

Why I Am Not A... Pentecostal/Charismatic

I. History

A. Charles Parham (1873-1929)

1. Born in Iowa, his family moved to Kansas in 1883.
2. Originally affiliated with the Methodists, started his own independent, holiness ministry in 1895.
3. Was influenced by other religious sects, including Frank Sandford.
4. In 1901, students in a Bible school he had started in Topeka, Kansas, held a prayer meeting in which Agnes Ozman spoke in tongues.
5. Was arrested in 1907 in San Antonio, Texas, on charges of homosexuality. This were later dropped.
6. Taught "initial evidence" (tongues), annihilationism, faith healing, British Israelism, and that God made white people on the eighth day.

B. William J. Seymour (1870-1922)

1. Born in Louisiana to former slaves, and was influenced by many holiness groups and leaders.
2. Spent six weeks in 1906 at Charles Parham's Bible school in Houston, Texas, before leaving for Los Angeles.
3. On April 9, 1906, one of his followers named Edward Lee spoke in tongues and Seymour followed a few days later.
4. Led the "Azusa Street Revival" from 1906-1909
5. Parham and Seymour fell out over tongues (*xenoglossy*, or real languages, vs. *glossolalia*, unknown languages), some ecstatic practices, and Seymour's egalitarian racial views.

C. More names to know

1. Leaders: Benny Hinn, Rex Humbard, Aimee Semple McPherson, Oral Roberts, Smith Wigglesworth, Jimmy Swaggert, Jack Hayford, and Pat Robertson.
2. Associated groups: Apostolic church, Assembly of God, Full Gospel, Hillsong Church, and many non-denominational groups.
3. Much of Pentecostalism has been rebranded as the Charismatic Movement.
4. There are many megachurches and televangelists that are associated with this movement but may be careful to openly identify.
 - a) These quotes are buried on Gateway Church's website. It is not on their statement of faith, but is contained in a document listed under "Position Papers"
 - b) "We believe the gift of tongues has a dual purpose as outlined in the Scriptures. When coupled with the gift of interpretation, it provides encouragement, comfort and exhortation to the congregation of believers. When used in prayer, it also provides personal edification for the believer and heavenly unction for prayer concerns that we lack words to adequately express (1 Corinthians 14). As a prayer force, it adds a new dimension to our partnership with God."
 - c) "The Holy Spirit brings the experience of the life of Jesus into our lives. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are divided into three categories (1 Corinthians 12:7-11):

- “• Vocal Gifts—tongues, prophecy and the interpretation of tongues
- “• Knowledge Gifts—word of knowledge, word of wisdom and the discerning of spirits
- “• Power Gifts—healing, faith and miracles “

d) <http://static.gatewaypeople.com/position-papers/Baptism%20in%20the%20Holy%20Spirit.pdf>

II. Some Issues

A. Salvation

1. While believing in Salvation by grace through faith, they will often “require” the a sign, especially tongues, and believe that salvation can be lost.
2. “In view of the biblical teaching that the security of the believer depends on a living relationship with Christ (John 15:6); in view of the Bible's call to a life of holiness (1 Peter 1:16; Hebrews 12:14); in view of the clear teaching that a man may have his part taken out of the Book of Life (Revelation 22:19); and in view of the fact that one who believes for a while can fall away (Luke 8:13); The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of the unconditional security position which holds that it is impossible for a person once saved to be lost.” - <https://ag.org/Beliefs/Topics-Index/The-Security-of-the-Believer>
3. John 10:28-30

B. Tongues

1. What they believe
 - a) Tongues are evidence of the Spirit's Baptism
 - b) Tongues are a “divine” language
2. What I believe
 - a) Biblical tongues are real, human languages (Acts 2:6-11)
 - b) The time of Biblical tongues is over (I Corinthians 13:8-10)
 - c) Biblical tongues could be interpreted (I Corinthians 14:27-28)
 - d) Biblical tongues should not lead to chaos or confusion (I Corinthians 14:33)
 - e) Not everyone had used this one gift (I Corinthians 12:28-30)
 - f) Biblical tongues were a sign to the Jews (Isaiah 28:11-12, I Corinthians 14:20-22)
Jews are present every time tongues are used in Acts (2:6-11; 10:46; 19:6)

C. Healing

1. “God did not intend that His children be sickly. He provided for the healing of our bodies in the atonement, just as surely as He provided for the salvation of our souls. This is fully documented by the Scriptures.” - <http://www.upcbay-point.com/Articles2/healing.html> (No longer available)
2. See James 5:14-16

D. Prophetic Knowledge

1. Sometimes called word of knowledge or word of wisdom
2. Basically, it is special, direct, Divine revelation
3. II Timothy 3:16-17