

THE CHARISMATIC TRADITION: FORMED BY THE SPIRIT

Various Scripture Passages

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Introduction

What do we think of when we hear the word “charismatic”?

charismata – The blessings, spiritual and temporal, bestowed on every Christian for the due fulfilment of his vocation. (Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church)

Who is the Holy Spirit?

- The Third Person of the Trinity
- Co-equal with God the Father and God the Son
- A Person, as witnessed by his roles and activities (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7, Romans 8:26-27).

Jesus, the Charismatic Christ

1. Jesus, in His humanity, needed the Holy Spirit.
2. Jesus obeyed and ministered in the power of the Spirit (Luke 3:21-22, 4:1, 4:14, 4:17-19, Hebrews 9:14, Romans 8:11)
3. Jesus has given us the same Spirit to bear witness to Him (Acts 1:8, John 14:12)

We believe:

The Spirit is given to us at the point of conversion.

As Christians, we are to continuously walk by the Spirit (Galatians 5:16), not grieve the Spirit (Ephesians 4:30), be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).

The Charismatic Tradition

Beginnings in the Azusa Street Revival (1906)

Other Revivals – Welsh (1904), Mukti (1905), Pyongyang (1907), East African (1920s-1940s), Healing (1946-1958), Argentinian (1950s-1960s)...

Practices:

- Cultivating intimacy with God through extended praise and prayer.
- Deliverance, inner healing, prophecy
- Use of spiritual gifts to serve
- Altar calls
- Renewed passion for evangelism and good works

Potential Pitfalls:

- Speaking in tongues as the primary evidence of being baptised by the Holy Spirit.
- A focus on the gifts rather than the fruit of the Spirit.
- Emotionalism as an end in itself.
- Anti-intellectualism that does not take the study of the Bible seriously.

Conclusion

The legacy of the 1970s charismatic revival in Singapore.