



Full Gospel Fellowship

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Update International Edition

"Unity in Righteousness"



The Latter Rain/Charismatic Movement

"And it shall be in the last days, God says, that I will pour forth of My Spirit upon all mankind; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; Even upon My bondslaves, both men and women, I will in those days pour forth of My Spirit and they shall prophesy...before the great and glorious day of the Lord shall come. And it shall be, that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Acts 2:17-21).

For many years I have considered this passage of scripture to be entirely in relationship to the day of Pentecost on which the Holy Spirit baptism initially came. My viewpoint has changed. This scripture began its fulfillment on that special day in the first century, but the completion is yet before us. It will reach a climatic fulfillment before the great and glorious day of the Lord.

The "**Deliverance Movement**" and the "**Latter Rain/Charismatic Movement** have become the forerunners of God's great climax reserved for the church at the end of this age.

The two movements in definition:

DELIVERANCE MOVEMENT. A group of ministers who manifested laying on of hands for healing and deliverance.

LATTER RAIN/CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT. A group who manifested and restored the experiential truth of laying on of hands and prophecy for revealing one's place in the Body of Christ and for the impartation and activation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Both of these major movements have shared in God's plan to mature the church into the fullness of the image of Christ, however the Latter Rain/Charismatic Movement is the focal point of the discussion.

I have personally talked with two eyewitnesses and early participants of the Latter Rain Movement, George Warnock and Paul Kabanuk. Each gave the testimony of a sovereign move of God at North Battleford, Saskatchewan in the winter of 1947/48. They personally witnessed the laying on of hands and prophecy for revealing one's place in the Body of Christ and for the impartation and activation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. They also noted how quickly extremes and spin-offs developed, nevertheless God guarded the flow of its progress and the results can be seen anywhere in the world.

The Charismatic Movement is an extension of the Latter Rain Movement, yet each segment has its distinction and place in the purpose of God.

THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY THE LATTER RAIN MOVEMENT.

1. The singing of praises. I remember sitting for the first time in the Wings of Healing temple in Portland, Oregon, a church pastored by Dr. Thomas Wyatt, as the voices of the people blended together musically

under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Having been educated in a hard-line Pentecostal group that stomped, shouted, clapped their praise unto God, to say the least, I was overwhelmed. Something within gave me witness this was of the Lord. It was not until years later this reality began to be realized and experienced in my life.

2. Speaking in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. The Latter Rain churches sought to worship God extemporaneously, not from a response reading or song book, but as God would speak or the Holy Spirit would sing. As the hymns of John and Charles Wesley blessed the Holiness movement, so did the psalms, hymns and spiritual songs bless the Latter Rain Movement. During the Pentecostal Movement, at an appropriate time when the voices of the congregation would decrease in volume and a quietness would settle in, one would boisterously come forth with unknown tongues and another would give the interpretation. The Latter Rain Movement introduced what is called, "The Song of the Lord." It was prophesy set to music and it basically replaced speaking forth prophesy as experienced in the Pentecostal Movement.

3. Praise in the dance. The dancing in the Pentecostal Movement was frenzied, jerking, running and shaking, however the Latter Rain Movement introduced a joyful rhythmic expression of dancing that resembled Jewish folk dancing. Again I resisted the change from the "old ways". Now I rejoice in the dance as an expression of worship unto God.

4. Sacrifice of Praise. A biblical sacrifice is an offering given to God with joy and thanksgiving, personally costing the giver a price, yet he knows it will bring God's response of prosperity both materially and spiritually.

5. Body ministry. The people were encouraged to minister to one another through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

6. Revelation of the Body of Christ. A person, after being saved by grace through faith, was placed by God into the body of Jesus Christ. They began to realize the body of Christ is a many-membered body, each member with their own distinctive function.

7. The teaching of Ephesians 4:8-15. The teaching of the five-fold ministry, the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher, was continuously emphasized.

THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY THE CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT.

Fundamentally, the Charismatic Movement embraced the truths introduced and practiced in the Latter Rain churches; the worship, the dance, the praise, the revelation of the body of Christ and its five-fold ministry concept. Whereas the Latter Rain Movement involved primarily the Pentecostal churches, the Charismatic Movement opened up the four restoration doctrines to all the churches, Protestant and Roman Catholic. The pronouncement of the scripture is the Holy Spirit would be poured out upon all mankind. This scripture is still being fulfilled.

1. Unity in the body of Christ. There had been efforts to unify the Pentecostal churches, but never had there been an effort to apply the prayer of St. John 17 to the Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, etc.

2. Breaking down the walls between the denominational churches. Conferences were planned to bring together leaders of organizations who had never considered setting down with one another to discuss ways and means of furthering God's purpose on the earth.

CONCLUSION

The Charismatic Movement has extended the revelation of the Latter Rain Movement to include the world. The walls that separated religious organizations, which had been erected in great numbers through the 1800's and 1900's, now were being shaken down by the hand of God.

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**A world-vision of the Unity of the Church in
Righteousness**

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