



WHAT'S IN A NAME ?

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Labels



1. Brand identity

- Content
- Objective (if known)
- Value-laden
- Exclusive

2. Quality

- Characteristics
- Subjective (if experienced)
- Opinion-driven
- Overlapping

● **DEFINING** (noun)



● **DESCRIBING** (adjective)

*Lip-smacking, thirst-quenching,
fun-loving, great-tasting ...*

???

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How about you?

- **"Describe yourself in 10 words or less"**

- *Definition or Description?*



- "Middle-class, middle-aged, white Englishman..."
- "Husband, father, son, brother, friend..."
- "Consultant, businessman, musician..."
- "Hard-working, complex, focused, troubled..."

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What about us?

- **"What kind of church do you belong to?"**

- *Definition or Description?*



- "Catholic, Evangelical, Baptist, Pentecostal, Methodist ..."
- "Friendly, informal, praying, lively ..."

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The problem with labels

1. Mixing **definition** with **description**

- **Definition** = either / or
- **Description** = both / and

2. Does **reality** match **label** ?



An example (31 October 2004)



Temple and Book



- ◆ You (singular) need to take the Book from its hiding place
- ◆ We (together) need to restore the Book and use it
- ◆ Why ?? (read Psalm 119 & 2 Tim 3:16-17)
 - ◆ Guidance
 - ◆ Doctrine
 - ◆ Discipline

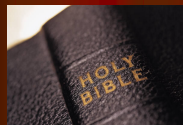
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Definition or Description ?

- "Temple and Book"
 - The Bible must be central in the lives of both individual Christians and the corporate church
 - **Exclusive or Overlapping?**

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Word and Spirit



Exclusive or **Overlapping** ?
either/or or **both/and** ?

"I read my Bible – I don't need weird prophecies or visions"

"I listen to the Holy Spirit – I don't need that old book"

All Word and no Spirit ⇨ **DRY UP**

All Spirit and no Word ⇨ **BLOW UP**

Both Word and Spirit ⇨ **GROW UP**

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We need the Bible because...

- Old Testament :
 - Who is God, what is his plan, what does he want?
 - Who am I, where did I come from, why am I here?
- New Testament :
 - Who is Jesus, why did he come, where is he now?
 - Who is the Holy Spirit, what is church, what should I believe, how should we act, what happens next?
- **Understanding, truth, guidance, examples**

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We need the Spirit because...

- John 14/15/16 : God with us, teach, remind us, point to Jesus, convict of sin, guide into truth...
- Romans 8 : How to live, how to think, how to pray
- 1Cor 12, Rom 12, 1Pet 4 : Gifts for ministry
- Galatians 5 : Fruit for character
- **Revelation, inspiration, anointing, power**

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How about you/us?

- "I'm a man of the Book"
- "I'm a man of the Spirit"
- **either/or** or **both/and** ?
- Smith Wigglesworth (1859-1947)



A prophecy? (Part 1)

Two Distinct Moves

During the next few decades there will be **two distinct moves** of the Holy Spirit across the church in Great Britain.

The **first move** will affect every church that is open to receive it and will be characterised by a **restoration of the baptism and gifts of the Holy Spirit**.

The **second move** of the Holy Spirit will result in **people leaving historic churches and planting new churches**.

In duration of each of these moves, the people who are involved will say "This is the great revival." But the Lord says "No, neither is the great revival but both are steps towards it."

A prophecy? (Part 2)

Word and Spirit

When the new church phase is on wane, there will be evidenced in the churches something that has not been seen before: **a coming together of those with an emphasis on the Word and those with an emphasis on the Spirit.**

When the Word and the Spirit come together, there will be the biggest movement of the Holy Spirit that the nation, and indeed the world, has ever seen.

It will mark the beginning of a revival that will eclipse anything that has ever been witnessed within these shores, even the Wesleyan and the Welsh revivals of former years. The outpouring of God's Spirit will flow over from the UK to the mainland of Europe, and from there will begin a missionary move to the ends of the earth.

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How to respond?

- Personally & corporately :
 - Not **either/or** but **both/and**
 - Word and Spirit in equal measure
 - ***Bible-based and Spirit-led***
- **Labels or reality?**



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