

PENTECOSTALISM

- Christian revival or just the drift back to Rome?

Apart from Acts 2 and one or two isolated outbreaks in history, what we have today started in America in 1901.

It seemed to die out in 1911 but made a resurgence in the 60's under the banner of the Charismatic Movement.

**NOT MANY PEOPLE HAVE A
KNOWLEDGE OF THE ROOTS OF
MODERN DAY PENTECOSTALISM AND
ITS DARK PURPOSES.**

As with many popular movements, people don't want to delve too deeply especially if they're having a good time. Critics have brought forth the howls of 'negativism' and 'quenching of the spirit'.

WE'LL LOOK AT:

1. The founders of the 20th century movement - examining their doctrines & lives.
2. The real purposes of Pentecostalism in blurring denominational lines – enabling Rome to welcome back the “separated brethren”.

“Pentecostalism is no longer a separate denomination but AN EXPERIENCE that crosses all denominational boundary lines.”

“The drift toward Rome has become like that place in the river where the boatsman reaches the POINT OF NO RETURN as the water rushes on toward the falls.”

HISTORY OF 20TH CENTURY PENTECOSTALISM

The hallmark of the Reformation was for believers, with objective certainty, to focus on the work of Christ for us. The 20th century has seen the shift of the central focus of Christ's experience to the Christian's experience.

Luther said: **“WHOEVER DEPARTS FROM THIS ARTICLE OF JUSTIFICATION DOES NOT KNOW GOD AND IS AN IDOLATOR. FOR WHEN THIS ARTICLE HAS BEEN TAKEN AWAY, NOTHING REMAINS BUT ERROR, HYPOCRISY, GODLESSNESS, IDOLATRY, ALTHOUGH IT MAY SEEM TO BE THE HEIGHT OF TRUTH, WORSHIP OF GOD AND HOLINESS.”**

This is the error of Pentecostalism in that work of Christ is relegated to the 'back seat' and the believer can focus on 'higher things'. The focus is taken away from Christ's experience to their own - from the objective to the subjective.

John Wesley believed in justification by faith alone but his emphasis was sanctification. However Wesley's emphasis on sanctification was also the weakness of Methodism. Wesley developed the “second blessing” doctrine (also known as Methodist Perfectionism), but he himself was too humble and honest to confess anything but a strong sense of sin within himself.

Unfortunately many of his followers weren't as truthful. Out of this, the “holiness” movement of the Methodist Church sprang up in the mid 1800's. The hallmark of this movement was characterized by the emphasis on the 'victorious, Spirit filled life'. Today the cry is also to “Get out of Romans 7 and into Romans 8” - which is contrary to what the Reformers taught.

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In the 1890's the Methodist church took a stand against the 'holiness' movement and by 1900, 23 holiness denominations were founded. The logical outcome of this religious trend was the appearance of a 20th century 'holiness' movement started by Charles Parham in 1900. He urged his students to recapture the experience of Pentecost and Agnes Ozman, an unmarried 30 year old woman with a reputation for seeking the sensational and mystical, spoke in an 'unknown tongue' in 1901.

This started the new doctrine of "baptism with the spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues". W.J. Seymour, another Parham student, set up in Azusa St, with the same doctrine, until things got out of control.

Upon invitation, Parham came to check out events and found 'familiar spirit' occurrences, hypnotic influences and all kinds of spells and spasms. He promptly denounced the movement he had encouraged to start. Azusa St wound up in 1911 with Seymour also refuting the "new doctrine". Parham had a tragic life till his death in 1929. A viral brain infection accounting for mental, psychological and social disorders saw the Methodist Church reject his ordination. All the while he refused medical treatment saying that serious diseases were demonic. He denied the doctrine of eternal punishment. He was arrested for homosexual acts in Texas and although many continued to call him "father", he was tagged as a fallen prophet. Funds he raised for a trip to find the Holy Land 'Ark of the Covenant' mysteriously disappeared as a result of his claim of being robbed in New York.

