

WHAT IS WRONG WITH PENTECOSTALISM?

We could mention many things that are wrong with Pentecostalism. We could mention the divisiveness it seems to bring in a church. We could mention the circus-like atmosphere it creates in the worship services. But here we want to look at only four of the outstanding errors of this heresy of Pentecostalism.

First Pentecostalism seeks to apply to our day what belonged only to the apostles and their day. Pentecostals teach that those extraordinary gifts given by the Lord to the apostles and others in New Testament times are intended for Christians in every age.

The purpose of the charismatic gifts was to authenticate the Apostles and their message in the early days of Christianity due to the fact that the New Testament had not yet been completed. God gave the Apostles some special gifts by which the Apostles and their message were accredited or authenticated as being of God. In New Testament times God spoke by direct revelations to His Apostles and Prophets. Signs were needed to confirm that their messages were actually from God.

Paul calls these gifts the signs of an apostle. In 2 Corinthians 10-13 Paul is defending his authority as an apostle against some who evidently were claiming that he was not a true apostle. In 2 Corinthians 12:12 Paul says, "Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds." Paul is saying here, "I evidenced to you my call as an apostle by such signs as were sufficient to prove to you that I am a true

apostle from God." Paul says that these signs and miracles were proof that he and his message were from God, that they authenticated his ministry as an apostle.

Now that the Apostles have passed from the scene and the Gospel has been introduced to the world and the New Testament Canon has been completed, those special sign gifts have passed away. Hebrew 2:3-4 is a clear demonstration that these special gifts have passed away. "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed (past tense) unto us (readers) by them (the Apostles) that heard him; God also bearing them (the Apostles, not us, them) witness, both with signs and wonders, and with diverse miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost according to his will."

What's wrong with Pentecostalism? Secondly, Pentecostalism gives greater emphasis to the Holy Spirit than to the Lord Jesus Christ. The ultimate experience for Pentecostals is the baptism of the Holy Spirit and they speak much of being filled with the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit and of the blessings of the Spirit-filled life and they urge men to seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This emphasis is contrary to what the Bible teaches about the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

According to the Lord Jesus in John 16:13-14, the Holy Spirit doesn't seek to make men Spirit conscious. He makes them Christ conscious.

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Bible Baptist Church Bulletin

Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set (Prov. 22:28). Vol. 2, No. 23 29 November 2009

SHOULD A BAPTIST CHURCH EMBRACE PENTECOSTALISM?

By: Laurence A. Justice

Most of us were first shocked and then deeply saddened a few years ago when James Robinson, a Southern Baptist evangelist, identified himself as Pentecostal in doctrine. Many churches have been troubled by Pentecostalism in recent years. It is now a serious-problem which can no longer be avoided.

Right now there are churches in almost every country which call themselves Baptists on the sign out front who, nevertheless, are not Baptists, but in reality are Pentecostal churches. Such churches are dishonest because they call themselves Baptists when they are not Baptists and because they are stealing real estate and physical property for which Baptists over the years have laboured and paid.

Rather than making this an exposé of the churches that are involved in this error, I believe it would be more profitable for us to consider four questions concerning Pentecostalism. My prayer is that through considering these questions and the answers of God's Word to these questions the Lord will effectually deal with this matter as He sees fit.

WHAT IS PENTECOSTALISM?

Pentecostalism is the belief that the miraculous gifts or signs which the Lord gave to the Apostles and others in the early churches have not ceased, but are still available and are still being exercised by today's Christians. Pentecostalism claims that God still gives these miraculous gifts to men today. Lists of these gifts can be found in Mark 16:17-18 and 1 Corinthians 12:8-11.

Mark 16:17-18. "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they...

