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"And He came by the Spirit into the temple." "He put forth the form of an hand and took me by a lock of mine head; and the Spirit lifted me up between the earth and heaven." "The Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip." "But Philip was found at Azotos." Ex. 15:20; 2 Sam. 6:14; Ps. 32:11; Rom. 8:13, 14; Luke 4:1; 2:27; Ezek. 8:3; Acts 8:40.

"If anything be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. For ye may all prophesy, one by one, that all may learn and all may be comforted." I will sing with the Spirit." "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and songs spiritual." David himself said by the Holy Spirit." "Preach the word." 1 Cor. 14:30; Col. 3:16.

The above and many other Scriptures describe varying degrees and states of being in the Spirit, in which the Holy Spirit takes control of body, and being and does in, by, or through us, in word, thought or act the will of God. This is prophetic afflatus or Divine control. These states are called by several names. We consider some of them.

Revelation is often mentioned in Scripture. It is the name of the last book of the Bible. It means to uncover, to make known, it is an illuminating operation of the Holy Spirit, by which Divine truth and mysteries are opened and made

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known, explained and conveyed to the inner conceptions of man. This is while he is to some degree under the power of the Spirit. Without this opening and illuminating light of Jesus Christ we must ever remain in darkness and be ignorant of the things of God. 2 Cor. 12:1; Gal. 1:16; Dan. 10:1.

Inspiration is another name for the inbreathing and out going of the Word and life of God through man. All Scripture is God-breathed, or God-inspired. "But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding." "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God." Job 32:8; 2 Tim. 3:16.

Trance is another state into which Scripture writers are described as being brought. Ecstasis is the Greek word for trance. From it we get our word, ecstasy. It is defined as being "A displacement of the mind from its ordinary state and self-possession." Paul and Peter both spoke of being in a trance. Ezekiel, Daniel and others of the prophets had this experience. Balaam tells his experience in these words.

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THE NATURE OF PROPHECY

Seeley D. Kinne

"Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said: he hath said, which heard the words of God and knew the knowledge of the most High, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open." Num. 24:15,16. Also the following quotations, "But when I saw, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake." "Now as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep on my face toward the ground." "I knew a man in Christ, whether in the body or out of the body I cannot tell; God knoweth; how that he was caught up into Paradise, and heard unutterable words which it is not allowable for man to speak." "And when I saw Him I fell at His feet as dead." Ezek. 1:28; Dan. 8:18; 2 Cor. 12:1-4; Rev. 1:17; Acts 10:10; 22:17.

Being in a trance, and other seemingly deeper states of being in the Spirit, seem to be principally of the nature of revelation. One may be only occasionally in these deep states of Divine pos-

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session and so entirely lifted above the earthly. And such a state may not be mentioned among the gifts of the Spirit, yet speaking by the Spirit is, and should be possible at any time in the will of the Spirit. And even the higher touches are too scarce among us. "Covet earnestly the best gifts."

Paul uses the expressions, "caught up" "caught away" The same Greek word is used in saying Philip was caught away, the saints were caught up and the manchild was caught up. The invitation given to John to come up higher also implies that he was caught up. Rapture, translation, ecstasy, trance, caught up, all have reference to the act of the Holy Spirit upon us, lifting us out of our natural state and frame of being, into a higher state, which will one day terminate in our bodily translation. Hallelujah!

There are various states described in Scripture as being in the Spirit such as being overshadowed, anointed, filled, moved, controlled, by the Spirit. In this state which is the Spirit of prophecy, the word of God comes forth, for lack of which the Church languishes.

The motions of God's Spirit transporting a man—that is God speaking by the mouth of man while he is under the prophetic afflatus, or in prophetic trans-

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port is prophecy. "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." The Greek word for "moved" has the signification, being carried along, borne along, transported, driven, as it is used in describing Paul's shipwreck. While in the shipwreck it is motion from one place to another, driven before the wind, in a prophetic sense, it is motion from the natural state, up into a spiritual state, carried up into and sustained in a spiritual condition.

This state into which one is carried by the Holy Spirit, for the speaking of the word of God through them is also defined in many Scriptures. These passages make it clear that prophecy is God speaking by man. Man talking about the things of God is not prophecy. It is not an utterance arising from the meditation or premeditations of man. It does not take its rise in the mind of man, but as it is described.

"The Holy Spirit by the mouth of David spake." "Those things which God before had showed by the mouth of all His prophets." "The restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." Acts 1:16; 3:18-21.

The simplest degree of this prophetic state of being in the Spirit, is when by the Divine touch the mind is turned away from self and surrounding to com-

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muning with God. The soul is reposing in the rest that comes by the touch of the Spirit, and the heart swayed by and drawn toward God. It is then that faith, perception, discernment, revelation and utterance by the Spirit come forth. While this state prevails with one, their activities are proposed and promoted by the motions of the Holy Spirit. It is then that the vocal organs are spoken through by the Spirit, bringing forth the words of God.

In this state the movings and activities of the natural man, the mind, heart and will, and all natural faculties cease for the time, their earthly activities and movings, and coming under control of the Holy Spirit, become channels of Divine speakings. Concerning such workings we have abundant Scriptures describing physical and other manifestations, in dancing, shouting, transportation, prostrations and vocal utterances in prayer, praise, wisdom, worship, singing, preaching, etc. We give but a few references.

"And all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances." "David danced before the Lord." "Shout for joy all ye that are upright in heart." "If ye by the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body." "As many as are led by the Spirit." Walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit." "Then was Jesus led by the Spirit into the wilderness."