



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 10 March 2019

Theme for the Year: "Strength in Weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	60 - <i>Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	John 6:48-65
Hymn	TP 40:1-9
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	2 Corinthians 3:1-11
Hymn	211 - <i>Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Confidence in the Spirit"
*Closing Hymn	537 - <i>Not I, But Christ</i>
*Benediction & <i>Threefold Amen</i>	
Silent Prayer & Postlude	
Announcements	<i>*Congregation standing</i>

†Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be:
World without end. Amen.

††Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church meets every Sunday at 10:00 am
at 47 Davis Road, Attadale, Western Australia

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The History and Characteristics of the Charismatic Movement

Premise

Last week, I wrote about how Charismatism had become the glue between evangelical Christians and Roman Catholics.

And the week before, I wrote about how distinctions between so-called Christian and non-Christian religions were being eroded by the covenant between the Bishop of Rome and the Muslim Imam.

The impetus for these articles came from 2 concerns - the concern that Christian applauded the Roman-Muslim agreement and the concern that even amongst our number, there has been an attraction to Charismatic sensuality.

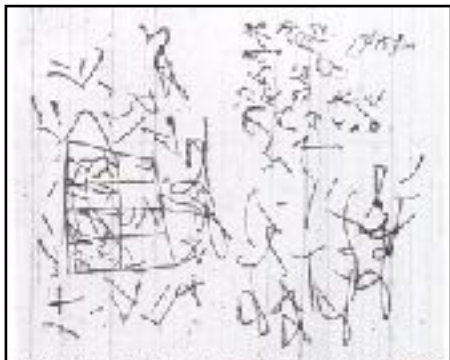
Its History

It started as the Pentecostal movement in 1901 and 1906.

Charles Parham believed that if the church was to meet the challenges of the 20th century, it would need a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit. He started a Bible School and held revivals.

The students prayed for the baptism of the Holy Spirit and one of them, Agnes Ozman, reported spoke in tongues - Chinese!

It was recorded that she could not speak English for 3 days and was only able to speak and write in Chinese. What she wrote has been preserved in a photograph. You can judge if it looks like Chinese or not.



In 1906, in a revival meeting that was held on Azusa Street in Los Angeles, people claimed to have been baptized by the Holy Spirit and started speaking in tongues.

From these 2 streams, the Pentecostal movement spread and eventually became the Charismatic movement in the 1970s.

The movement has a wide spectrum - from the more conservative Pentecostal denominations to the fantastical Word of Faith and Prosperity Gospel movements.

Its Characteristics

The reason why it has spread so rapidly is because of its characteristics.

Firstly, it seems to be biblical but is not. The movement purports to be a restoration of the Apostolic Church - where tongues speaking, prophecy, healing, etc - were practiced.

But if one examines the practice of these modern manifestations, they fall far short of what the Bible says.

While Charismatics are unwilling to state their modern prophecy is on par with Scripture, yet they believe that God speaks through modern prophets.

However, many modern prophets have failed to meet the biblical standard for God-given prophecies (Deuteronomy 18:20-22). The Bible states the true prophets will speak in the name of the true God. This means they will have correct doctrine. The Bible also states that whatever they prophesy will come to pass 100%.

There are many prophetic pronouncements by modern day Charismatic prophets that not only do not come to pass, but are contradicted.

And yet Charismatic leaders are not quick to denounce that.

Rick Joyner said that the "general level of prophetic revelation in the church was about 65% accurate at this time. Some are only 10% accurate...prophecy is

increasing in purity, but there is still a long way to go for those who walk in this ministry."

Jack Deere said that *"Prophets make mistakes. And sometimes when a prophet makes a mistake, it's a serious mistake. I mean, I know prophets just last year that cost people millions of dollars with a mistake they made."*

But true prophets never make a mistake.

Secondly, it seems to be spiritual but is only sensual.

There are claims to the Spirit moving and working signs and wonders - such as healing and tongue speaking.

We do not doubt that God is sovereign and that he can heal and have the gospel preached miraculously.

However, if Agnes Ozman was anything to go by, these modern manifestations are only fantastical.

