

PENTECOSTALS AND CHARISMATICS

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Pentecostals and charismatics teach that not every believer has received the Holy Spirit and state that if you have not spoken in tongues you certainly have not received the Holy Spirit which they call the Baptism in/by/of the Holy Spirit.

That is a false doctrine.

Paul says in Romans 8.9, "If any man has not the Spirit, that man does not have Christ".

The gift of the Spirit, the receiving of the Spirit is given at the moment of conversion (Romans 5.5)

We are sealed with the Spirit the moment we accept Jesus Christ as Saviour (Ephesians 1. 13ff.) The seal is akin to the branding of cattle; it indicates ownership.

The charismatics talk of the second blessing. The first is salvation and the baptism in/by/of the Holy Spirit is the second and is subsequent to conversion usually evidenced by the speaking in tongues. Some teach the doctrine of waiting for the Spirit or tarry for the Spirit advocating prayer which will be answered by their speaking in tongues.

It is true that charismatics over emphasis the Holy Spirit and reduce Christ to a lower place and to be of lesser importance. The work of the Holy Spirit is to draw people to Christ.

Charismatics also teach that it is God's Will that all should be healed and that is an offence for a Christian to be ill. Within these movements there are faith healers who can perform healings including the raising of the dead. They have the same power and authority as Peter and Paul. Well, that is what they assert.

But Paul retained an infirmity, the thorn in his flesh; he seemed unable to heal Epaphroditus and left Trophimus ill at Miletum. There were no faith healers to cure Timothy of his stomach disorder, whereas the Lord Jesus healed all who came to Him and not just those who had faith. His healings were complete and perfect.

Many Pentecostals and charismatics teach that the Bible is not sufficient and is incomplete since they can speak in tongues and prophesy about matters not revealed in the Bible. The New Testament confirms that the faith has been delivered to the saints (Jude 3) and Revelation gives a stern warning not to add to the Word of God.

Ecumenicism is the right way forward to please God say the charismatics since the charismatic renewal has swept into other denominations including the Roman Catholic Church. Their doctrines disagree with the New Testament but it is asserted that doctrine is no longer important because Christians of all denominations have the same experience of 'spiritual renewal'.

And so this unity is not in doctrine or in faith or the teachings of Christ but in common Pentecostal experience. There is an over emphasis on I or me and not on the Lord Jesus.

True Christianity is based on New Testament doctrine and faith. Whatsoever is not of faith is sin. Real converts continued in the Apostles doctrine (Acts 2. 42). There was, and is, one faith, not many faiths or many denominations. This one faith has the correct doctrines.

Charismatics infiltrate churches seeking to influence them to embrace Pentecostal/charismatic doctrine. Not only are their doctrines wrong but they are interfering, causing division, confusion and break-ups both of churches and of families.

Therefore the Pentecostal and charismatic movements are dangerous. They elevate the speaking in tongues, visions, dreams, new prophecies that is to say extra-Biblical messages which the Bible strictly warns against

as we have seen. These false doctrines have unscriptural emphasis. It also encourages worldliness in the church and in the home.

It uses worldly methods such as entertainment, pop music, dance, acting and drama and disorder and certainly a lack of reverence. They also cancel the New Testament teaching on the role of women who have to be silent in churches and worship (1 Corinthians 14.34).

There is also the nonsense of being slain in the Spirit or 'coming under the power' in which leaders 'lay hands' on people causing them to swoon, faint, fall backwards to 'experience the power' perhaps remaining unconscious or semi conscious for a little while due to the employment of auto suggestion or hypnosis. If you are a woman to be slain the Spirit make sure you are wearing trousers!

In 2 Thessalonians 2 9-11 we read of lying wonders, powers and signs in the last days and the multiplication of heresy, that is to say false teaching.

As in pop concerts, Pentecostals and charismatics whip their congregations into frenzy which some say "binds Satan" and they speak of 'stomping out Satan' and 'chasing him out of the world'.

The speaking in tongues ceased with the completion of the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 13). Tongues were known languages not gibberish. It was a gift to spread the Gospel rapidly as on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) where the crowd marvelled and said, "Do we not hear them speak in our language, the language where we were born?"

The speaking in tongues is not unintelligible gibberish. Some say that speaking in tongues is a heavenly language and/or the language of angels and that only the Holy Spirit can understand what we say. Nonsense. Paul states that we are to speak with our own understanding.

In the days of the early church where foreigners attended a local church such as in Corinth and as they spoke a different language an interpreter had to be available to translate.

And not everyone spoke in tongues and so that also contradicts charismatic teaching.

See separate article on [Colin Urquhart](#)

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