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Ministries

1. Bible Studies
2. Tract Drop
3. Door-Knocking
4. Personal Evangelism
5. Missions

Position

1. Independent
2. KJV 1611
3. Baptist
4. Old-Fashioned
5. Soulwinning
6. Premillennial
7. Non-Charismatic
8. Unaffiliated

Church Services

Sunday:

- 9:30 am — Sunday School
10:30 am — Worship Service
6:15 pm — Evening Service

Wednesday:

- 6:30 pm — Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

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CHURCH TIMES

Sunday:

- 9:30 am** — Sunday School
10:30 am — Worship Service
6:15 pm — Evening Service

Wednesday:

- 6:30 pm** — Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

Saturday:

- 8:00 am** — Door-Knocking & Tract Distribution

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

- This BBC Bulletin can be downloaded online on biblebaptist.net.au/bbcbulletin.html
- Bring-A-Plate day, Dec. 20, 2009 after Evening Service.
- Sunday & Wednesday services in Bible Baptist Church, Kalgoorlie.
- Wisdom for Bro. Robert's leading the Friday's Bible Study (6:30pm) for PNG folks in Kalgoorlie.

CHURCH BULLETIN

For those who have prayer requests, Christian articles, poems, or announcements for inclusion in the next issue of the Church Bulletin, please ring or email Mrs. Ethel Macale.

Deadline: Friday, 5:00 pm.
 Phone: (08) 9022 8323
 Email: ethel@macale.org

- Need for church car.
- Pastor Eugene Macale's ministries' financial needs: Bible Baptist Mission (Liloan, Southern Leyte, Philippines).
- Dondoy (Pastor Macale's brother) from alcoholism.
- Edna, Pastor Eugene Macale's sister-in-law, for complete healing of her stage-4 cancer.
- Kylie Mell's (Chris' wife) healing from multiple sclerosis.
- Financial needs of Bible Baptist Church, Talisay, Cebu under Pastor Gemmo Suberano.
- Complete healing of Bro. Jerry Penie's illness.
- New Christians for baptism.
- Needs of Pastor Sherwin Ramos & his family — Missionary to Paraguay.
- Travelling mercies to PNG for the Javapros, Gordan, and Donna.
- The Ngutliks Australian Residence application.
- A man of God to replace Pastor R. Macale for Bible Baptist Church, Kalgoorlie.
- Pastor R. Macale's new mission work in Perth.
- House in Perth for Pastor R. Macale's family.

Websites worth visiting:

<http://www.biblebaptist.net.au>
<http://www.oldkjv.org>
<http://www.macale.org>
<http://www.av1611.info>
<http://www.biblebaptist.ph>
<http://www.mbbc.com.au>

Should A Baptist... *Continued from Page 1*

...cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they shall drink any deadly thing; it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

1 Corinthians 12:8-11. "For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit, to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues; But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit dividing to every man severally as he will."

The Greek word which our English Bible translates as gifts is the word charismata. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12:4, "Now there are diversities of gifts (Greek - charismata), but the same Spirit." Pentecostalism is sometimes referred to as the charismatic movement because of its emphasis on the supposed continuation today of these miraculous charismata or gifts.

There are two types of gifts mentioned in the New Testament and it is very important that we recognize the distinction between the two. There are what some have chosen to call the ordinary gifts and there are the extraordinary gifts.

Some of the gifts we call ordinary because they are gifts that God ordinarily bestows on His children in all ages. These are gifts such as faith, hope and charity which Paul mentions in 1 Corinthians 13:13; and evangelists, pastors and teachers mentioned in Ephesians 4:11. The purpose of these

ordinary gifts which are given to the churches in all ages is to edify or build up the saints of God in holiness and comfort.

God's extraordinary gifts are called this in contrast to those He ordinarily gives in all ages. They are ordinarily not given, but rather were given on extraordinary occasions. These extraordinary gifts were supernatural gifts that enabled their possessors to perform supernatural deeds. Usually when Pentecostals today speak of the gifts or the charismata, they are speaking of these extraordinary gifts, that is, healing, miracles, tongues, direct revelations from God, casting out demons and even handling snakes and drinking poison.

Pentecostalism teaches that these miraculous gifts, these charismata, are still available to Christians today. With Baptists the question is not "Does God work miracles today?" The question is "Do men receive the extraordinary gifts of the Holy Spirit today?" "Do men perform miracles, speak in tongues, receive special direct revelations from God, cast out demons, or raise the dead today?"

One other important thing we must notice in defining Pentecostalism and that is its doctrine of Holy Spirit baptism. Pentecostals teach that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a separate work of grace from salvation and the evidence of Spirit baptism is speaking in tongues or exercising one or more of the other extraordinary gifts. They are called Pentecostals because they believe that the miracles of Pentecost, especially speaking in tongues, can be repeated today.