Rise of Emotionalism, on: 2017/8/7 12:43

This is a caricatural view of Pentecostals. And of course, there is the co-mingling of pentecostal and charismatic. The equivalent would be for me to say that all Baptists are dead emotionally when it comes to their faith and that they only have head knowledge and approach the Scriptures with the deadness of a pharisee. It would be silly for me to say that even if in my own experience it were true, but then my own experience is just that, and of course is limited.

The good pentecostals I have met are glorious saints who first and foremost love the word and the experience they have has nothing to do with "feeling good."

Dont get me wrong, I reject almost entirely, the charismatic movement for everything that was written and more. But long before the charismatic movement, the Pentecostals had their enemies within Christendom who hated them for the mere fact that they had any experience at all.

If you have never "experienced," the Lord my advice would be to check your spirit and see what spirit ye are of.

Life in the presence of God should be known to us in conscious experience. It is a life to be enjoyed every moment of every day. -A. W. Tozer

How utterly foreign that is to the spirit of modern orthodoxy. How foreign to the bland assurances that because we can quote the text of Scripture we must have the experience. This strange textulism that assumes that because we can quote chapter and verse we possess the content and experience is a grave hindrance to spiritual progress. I think it is one of the deadliest, most chilling breezes that ever blew across the church of God - Tozer

The deadliest breeze and the greatest danger to the Body of Christ comes from the man or woman who has no experience at all other than the knowledge that lies within their heads.....bro Frank

Re: - posted by drifter (), on: 2017/8/7 18:44

Amen Frank. "A man with an experience is never at the mercy of a man with an argument." (I forget who said that, but I think it was Ravenhill.)

It is my personal opinion (and experience) that when God touches you, He touches the whole man, emotions included. I don't know where I'd be if it wasn't for the manifest presence of Jesus.

Re: EXPERIENCE - and the Rise of Emotionalism - posted by rufnrust (), on: 2017/8/7 20:16

Sounds like some disappointment here in this post, which we all have had some I am sure.

Could not agree more that the Holy Spirit glorifies, and points to Jesus continually! Amen!

When Jesus says 'if the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed..' I 'think' we believe that we are body, soul, and spirit. So every part of us is made free in Jesus. I am not a professional but I think traditionally the soul is thought to be the 'emotional' part of our being.

Being made free to love, God and man, free to be who God created me to be in Him, to praise Him day and night, to walk in the unspeakable joy of His Presence.

Is somebody saying we can do all this and not consider it an experience!? Life changing! Experience the metamorphosis and not be emotional! Are you serious! Go from caterpillar to butterfly and yawn! If we ask for bread he will not give us a stone... etc

The Kingdom of God is Righteousness peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. This is an experience of deepest proportions.

Thanks

Rusty

Re: - posted by a-servant, on: 2017/8/7 21:04

Sandra, no I'm not William (Bill) Davis or any of the two other authors, although my personal experiences in charismatic church services made me come to the same conclusion.

"They were defiant to an extreme" - maybe if you are more specific with details that would help to understand their reasons, otherwise I can only guess: a) "they had their priorities wrong" b) "they were of a different spirit"

Personal experiences are important, but just because I have seen many true and lasting healings of people I don't run around and claim that I have a healings ministry, it was Jesus that answered prayers, has nothing to do with me, except faith that accompanied the prayers.

Demons got cast out of people, real ones that identified themselves by name, and visibly tortured people, but that has nothing to do with any spirituality of people that do it, they had to go out in and by the name of Jesus Christ. He is the Lord they 'know' by name.

Charismatic worship services where music is used in the wrong way I despise very strongly, because I was an 'euphoria expert' long before I became a Christian, now I'm only interested in the truth regardless how it makes me feel. Sensing is very much abused.

Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: John 16:7

So real comfort is in the truth, not necessarily in pleasure of the senses. But it takes experience and age to differentiate the two.

George

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2017/8/7 21:47

George: Hey brother. It is a blessing to know your name. Thank you for sharing.

I have been in charismatic services where I was pretty eager to find a door out. I have seen people "pitching quarters" or the anointing, passing around mirrors to see who got gold teeth, and several other very odd and flaky practices. I have seen believers who were into themselves and who were totally unteachable. I have seen this equally in pentecostal and non-pentecostal people. The problem is not pentecost. The problem is fleshliness.

