

What is a Charismatic Church or Why We Do What We Do (HS Pt 6)

ACC Website BELIEFS *Baptism of the Holy Spirit & Spiritual Gifts* identify us as a “Charismatic Church” What is that? And how does it impact *Why we do what we do?*

Most historians describe Three Waves of the Holy Spirit (beginning in 1906 Azusa)

- **I like to think of four** → including the original outpouring on Pentecost → Act 2:1-4 ESV When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.
- **Don't forget the intent** - Acts 1:8 ESV But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Why these 3 waves? (1) The Church needed to be restored (2) The mission isn't complete

Over the first 1400 years The church lost sight of its mission (traditions, political entanglement, institutionalism)

- Martin Luther 1517 - 95 Theses to the door of Wittenberg Church - **Salvation by faith**
- Anabaptists 1520's - **Believer's baptism by immersion**
- Charles Seymour Azusa Street 1906 - **Baptism in the Holy Spirit - speaking in tongues**
- After these (and many more) rediscoveries/disagreements, 200 US and 45,000 Int'l denominations

1st WAVE → Pentecostal Movement

Named after feast of Pentecost “50” → filled/tongues → same experience as Day of Pentecost Acts 2

- 1906 Azusa - Holy Spirit poured out upon 7 people
- Rejected by their churches (formed NEW denominations - AoG, 4Square, United Pentecostal)
- 7 people 118 years ago, *TODAY 279 million*¹

2nd Wave - Charismatic Movement

(Gk charismata) - Gifts bestowed by the Holy Spirit are expressions of divine grace (Gk charis)

- 1960 Dennis Bennett, Episcopal Priest - received Holy Spirit, resigned, (Time and Newsweek) went to a dying church **tens of thousands received the baptism in the Holy Spirit**
- 2nd Wave remained WITHIN denominations Episcopalian, Lutheran, Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian
- 1 man 64 years ago → *TODAY 305 million*

Charismatic renewal spread even within the Catholic Church

- Even the Catholic Church embraced it
- 1967 Duquesne University weekend retreat a handful of students were baptized in the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues
- **Catholic Renewal** began in 1967 with a few people → 46 years later *2013 there were 160 million*²
 - By contrast ACC has been in existence for 46 years

¹ <https://rb.gy/mw363p>

² <https://rb.gy/xvtmcs>

3rd Wave - Neo Charismatic Movement

- Independent and non-denominational evangelicals embrace the gifts of the Spirit
- At the same time rejecting several of the classical pentecostal and charismatic distinctives
 - Baptism in HS is not a distinct event → it takes place at the time of conversion
 - Speaking in tongues not necessarily the initial physical evidence of baptism in the Spirit
- 3rd wave not part of a denomination, rather a movement or stream (Think Calvary Chapel, Vineyard)
- **3rd wave - Neo Charismatic** → (began roughly 44 years ago) **Today 295 million**

No matter how you slice it, the move of the Holy Spirit has been NO SMALL THING

Some historians three epochs (1) Age of Catholicism (2) Protestant Reformation (3) Pentecostal movement.³

Over 1 billion people have been affected ~24,000 people per day, EVERY DAY for the past 118 years

Future Wave?

It is up to the Lord, but **if it were to happen, it might happen among those who don't even believe it exists**...In the last couple years, I have been in Zoom meetings with missionaries who are focused on reaching unreached people groups. Many of these missionaries are people who theologically do not believe the gifts of the Spirit are for today...yet they are experiencing miracles of healing, blind eyes being opened, even the dead raised to life...So they come back saying, **"I went there not even believing these things are for today, yet they are happening right in front of me...I guess I need to change my theology!"**

How can a church maintain biblical integrity while being full of the spirit and power?

3 Waves, produced over 700 Denominations⁴ We're Charismatic, but do not believe or practice EVERYTHING labeled as Pentecostal or Charismatic...

- Generally Pentecostal churches adhere to orthodox Christian beliefs
- Some beliefs you could consider unbiblical, or bad interpretation of scripture, or heretical...Examples
 - One pentecostal church might be considered **"holy rollers"** and swing from chandeliers
 - Another practices **"snake handling"**
 - Another denomination is focused on **outward holiness** (clothing or not cutting hair)
 - One might be a **"Word of Faith"** church and preach the **"prosperity gospel"**
 - Oneness Pentecostal **denies the Trinity**

Risks in the Current Environment

- **Accessibility** → There is so much good, but bad doctrine as well as non-biblical practices are available 24/7 through the internet as well -
- **Lack of Accountability** → There is a serious lack of accountability in some charismatic circles → who corrected the prophets when their prophecies failed about the Trump reelection?
- **Hero Worship** → admiration for leader's teaching, or spiritual gifting can lead to an unhealthy dependency, vulnerability and control → Healthy relationships, realistic expectations (Acts 14, Paul healed the lame man and they said "the gods have come down to us in the likeness of men")

³ <https://shorturl.at/fitwN>

⁴ <https://rb.gv/cphbkw>

How Can a Church Maintain Biblical Integrity While Being Full of the Spirit and Power?

- **Be a student of the Word** - 2Ti 2:15 ESV Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.
 - Not every scripture is a mandate to put into practice - **Prayer Cloths**
 - Isa 20:3 - my servant Isaiah has walked naked and barefoot for three years
 - Not every practice has scriptural basis - **Altar Calls, Slain in the Spirit**
 - Some teaching is due to poor exegesis - **Prosperity Gospel**
 - Some teaching is flatout unbiblical - **Grave Soaking, Not saved unless you speak in tongues**
- **Use Wisdom and Discernment - accountability, integrity, & humility**
 - Saw someone abuse gift of tongues, or heard about a prophet that prophesied and it didn't come to pass) → **regardless spiritual gifts are still biblical and for today - let the word of God, not experience be your guide**
 - There is clearly a human element subject to error and mistakes in the exercise of spiritual gifts
 - 1 Cor 14:29 "Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said."
 - Rom 12:6 "we prophesy according to the proportion of faith"
 - 1 Cor 13:9-10 "For we know in part and we prophesy in part..."
 - There is a difference between Bad doctrine, or something you disagree with and heresy-- Belief in handling snakes (bad exegesis) but so is believing Spiritual Gifts has ceased - but not heresy
 - Paul disagreed with how Peter handled the Gentiles in Galatia - yet they were in fellowship
 - He called out others who were swerving from the truth and upsetting the faith of others (2Ti 2:16-18 Hymenaeus and Philetus)
- **People are emotional and impressionable (character vs charisma, Word vs experience)**
 - In a revival meeting a person barked like a dog, or "laughed in the spirit" or was slain in the spirit and all of a sudden that becomes the norm or the expectation of being touched by the spirit -- You must be honest, truthful, full of integrity and biblical
 - You can almost tell who people read, or the videos they watch, by how they talk, or pray, -- I made a conscious effort for a number of years to read nothing but the Bible...and I still kind of lean that way

Joh 16:13-14 ESV When the **Spirit of truth** comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.
14 **He will glorify me**, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.