In the Scriptures, those who were healed were healed instantaneously and totally - even those who had no faith.

Most of the healings were done in public places and in front of unbelievers. But no modern healer today goes to the hospital, to the shopping centers, or to the streets to heal - they only do so in revival meetings with a controlled environment of music and lights.

And if miraculous healings are genuine today, they would be very easy to prove - just like Jesus restored a man's withered hand or the servant's cut off ear. However, healing of back pain, headaches, lengthening of legs (by 1/2 an inch and not by 2 feet), etc - are only anecdotal and unproven.

But they sure are fantastical. And those seeking for something more "spiritual" are duped into believing these anecdotes.

Even Charismatic healers are perplexed. John Wimber said, *"Sometimes our experiences don't fit with our understanding of what the Bible teaches. We know from experience that healing does not always occur. Why would God command us to heal the sick and then choose not to back up our act (so to speak) by not healing the person for whom we pray? It was nine months before we saw the first person healed."*

True biblical healing was different. It was miraculous. That person being healed 9 months later was only by the grace of God through medicine and human biology.

Conclusion

Why are people attracted to the Charismatic movement? It's because it sounds biblical and spiritual. It is also because people want a greater spiritual pick-me-up than what the Scripture speaks about.

The Christian life is not easy to live. God may be pleased to send revival in his own time. However, the way we live it and experience victory is not by revival, but by reliance.

We walk by being obedient to his Word, by relying on his Spirit to guide us, and by prayer. It is not by a zapping of the Spirit that we are made victorious.

God has given his ordinary means of growth - the Word, sacraments, and prayer. And every revival that is sent, we must test, to see if it is from God.

~ Pastor



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 89. How is the word made effectual to salvation?

A. The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching of the Word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith, unto salvation.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (10.3.19)</i>	<i>Next Week (17.3.19)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Chris Budiman	Jimmy Orchard
Pianist	Edward Lim	Ian Tay
Welcomers	Kim & Jesslyn Leow	Johnny & Lydia Orchard
Offering Stewards	Paul Butler, Kim Leow Rex Sriharan, Vincent Chiu	Johnny Orchard, Yen Fye Yap Eugene Lim, Steven Lim
Ushers	Wendy Gong, Josephine Austin	Faith Chiu, Sharon Sriharan
Kitchen Duties	Mary Anne Chan*, Nancy Lim Florence Orchard	Jemima Ng*, Sarah Siew Rebecca Lee
PA Duty	Ian Tay	Ken Hong
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>15 March 2019</i>	<i>22 March 2019</i>
Chairman	Johnson Lim	Vincent Chiu
Pianist	Nancy Lim	Eugene Lim

Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshippers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. Next week's message: "Live Free and Unveiled!" (2 Corinthians 3:12-18).
3. Busy Bee. Saturday, 16 March 2019. 8:30 am. Please avail yourself to tidy up the church compound. Please bring your garden tools.
4. Presentation on the Israel and Jordan Bible Study Tour. Friday, 15 March 2019. 7:30 pm. There will be a slide show, testimonies, and refreshments.
5. Bible Conference 2019. Dates: 22-25 April 2019. Venue: Hotel Lord Forrest, Bunbury. Theme: Strength in Weakness. Speaker: Pastor Steven Tan. Registration forms available at foyer. Payment by cash, cheque or direct deposit to CBPC General Fund: BSB: 036-031, Acct: 316942, Ref: BC(Surname)(Initial). Any enquiries, please contact Micah Chiang or Vincent Chiu.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group	General Fund - \$2,372.85 (*DD - \$300.00). Missions Fund - \$210.00 (*DD - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$400.00 (*DD - \$400.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$2,982.85. Attendance - 114. *DD: direct deposit
FRI 7:30 pm Bible Lands Presentation	
SAT 8:30 am Busy Bee	
SUN 9:00 am Sunday School	
10:00 am Worship Service	

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 6114 4242, 0415 932 373. **Jimmy Orchard** 0413 274 407.
Johnson Lim 0402 145 682. Deacons: **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206. **Vincent Chiu** 0417 929 149.