I do not believe that the fact that people get odd and even very OFF sometimes means that there is a problem with the Holy Spirit or with Pentecost. I have also experienced the very real power of God with many gifts of the Spirit in operation. I have seen people's lives be totally transformed through the experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It's the old baby and bathwater cliché.

I will say this pretty emphatically, because I believe it wholeheartedly and because I have experienced it for myself. God never intended for us to know about Him, He intended for us to encounter Him in a very real and very personal way. This is an experience. We do not learn spiritual truth, we experience spiritual truth.

Let me give you an example. A few months back I was having a pretty rough few days. I was really being fought against spiritually. I determined that it could not persist and decided to get alone with God until all was well again. I began to pray and the Lord directed me to the first three chapters of Ephesians and He instructed me to, "Read this in order to see how much I love you." So I did. Within 30 minutes, the Holy Spirit had so quickened this truth to my spirit that I was jum

ping up and down and dancing around in my kitchen, tears streaming down my face, yelling, "He loves me, He loves me, He loves me." It was a new level of revelation of His love for me and it has radically transformed my walk with God ever since. The truth of the word of God experienced as revelation in my spirit. I really don't think you can divorce the two. To do so is to try to have an intellectual relationship with God. That would be like trying to have an intellectual relationship with your wife...and we could try to see how that one would work out.

You are right. Demons go, sicknesses are healed, etc., through the NAME of Jesus. I totally agree. I don't think any pentecostal would disagree with that. You are also right in saying that the fact that God uses a person to do this is not a measure of that person's spirituality. I believe we get into trouble when we are so insecure in who we are in Christ that we need some kind of miracle or manifestation to make us feel spiritual. Those who know their God will do exploits.

I would also add this. We get into trouble when we compare ourselves among ourselves and try put our perceived spirituality on a scale somewhere. One should never think of himself as more spiritual than another.

Re: - posted by dfella (), on: 2017/8/7 21:50

A quote from Bill Davis,
As Pentecostals, we intuitively approach the biblical text in a manner different from most of our evangelical brothers and yes, sisters. We factor in the element of experience as a lens through which we look at Scripture.

The problem with this is that it leads to subjectivism. When experience is your highest priority, truth becomes subjective, Scripture is ignored."

The bible uses the word Charisma at least 18 times in the NT which is translated "Gift". Strong's definition of Charisma says this:

char'-is-mah

From G5483; a (divine) gratuity, that is, deliverance (from danger or passion); (specifically) a (spiritual) endowment, that is, (subjectively) religious qualification, or (objectively) miraculous faculty: - (free) gift.

Thayer Definition:

- 1) a favour with which one receives without any merit of his own
- 2) the gift of divine grace
- 3) the gift of faith, knowledge, holiness, virtue
- 4) the economy of divine grace, by which the pardon of sin and eternal salvation is appointed to sinners in consideration of the merits of Christ laid hold of by faith
- 5) grace or gifts denoting extraordinary powers, distinguishing certain Christians and enabling them to serve the church of Christ, the reception of which is due to the power of divine grace operating on their souls by the Holy Spirit

A Charismatic is a spiritual person endowed with a gift from God. It is not based on human emotion but on the power of God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These individuals who are incessant on attacking the Holy Spirit, His function, His representation of the Godhead; His promise to lead, guide, and empower the saints because of those individuals the bible, Jesus Christ, and the apostles warned us about is very sad.

It is unfortunate that those of us who have partaken of such a glorious promise which is not based on fleshly emotionalism must continually defend God for it is He who promised the indwelling Holy Spirit who would cause His people to worship him in Spirit and truth. They would also preach the word of God with God Himself confirming that preaching with spiritual signs following.

When I was saved I went from being a Catholic to a Pentecostal church. I experienced supernatural manifestations of the spirit by faithful individuals yet I never received the Baptism until 9 years later. During that time the Lord protected me from numerous individuals to neither follow nor give heed to their words or teaching.

