

The Theological Error the “Third Wave Movement”

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“Key teachings of the Third Wave Movement include what is known as “power evangelism.” The basic premise of power evangelism is that the preaching of the gospel must be accompanied with signs and wonders in order for people to respond in faith. Proponents of this view have an unbalanced focus on miracles, speaking in tongues, healing and prophecy. They miss the fact that it is the gospel message itself that is the power of God to salvation (Romans 1). Third Wave proponents essentially deny the sufficiency of Scripture and believe that God is communicating directly through modern-day prophets and apostles. Therefore, they believe that God is giving new revelation today. This error undermines the sufficiency and authority of Scripture. The words of these “new apostles and prophets” become more important than the clear teaching of Scripture. As with all Pentecostal/Charismatic movements, personal experience plays a greater role for determining “truth” than does sound doctrine.

The Third Wave is yet another movement that is based on people’s experience rather than on sound doctrine. Proponents of the Third Wave Movement believe it will bring forth end-time apostles and prophets to do greater miracles than were performed by Old Testament prophets or New Testament apostles. These “new apostles and prophets” are said to be greater than any prophet or apostle that had preceded them. This teaching has resulted in many false prophets coming out of Third Wave churches.

Since its beginning in the 1980s, the Third Wave Movement has sparked a large number of counterfeit revivals. As the movement evolved, unbiblical practices such as “laughing in the spirit” continued to get more and more bizarre. In recent years some Third Wave leaders and churches have begun to separate themselves from some of the more aberrant practices and are trying to move back to more traditional Charismatic practices. This Third Wave of Pentecostalism has left in its wake a history of false teachings and destructive practices. Many have been led astray.”