OTHER FOUNDERS OF THE PENTECOSTAL MOVEMENT

A.A. ALLEN: *Claimed to turn \$1 notes into \$20 notes *Jumped bail after arrested for drunk driving *Defrocked by the Assemblies of God *Leg lengthening account captured on film later discarded by doctors as fraud *Exaggerated stories of 400 pound woman losing half her weight in one night after tent meeting *He died of liver poisoning due to acute alcoholism. **JOHN G LAKE:** *His 'anointed' bubble gum 'healed' those who had a chew *He anointed rocks, which 'healed' when touched. **JOHN DOWIE:** *Claimed to be the prophet Elijah. **MARIA WOODWORTH ETTER:** *Built a church named after herself *Practised trances *Passed on the gifts of the Spirit through her hands *Passed the 'mantle' onto Aimee-Semple McPherson. **AIMEE-SEMPLER McPHERSON:** *Faked her own kidnapping to carry out an adulterous affair *Had three husbands, the third left his wife and children to marry her. *The marriage was short lived as she had a nervous breakdown and her husband filed for divorce *She died from an overdose of sleeping pills *She passed the 'mantle' onto Kathryn Kuhlman. **KATHRYN KUHLMAN:** *Married a man who divorced his wife, so he could marry her *Had an audience with the Pope and 'felt a oneness' with him *Her 'anointing' received by Benny Hinn. **JACK COE:** *Picked people up out of wheel chairs. If they fell he said they didn't have enough faith. *Defrocked by the AOG in 1953. **SMITH WIGGLESWORTH:** *Punched corpses hoping to revive them *Punched cancer victims till they died hoping they'd come alive again *His daughter never healed from deafness *He suffered with gallstones and sciatica *He believed physical healing to be part of the Atonement and sickness came from the devil *The woman who "baptized Him in the spirit" was an invalid for the last 16 years of her life *His wife died of sickness - 6 years after he became a Pentecostal * His son died 2 years after his wife *He was against the use of all medicine. **LESTER SUMMERAL:** *Falsely prophesied he would see Jesus return before 1999. He has since died. *Exposed for fraud and misuse of funds. **WILLIAM BRANHAM:** *A.H. Pohl, a confidant of Branham, said all his healings & miracles were false. *Many supposedly healed died. Not one case of genuine healing was ever documented. *Branham believed God's Word consisted of the Zodiac, Egyptian pyramids and the Scriptures. *He thought he was Elijah come again *He believed Jesus was a created being *He believed hell was not eternal *He proclaimed himself the angel of Rev 3:14 and 10:7 *He denied the Trinity *Would show photos of himself with a halo *He claimed to have a personal angel who did the healing for him.

ALL OF THE FOUNDERS OF PENTECOSTALISM HAD NERVOUS BREAKDOWNS, WENT INSANE, BECAME DRUNKS OR DRUG ABUSERS OR TAUGHT THE WORST OF HERETICAL TEACHINGS.

BENNY HINN:

*Believed Jesus died two deaths (heresy) *Jesus went to hell and became one with Satan and took on his nature (heresy) *Jesus lost His deity for a time in hell (heresy) *Believes in three Gods - each being triune in them self (heresy) * Had the Holy Spirit not been with Jesus He would have sinned (heresy) *Jesus was man and not deity (heresy) *If the Holy Ghost had changed His mind, Jesus

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would have lain in the grave forever (heresy) *Hinn teaches “We are gods” and are “becoming God” (heresy) *Hinn believes “we are everything that He is and ever shall be.” (heresy) *Never go to God and say “if it be Your will.” (heresy) *Exposed for fraudulent practices and false teachings *Assisted in giving the Pope the “Prince of Peace” award *Sings the praises of the Pope and Roman Catholicism

WHAT DOES ROME THINK ABOUT ALL THIS? Louis Bouyer, recognized Roman Catholic author, says Pentecostalism “...recalls the best and most authentic elements of the Catholic tradition...a complete rediscovery of Catholicism ...will bring a reconciliation between Protestants and Roman Catholicism”.

With the Pentecostal revival he urges his fellow Catholics to prepare for the inevitable return of the “separated brethren”.

From 1900 to 1960, the growth of Pentecostalism took place outside of mainstream Protestantism. In 1960, it began to jump denominational boundaries - no longer being regarded as a separate denomination but an experience which crossed all faiths.

Benedictine monk, Edward O'Connor, says: “Pentecostal churches aren't typically Protestant in their beliefs, attitudes or practices ...they are not an incursion into Roman Catholicism ...the spiritual experience of those touched by the grace of the Holy Spirit in the Pentecostal movement is in profound harmony with the classical spiritual theology of Roman Catholicism. Through the baptism of the Holy Spirit, many people have been brought back to the sacrament of Penance ...others have re-discovered a place for devotion to Mary ...one of the most striking effects of the Holy Spirit's action has been to stir up devotion to the Real Presence in the Eucharist (Jesus actually being the wafer) “

THE ECUMENICAL PHASE OF PENTECOSTALISM Neo-Pentecostalism (The Charismatic Movement) In the 1970's has brought Protestant and Catholic churches together. Dr Van Dusen (Roman Catholic) says that this movement holds the hope of `healing the wound' of the 16th century.

This Protestant Catholic union is not based on fundamental Biblical doctrine but drowns in a sea of religious subjectivism with scarcely one extrinsic, objective thought in it. Dialogue between Pentecostal leaders and Rome focuses on the “in and in and in” which is a return to sentimental medieval mysticism.

This however is remarkably prophesied in Revelation 13, which clearly foretells of the restoration of the Whore of Babylon (Rome) to enslave the minds and consciences of men.

It is now considered blasphemous to speak against those who “have the Spirit”. This preoccupation with the internal experience is leading untold millions back to the religious philosophy of Rome. Martin Luther soundly unimpressed by `Spirit filled' leaders crying “The Spirit! The Spirit!”, responded by saying “I slap your spirit on the snout!”. He saw the great truth of justification was being opposed by a “spirit filled Pentecostal fervour”. We are now at a time when it is almost too late. The drift toward Rome has become like that place in the river where the boatsman reaches the point of no return as the water rushes on toward the falls.

This time the conflict has finished and the old denominational boundary lines have been rolled away. There is now a religious regrouping and on one side - the union of the Roman Catholics, the pseudo-Protestants and the Pentecostals. This grouping is described in Revelation 13 and appears to have the `conversion' of the world nearly accomplished.

On the other side there will be the movement of “by faith alone, by Christ alone, by grace alone, the Scriptures alone”.

WHICH SIDE WILL YOU BE ON?

By Harley Hitchcock.