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The Kingdom Triangle versus The Great Train Wreck

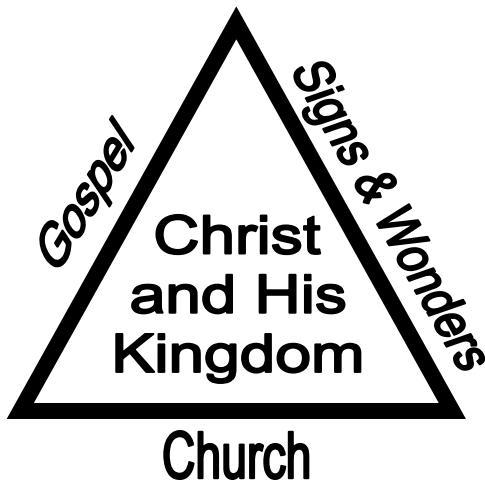
By James Rutz

(Jim Rutz, based in Colorado Springs, is a veteran observer and commentator of the various moves of God's Spirit. One of his books is called "MegaShift")

For 1,911 years, the Church had been right where the Apostle John left us: "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." (Rev. 22:20) We have continued to echo that through the centuries: "Thy Kingdom come." "Lord, bring revival." "Lord, please bring revival." And, "Lord, why on earth haven't you brought revival yet?"

The Kingdom Triangle Is Rapidly Falling Into Place

Unquestionably, the heart of the Gospel is the cross, the resurrection, and the Messiah himself. But Jesus spent His last 40 days on Earth talking about the Kingdom. More than ever before, I can see the main elements of that Kingdom coming together in a fuller glory than I ever imagined. The three most prominent dimensions of it that I'm seeing today are the Gospel ... Signs & Wonders ... and the Church, specifically, the House Church. With some qualms about squeezing divine entities into neat sketches, I'll present it like this:



In a bit more detail: The Gospel is, at its broadest, the whole counsel of God ... presented in the most moving possible ways ... and backed up by the most persuasive apologetics of our time. The second leg of the triangle is the millions of signs, wonders, and healings that are accompanying the Gospel today, plus the *reports* of these miracles, passed along in as much detail as possible. The third leg is the Biblical, organic House Church in its infinite variety around the world, freely responding to the leading of the indwelling Spirit of God and freely expressing the giftings of each believer. Roughly speaking, the Gospel appeals to the heart and mind. Signs appeal to the intellect, and wonders to the emotions. And then the Church comes along with massive, loving support and encouragement for the body and soul. Together, these form an incredibly powerful triad arrangement of the Kingdom.

The Current Explosion of Miracles

I haven't room here to list the hundreds of great advances in the first and third sides of the Kingdom Triangle (Gospel and Church), but their impact is becoming stupendous. Revival is spreading like a brush fire in thousands of places, and the lively core of the Church is doubling about every nine years.

But I must comment here on the second side, the miraculous, the side that causes so much joy . . . and annoyance! In poorer countries, most miracles are healings and deliverances. That's not hard to understand. In wealthier countries, there are fewer deliverances, and healings are merely the most common among an ever-widening array of signs and wonders, such as:

1. **Gold dust.** If you run in charismatic or pentecostal circles, you've almost certainly seen, or know someone who has seen, tiny flakes of real gold appearing on people's clothing or skin during times of intense worship or adoration. The dust may cover the immediate area, or in one case, an entire house, including items in the refrigerator! Most often, it's pure gold. Sometimes it's something even fancier: a tiny

microdroplet of oil coated with platinum, which in turn is encased in gold (plainly impossible for humans to manufacture). I have seen beautiful samples of this collected at the home of *FridayFax2* editor Wolfgang Simson.

2. **Sapphire dust.** Much more rare, but one instance was videotaped. You can see it on Patricia King's website via www.youtube.com, then type in "Sapphire Dust and Oil from Heaven."

3. **Oil.** Healing/Anointing oil appears on people's hands. Not rare any more.

4. **Gold fillings in teeth.** Now somewhat common.