These men included both so called Charismatics as well as those men who continued down a path of attacking the Holy Spirit. While I could not explain why I was kept from following these men, once I received the Baptism it all became clear

Most false Charismatics preach another Jesus and one who paid for our sins in hell and not on the cross, this is a common theme with these men and women. On the flip side you have those who are so focused on the false that they cannot see, discern, or receive the real.

These men claim that spirit-filled people base their faith on emotions which is the farthest thing from the truth for a true Charismatic. For those who feel a need to constantly apologize for being a Charismatic will have to remove several key and important verses from the Bible.

Are you ready to apologize on God's behalf for Romans 6:23, For the wages of sin is death but the gift (Charisma) of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 1:11 For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift (Charisma), to the end ye may be established;

1 Corinthians 1:6-7 (6) Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: (7) So that ye come behind in no gift (Charisma); waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

1 Timothy 4:14 Neglect not the gift (Charisma) that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

1 Peter 4:10 As every man hath received the gift (Charisma), even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

As a Charismatic believer I readily admit there are truly false deceptive behaviors going on in Charismania but I also admit that there are those outside of this experience who are just as false and deceptive because they are unable to discern as the scriptures clearly teach and they willingly deny the gift (Charisma) of the Bible.

This is a very serious subject because the Bible says that the wheat and tares will grow together until the harvest. While I will not forsake the Holy Spirit within me or apologize on God's behalf for the gift of the Holy Spirit, I know that there are those outside of this experience who are the wheat of God.

But those who teach others that the Holy Spirit is something evil or wicked that is a whole other story.

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2017/8/7 22:14

Quote:
----- The problem with this is that it leads to subjectivism. When experience is your highest priority, truth becomes subjective, Scripture is ignored."

I would say that this is not a Pentecostal problem. Emotional response is emotional response, regardless of the emotion being felt. The author might well say that the problem with Charismatics is that they allow emotional experience to override Scripture, and in doing so they become subjective and get off. But the emotion of fear will cause us to do the same thing. It does not matter what side of the road you are on, for you are stuck in a ditch either way.

Put another way. I have seen many who, out of fear of getting carried away, will only approach Scripture based upon their own intellect and power of reason. Their statement is, "We base our doctrine upon sound study of truth, not upon experience." But in doing this they must ignore Scripture and base their walk on their own subjective logic.

I have seen many who, getting carried away with euphoria, approach the spiritual walk almost entirely ignoring Scripture for the sake of some supernatural word from the Lord. Their statement is, "God told me this and I have a word straight from Him." To do this, they ignore Scripture and base their walk on their subjective emotions.

Are these not one and the same? Both lead to error. No, actually I should say both are error.

Another verse that came to mind. How many times did Paul say, "I say this through the gift that is given to me.", and then proceed to give counsel. The gift (Charisma) is the Holy Spirit empowerment that accompanied Paul's apostolic calling. According to Eph. 4, every man has the same charisma, according to the measure of Christ, that is to accompany his ministry.

Re: - posted by a-servant, on: 2017/8/8 6:05

"We do not learn spiritual truth, we experience spiritual truth."

...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. John 6:63

some say that's not possible, since His words are printed on paper, so how can they be spirit, so they look for something that is "more real" and turn their attention and focus to "gifts" instead to the Giver of gifts.

yes we don't learn His word, we eat it, it's an experience, hahaha, intellectual understanding is of the flesh, just like a constant occupation with gifts, I cannot understand how people are so unsure about themselves to constantly want to discuss "tongues" for example, as if that would explain anything one way or the other.

On the other side of the spectrum are these people that claim "Paul is actually shorter in reality than I thought" after their alleged visit to heaven. That is when experience has blinded some to the objective truth of scripture. How can they be saved?

Youtube wasn't invented at time of Azusa, but Toronto is fully covered, so we can evaluate if William (Bill) Davis has a point or not. I saw many of those videos and discovered something much more troublesome than he did: By that time the satanists had moved into the movement, and the Holy Spirit can show you that if you listen carefully. They not only not speak in tongues, they place satan worship within their tongues.

It's great to defend 'charisma' in order to concentrate on the true and associate with that by name, and try to forget the fake. However, all the warnings in the Bible are there for a reason, and that is that even the 'elect' are so tempted to be seduced by the fake (if it were possible) that there is some 'anti Christ' at the end of times that wants our worship and basically forces us to reveal our true heart condition and tree we belong to.

