

“I FEEL THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD”

By Keith Greer

While attending a Bible study some years ago, a friend gave me an invitation someone had left on his door. "**Bring the sick, and see God work a miracle.**" Las Vegas was going to have a week of "healing." Personally speaking, I've heard of these "faith healers", but never attended one of their services. So along with two of my friends, we made plans to attend Friday evening.

Sitting on a big vacant lot, was a huge blue and white tent. A long yellow banner was on the outside, "**BRING THE SICK, COME AND SEE THE LORD WORK A MIRACLE.**" Getting there early, I got to listen to the "gospel band", not much different than rock, which was in full swing. During the "warm-up" each member told the personal account of how they "**found the Lord.**" Quite moving, many clapped "amen", and shouted "Praise the Lord!" By now, everyone was getting into the music and the tent was filling up. There were probably one hundred and fifty people, with many being young people.

Suddenly, outside, a van pulled up. A crowd began to form around the three men who had been in the van. The band was clearing the stage; four microphones were set up for the "background singers." A small podium was set up, and the guitars plugged into the amplifiers. Soon, a man came to center stage. He was going to lead us in song. Words were printed on the overhead, and the band began to play.

Everyone was clapping and swaying to the music. One might say the place was jumping!

Another man came to the front and explained how the baskets were going to be passed for the "**offering.**" This was not for them, mind you, but that this "**vital ministry might be able to continue!**" A moving prayer was offered with singing in the background as they passed the baskets. If memory serves me right those baskets passed at least five times.

Finally, a man came forward to speak, nicely dressed in a suit, with an open Bible in his hand. What do you suppose he spoke about? Well, he used Ephesians 1:19, as his text, speaking on the "exceeding greatness of His power towards us who believe." Everyone was shouting Amen! Then he began to talk of the miracles that Jesus did which are recorded in the gospels. He summed it up by the reading of Mark 16:20. When men went preaching the gospel, "the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs." Christ had the power over sin, and He had it over sickness also! Then he got excited, "**I feel the presence of the Lord!! Don't you?**" Everyone was shouting Amen!

Men and women began to make their way to the front of the stage. He was calling for any who wanted to see the "power of God" work for them! People walked to the stage with walkers and all kinds of medical problems. He asked one woman if she had any "idols" with her. She gave him her rosary beads. He threw them off the stage and then her walker. Commanded her in the name of Jesus to walk, she took two or three steps; he said "do you feel the power in your legs?" "Yes!" He said, "**God's**

worked another miracle!” Everyone is shouting Amen! Later, I saw the woman going off the back of the stage with her walker and someone helping her.

Sadly, such is the case with all of these so-called “healers today – better known as “fake healers.” Miracles were done to confirm the word, and we have the confirmed word today. Apostles could only give this power and none are living today! Simple isn't it? ***