

THE “PLACEBO” EFFECT

Most of the slain in the spirit experiences seen today in charismatic churches are nothing more than the results of the “placebo effect”. The effect of the power of suggestion and the soul. The following is an example of what this placebo effect is.

In a controlled test done a few years back in a university class, the 30 participants were all told that they would receive a drug for their specific medical and emotional problems. It would be a specific drug for each of their individual situations. They were then told that exactly 50% of them would receive a placebo (sugar pill), instead. No one knew who got what. They took the prescribed medicine for 7 days and then were asked to evaluate what happened to them. 80% of the students claimed it had a dramatic affect on their life and wanted to continue taking whatever this new drug was that they were receiving. Most claimed miraculous healing in their body and mind. To sum it up, they were told that they all received the same medicine. They were all completely blown away and wanted to know what the miracle medicine was. To their dismay, they were all informed that they all got the same medicine, they all received a “placebo”, a sugar pill.

This example is given to establish that the “soul power” of suggestion is very powerful. If someone suggests things to you and you really believe that the suggested thing is happening, you will often go along with whatever the person suggests to you. In this manner if someone is convinced that Adonai has touched them, they will do whatever is suggested or promoted; very similar to a kind of mass hypnosis. Therefore when they come up to the front of the church to receive prayer and to be touched by the fraudulent healer, they go along unconsciously with his suggestions or his “pushing over” backwards, so as to fit in and feel special. It’s simply a type of hypnosis, or power of suggestion, or power of the soul through positive thinking, that these charlatans use. These individuals are good at **entertaining** people, but the problem is, most people think it’s for real, a spiritual experience, simply because it appears supernatural. Those who have watched great magicians like Penn and Teller, or Doug Hennig, understand how entertaining these types of things can be. Again it is a kind of “stroke the ego” situation these healers take advantage of. In most cases these people are “ripe” to be suckered in, they have tried everything and have convinced themselves, temporarily, that they are feeling the power of God. These entertainers are called “pitchman”, or “barkers” in the business world, and are often seen at exhibitions, community fairs etc., selling knives that cut threw anything, miracle vacuum cleaners, vegetable processors etc., through manipulation of the masses. In the secular world we can take it or leave it, but when these sorcerers do this in the name of God in a supposed sanctuary, we have a problem.

In almost all cases of studies done, these same people who said they were healed and were slain backwards, (when contacted a few days later), have had no change whatsoever. We know of course that Ha Shem can and does heal, but in most of these situations it is fraudulent, and has been proven so regularly. I would love to list the most famous of these false prophets but I don’t feel it is appropriate for me to do so here.
(Mar 24/16) Jerry Hennig