And that puzzle is solved who that will be after you can piece it all together. The global religion of the anti-Christ is freemasonry, they control the Jesuits and Rome. Above them sits British Israelism that never went away, just is more subtle today than at the days of Parham. Their "Masonic Christ" will appear to test our faith, our heart our spiritual condition and all of our understanding.

Re: - posted by narrowpath, on: 2017/8/8 7:05

Eli,
spiritual gifts are from God, and not from Satan, though he may counterfeit them.

Satan has a 2 folded strategy towards the church: draw some away into hype and deter the others because of the abuse they see.

I think it is an affront to God if we do not put to use what he gives us, like with anything else God gives us.

There is no added safety in forbidding the gifts, just because they may be abused.

The Corinthian church had the gifts in abundance, though they were carnally minded.

Many cessationists will point out that their gifts were an expression of their carnality - far from that!

They were carnal despite their abundance of gifts.

They accuse us of of extra-biblical revelation, though they themselves use extra-biblical revelation trying to prove that they had ceased.

Paul did not advise them to drop the gifts and rather focus on doctrine. He put things in the right order of priority and sandwiched the grand theme of love within explanations of the gifts and their use.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2017/8/8 8:38

I just heard a baptist preacher (of all people) point out last Sunday that in scripture when people were filled with the HS an action always followed. It was never about the experience itself which is where many of the current charismatic streams run off the rails.

Then I was listening to Zac P's "through the Bible" series and he made the point that the purpose behind being baptized with the HS is to further fulfill the blessing given to Abraham: "And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

In other words, we are filled with the HS in order to bless others. We should be a blessing to every person, every family we interact with.

John 7:38-39 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them. By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Re: - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2017/8/8 10:33

Todd,

He didn't say they spoke with tongues and prophesied, did he? :)

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2017/8/8 10:55

Haha Actually he did!

But he pretty much stopped right there.

Re: - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2017/8/8 11:02

LOL!

Understandable...

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2017/8/8 14:41

Quote:
----- I just heard a baptist preacher (of all people) point out last Sunday that in scripture when people were filled with the HS an action always followed. It was never about the experience itself which is where many of the current charismatic streams run off the rails.

Amen to this!!! It was never about receiving and the personal experience. It is about having His fullness, about partaking of the divine nature, being filled with His power for the purpose of carrying out His will through His ability. If there is no t action, then we have received nothing.

Re: , on: 2017/8/8 15:24

George just a question, brother. It is rather of a personal nature. But are you married? Or have you ever loved somebody that has been very special to you?

Bro Blaine

Re: - posted by a-servant, on: 2017/8/10 6:18

The Holy Spirit or Emotionalism?

by: 'unknown'

So many times we hear Christians say "I felt the Holy Spirit today" or "I was over come by the Holy Spirit and it felt" But how do they know and how do we know it was in fact the person of the Trinity- The Holy Spirit- and not our own human feeling and emotions (or a different spirit for that matter)?

First we must ask: Can we feel things apart from the Holy Spirit that is caused by ourselves or another spiritual force? The obvious answer yes.

So knowing we can the next logical question is: How do we know what is causing our feelings? Can we idolize and worship our own feelings and not God?

Yes. Like addicts, they seek to satisfy a lacking sensation that makes them feel good, content, satisfied, or any other feeling they desire and feel they need. So the addicted desire and seek things that bring about that feeling they want. The feeling becomes their end result, ends to the means, and final hope. Thus their feeling are their god and they will use god to get it.

Then what about the feelings people get when they sing out loud, dance around, and allow themselves to get caught up in the loud sounds and flashing lights of worship? The exhilarating rush of excitement and happiness when they hear their favorite worship song. The feeling of being around your friends and family in an exciting worship frenzy. Can that also be what people seek, desire, idolize, and worship and not God? Yes.

Prepare your self for this statement: The Holy Spirit is not a "spiritual high". He also does not cause a "spiritual high" that alleviates when church is over.

He is a person, not a feeling. So if that feeling leaves you when you leave church, its not Him. If that feeling leaves when the preacher opens the word of God and you don't get that same feeling when the word of God is read, its not Him. He forever changes your life and your world around you- in subtle ways and in major ways. Either way, he is in you, empowering you, and changing you- never leaving you.