5. **Gemstones.** In September, 2007, I sat in the front row of a meeting in Sedona, Arizona, next to Sid Roth (sidroth.org), one of the great TV chroniclers of the miraculous in our time. Next to him was Jeff Jansen, an evangelist who is in the middle of the signs & wonders phenomenon. At one point Jeff reached into his briefcase and handed Sid a 50-carat red gemstone (non-natural *and* non-synthetic!) received from an angel. Sid, who had seen such things before, looked at it for a moment, and then handed it to me. I just stared at it for five minutes, bedazzled. It was on fire! About five dozen substantial gems have been collected, but small flecks of gem dust are uncountable. See more at

www.globalfireministries.com/video/EP07_03_GemsUpdateHIGH.aspx, clicking on the fourth video, or http://www.globalfireministries.com/video/3_30_Weblist_GreatGraceHIGH.aspx, clicking on the second video.

6. **Manna.** Later in the same meeting, Jeff passed me a tiny tray with a some pieces of manna that had appeared at a previous time. Tastes just like regular flatbread. You can see manna that appears in a man's Bible (always at Rev. 2:17, "To him that overcomes, I will give to eat of the hidden manna...") in the film *Finger of God*. This new 105-minute documentary is the best-ever introduction to miracles, and it was loudly commanded by an angel to be made! You can order the DVD at www.fingerofgodfilm.com.

7. **Resurrections.** In my book *Megashift* I document recent resurrections (*not* NDEs) in 52 countries, complete with names, addresses, e-mails, faxes, etc. See www.empowermentpress.org or www.megashift.org.

8. **Feathers.** Falling feathers have been experienced in probably scores of meetings. I have a few in my desk.

9. **Angels.** Most people who claim to talk to angels need serious professional help. Nevertheless, *genuine* visitations of late may exceed one hundred thousand. Appearances by the Lord Jesus himself are far less numerous, except that He has appeared in night visions to over a million Muslims.

10. **Instant travel.** A casual survey of Christian print media suggests at least a few dozen instances where a trip was shortened by one to several hours. In every case, the "jump ahead" was seamless and unconscious.

11. **Money.** Several hundred people have reported the appearance of \$10 to \$40,000 in their pockets or bank accounts, but reportage credibility is a problem.

12. **Weight loss.** In the past ten years, there have been perhaps 500-1,000 people who have lost 10-65 pounds in one meeting (all my own estimates).

13. **Hair.** At least one or two dozen men and women have had full restoration of lost hair in a meeting, and sometimes the hair comes back in brown or black instead of silver or gray.

14. **Round trips to Heaven.** Hundreds of Christians have been there and back, and sometimes have unknowable information to prove it. (See *A Message from God*, by Retha and Aldo McPherson, www.sidroth.org.)

15. **Healings.** "Ordinary" healing miracles are extremely common, but now we are seeing over-the-top wonders like restoration of lost limbs or eyes, reversal of Down Syndrome, or melding of two heads into one, all performed through ordinary folks.

16. **Aromas.** A sweet scent coming suddenly from nowhere is still rare, but becoming less so. I was at a recent David Herzog conference where the entire room was instantly flooded with a strong aroma of . . . *garlic!* We're still working on the interpretation.

17. **Doppelgangers** (doubles). A mere handful of incidents have been reported. But I have, for instance, a CD with about 15 folks from Cincinnati telling about their conversations with Jeff Jansen on an evening when he was still at home with his family in Nashville.

18. **Other mind-benders.** I'm still in the process of checking out reports that even go beyond those mentioned above: people walking through walls or on water, gemstones multiplying themselves, stolen property being instantly sent back thousands of miles to the original owner, etc.

J.P. Moreland, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Biola University, was recently invited to speak to a group of 70 professors of homiletics (those who teach preaching) on the place of miracles in today's churches. Though many of the audience taught in cessationist seminaries, their response was uniformly enthusiastic. It's a new day. (Dr. Moreland is the author of *Kingdom Triangle*, published by Zondervan.)