If you are a believer, you are filled by the Holy Spirit. He lives in you, empowers you with faith every day and continually draws your heart to God. If you are truly worshiping God, it is in the spirit and does not leave you because you are spiritually alive and spiritually with The Holy Spirit as He enables you to worship God.

This is NOT to say He wont make you feel certain ways or certain things. He convicts people of sin. That is not a very good feeling. When we are convicted of something wrong- a bad feeling follows. He also produces true Joy in us as well. And joy can result in a very good feeling. He gives us peace, which can result in a feeling of contentment.

But the same idea of Faith before Works applies here too. Just as Faith WILL produce good Works; The Holy Spirit can make you have a range of feelings and emotions. Just as Works DO NOT cause saving Faith; Our feelings and emotions do not then prove the Holy Spirit is the cause. Always keep in mind that our flesh and our sins effect our feelings and emotions too. Just because we feel something doesn't mean by default it was from God. Just because we are in church singing, does mean by default our feelings are from God either. Even while we are singing, our flesh is still sinful.

Questions to ask yourself:

Do you only "feel the Holy Spirit" during certain kinds of music (your favorite songs)?
Do you "feel the Holy Spirit" in the teaching of His Word as much as a certain kind of music?
Does the "feel of the spirit" leave when church is over?
Are other churches you have attended not "spirit filled" like the one you like?

How you answer these questions points you to whether or not your feelings are the focus of your worship or The Holy Spirit causes your feelings. If you only "feel the spirit" during your favorite songs and not when His word is being preached and you feel like the spirit is not present when you leave church or other churches are not spirit filled, then deep down inside, you are most likely focused on you and your feelings and not God. Thus not worshiping God in spirit.

We are commanded to worship God in SPIRIT AND TRUTH (John 4:24). And God is not limited to church walls or musical interments or not. We can praise him everywhere in every way he finds pleasing. We can worship God anywhere in anyway he finds pleasing to His glory.

Lasting Joy, spiritual maturity, spiritual satisfaction, and spiritual contentment are a result from worshiping God in spirit and truth. We are worshiping in spirit and delight in his truths of who he is, what he has done, and what he is doing for us and all the world; The Holy Spirit fills us with joy, matures our souls, satisfies our hearts, and makes us content with in Him.

Re: - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2017/8/10 8:55

Hi George,

This is the first post I can mostly agree with :)

Certainly the work of the Holy Spirit is much deeper and long lasting than mere human emotions, although His presence and power within us can effect our emotions, just as He should and does effect or influence our will and intellect.

That is the place we need to be, where our "soul" (will, intellect, emotions) are surrendered to Him and guided by Him, then we will be well able to discern between His true working and that which is purely natural, or worse, demonic.

Blessings,

Re: EXPERIENCE - and the Rise of Emotionalism - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2017/8/10 19:58

As with all things in the Christian life there is a needed balance. It is dangerous to walk totally by feelings, yet every believer should enjoy their salvation fully. Salvation is by faith and faith must precede feeling. Our faith is insufficient if we somehow don't get a feeling with it. In my personal experience of first coming to Christ, when faith was done I felt and knew that I was washed in the blood, what a joy! How can a man be born again and not be conscious of it? How can a walk in the Spirit not effect the whole man, emotions included? We rely on the Word of God and believe His promises. We also have additional evidence in our hearts because the Spirit and the Word agree.

In Christ,

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2017/8/10 22:19

I realize that there is a difference between emotionalism and emotion. But something I think we might consider here. God created us with emotions. Those emotions were corrupted during the fall. But just as Jesus paid the price for us to be released from the consequences of our sin and just as He is renewing our minds through His word, He can also begin to change our emotions so that they come more into line with the way they were created. Scripturally, God has emotions. So there is nothing inherently bad about emotions. I have had experiences with God that cause very strong emotional response in me. I have preached under anointing when emotion was very strong. But I believe in these cases the response of emotion was to the moving of His Spirit in my life. And I am thankful for those emotions. However, I get off when I begin to be led about by emotion.

Re: - posted by narrowpath, on: 2017/8/11 2:41

Very well said, Travis.