If you have better estimates or some miracle category to add to this list, please forward them to shelley@empowermentpress.org.

Worst-Case Scenario: The Great Train Wreck

I did my time. I spent 50 years in the pews, mostly among good cessationist folk, Christians who have been taught to think that apostles, prophets, and miracles were things of the ancient past. I love them dearly and don't want to see them hurt. But they are unprepared for what is rapidly coming toward them.

Christ has said that He is going to cause a great division in His church. Soon. For example, a microcosm of what *may* happen in the future *did* happen at 2,000-member Bethel Church in Redding, California. When the then-Baptist church approached the now-famous Bill Johnson to become their pastor, he warned them that he wanted to see a great increase in miracles there. They all said that was good. But when miracles actually began by the hundreds, half the church left! (Only a pastor can understand that pain.) The shock, and the racket, of unprogrammable, hands-on healing times was too much for those who in the end prized order above life. Even if such renewal/revival comes to just one church in your town, there will be thousands of faithful pew-sitters in the area who will suddenly find out about the miracles and see first-hand that they're real. *When the accumulated weight of hundreds of known miracles becomes too much to deny anymore, they will conclude, "I've been lied to," and they may either leave their cessationist churches or drop out in disgust altogether.* This is what I'm referring to as **"The Great Train Wreck."** It will hit tens of millions of good people like a Wabash Cannonball, and we must start working now to minimize its effect.

The Three Halves of Today's Church

This will be the biggest oversimplification of the century, but bear with me. We have three main streams of the Church in the West:

1. **Evangelicals.** They rightfully pride themselves on preaching the historical gospel and following the Bible as God's inspired Word.
2. **Charismatics and Pentecostals.** They also honor the Bible as God's foundational Word but seek to make supernatural phenomena central to their work.
3. **House churches, cell churches, and other relational ministries.** Most are charismatic, and almost all have recovered from the rebellious dropout phase of 15-20 years ago.

All three must now learn to transcend their own distinctive identities and become full participants in the three greatly expanded dimensions of the Kingdom triangle. They must not only learn to absorb the best of the other two legs of the triangle, but the people, the rank and file people in each tradition, must upgrade their knowledge and use of *their own* distinctives. In other words:

1. Ordinary Evangelicals must gear up to understand and wisely use today's impressive new tools for the presentation of the Gospel, including up-to-date apologetics resources. But they must also:
 - A. Recognize the reality of supernatural ministry and learn how to join it and be transformed by it.
 - B. Begin to be intensely apostolic, sending out their most eager members in twos and threes as unpaid missionaries charged with planting house church networks.
2. Ordinary Charismatics and Pentecostals must devote themselves to truly recovering the greatest epochs of the last century, not just going through the motions of past miracle movements. But they must also:
 - A. Accept individual responsibility to learn to be razor-sharp students of the Word and focused witnesses, not just fans of the Bible.
 - B. Get out of their pews and ministry lines and start to partake of the joys of face-to-face, steel-on-steel, mutual ministry in relational groups.
3. House church people must begin to be more missional and generous, to shoulder wider responsibilities in the Kingdom than just being a helpful brother or sister, and to be living examples of overcomers. But they must also:
 - A. Devote themselves to a more systematic study of the Word and become familiar with some of the best of apologetics resources.
 - B. Use that new knowledge as part of a new lifestyle of 24/7 outreach in which they will learn to move comfortably in supernatural authority.

Where will this lead?

Within a few golden years, the Church will mainly be two complementary halves: facility-based churches with programs and pastors . . . and relationally based gatherings in homes, offices, and schools. *In the great days to come, these two will find thousands of fresh ways to feed into each other under the orchestration of the Holy Spirit!*

We've had enough of man-made limits as laymen. Let us step out in faith in God's full power.

We've had enough of divisions, vertical and horizontal. Let us *truly* integrate the Kingdom.

We've had enough of preparing. Let us each take our special role in that awesome Kingdom of priests.

Heaven is waiting for us, impatiently.