

ALSOM

Assemblies of God History, Missions, and Governance – THE142

STUDY SUMMARY for FINAL EXAM

(Note: All of these study statements are true statements about Assemblies of God history, missions, and governance. Approximately half of these study statements WILL BE ON your final exam.)

The Reformation leaders responded to the idea of a restoration of the Spirit's power by believing the work of the Holy Spirit centered on salvation.

A partial explanation for the differences in revivals in different times and places is that cultural, social, and doctrinal factors all influence revival phenomena.

The Bible tells us that like the wind the Holy Spirit "blows where he wills" according to God's sovereign will, therefore revival can never be earned or forced.

Revivalists such as Moody, Torrey, and Simpson stressed that the dynamic of the Holy Spirit was needed to empower believers for service.

During the 1800's many American religious movements prepared the way for the Pentecostal revival, including Restorationism, Revivalism, and the Healing and Holiness movements.

Restorationism is the belief that the true New Testament church disappeared or withered to the point of death, but the way to restore the Church to purity and power has now been revealed.

Romanticism was a philosophical and literary movement originating in the early 1800's that taught the primacy of the individual and that individuals perceived new truth via passionate experiences later considered in tranquility.

Revivalism is the belief that you should employ those methods that move people emotionally to make a "decision" for Christ and using the right methods will produce "revival."

Charles Finney invented revivalism and such "new measures" as mass advertising, promotion, continually preaching simple evangelistic sermons, emotional appeals for decisions, and the "mourners' bench" or altar.

The "new measures" of Charles Finney resulted in many false conversions based on emotions and on the belief in an individual's ability to simply "make a decision for Christ", and this led to large numbers of "backsliders".

Later in life Finney realized his mistakes and began emphasizing discipleship and life-long spiritual growth toward "Christian perfection", or progressive sanctification.

Dispensationalism is a system of Bible interpretation that was invented for the first time in the 1830's by cessationist British pastor John Nelson Darby.

For the first time in church history, Darby and Dispensationalism taught that all of the OT and NT prophecies and apocalyptic passages must be interpreted in a literalistic manner, at their "face value" or "plain sense" meaning.

All major church denominations, seminaries, and scholars have always rejected Dispensationalism.

Various spiritual gifts and phenomena, including speaking in tongues, occurred in various places before the Pentecostal movement began.

The influence of restorationism on Pentecostalism and on the Assemblies of God is seen in our emphasis on restoring the power and purity of the New Testament church through the supernatural ministry and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The fourfold gospel of Jesus as Savior, Healer, Baptizer, and Coming King was widely preached for years before the Pentecostal movement began, and this is where the Assemblies of God got its "Four Cardinal Doctrines."

Tongues as initial evidence of Holy Spirit baptism was first taught by Charles Parham.

William Seymour, an African American whose parents had been slaves, led the meetings at the Azusa Street Revival where speaking in tongues and other spiritual manifestations occurred.

Charles Parham favored ministerial independence, flashy ministry, more affluent areas, questionable speculations, struggled with racism, exaggerated claims and a desire for preeminence, and was the first person to teach speaking in tongues as the initial physical sign of Spirit-baptism.

William Seymour continued pastoring the Azusa Street Mission for years after the revival subsided, pastoring about 60 people when he died in 1922. Jennie Seymour often worked scrubbing floors in a hospital to help make ends meet.

William Seymour accepted speaking in tongues as one sign of Holy Spirit baptism, but emphasized a deep love for God and for others as the primary sign of Holy Spirit baptism.

Since Azusa Street, millions of people have earnestly sought God for a new Azusa outpouring, but God's sovereign will has been otherwise.

According to the textbook an area of disagreement among early Pentecostals was the value of the book of Acts for building doctrine.

The Five Reasons the Assemblies of God was founded in 1914 were,

1. To provide accountability and protection for the churches,
2. To conserve the revival,
3. To charter with a legal name,
4. To provide equitable support for missionaries,
5. To provide Bible college training for ministers.

The Fundamental Truths were adopted in 1916 primarily to affirm the orthodox doctrine of the Trinity, and to disapprove the New Issue or Oneness (Jesus Only) heresy.

The primary author of the Statement of Fundamental Truths was D. W. Kerr, who believed in two separate raptures and phrased those points in the Statement in such a way that he could affirm them.

A hallmark of the Assemblies of God is voluntary cooperation.

Local assemblies have full freedom to decide which District or General Council departments, programs, ministries, and missions they will or will not support financially and in other ways.

The district and General Council have no authority to require a local assembly to support any particular district or General Council department, program, ministry, or mission.

The first person elected General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God was E. N. Bell, a Southern Baptist pastor with a Master of Divinity degree from a prestigious seminary.

The Assemblies of God took a pacifist position during WWI, but supported WWII because it was seen as a just (righteous) war being fought to protect religious freedom.

One especially significant publication of the Gospel Publishing House (GPH) was *What Meaneth This?* By Carl Brumback.

Some believers in the early Church of God (Cleveland, TN) thought that their handling snakes and handling fire were marks of their greater faith, holiness, and power.

Marie Stephany was known as "Mother Peace" and served in China during the time of opium addiction and famine.

Two major reasons for the success of the Bible institutes were flexible curriculum and adaptability to local situations.

Many early Assemblies of God leaders had good educations in Bible and theology, and valued higher education, including E. N. Bell, D. W. Kerr, T. K. Leonard, and others.

Their expulsion from existing denominations and Christian colleges prejudiced some Pentecostals against higher education for ministers, while others continued to promote an educated ministry.

The Pentecostal movement, including the Assemblies of God, has suffered because of the disparaging attitude toward formal theological education held by many of its members and ministers.

Marcus Grable became known as "Mr. Sunday School."

Sunday School provided a systematic teaching of Scripture to all ages, deepening the biblical knowledge and doctrinal stability of the Assemblies of God.

One reason for the rise of the New Order of the Latter Rain was the concern that the days of power in the Pentecostal Movement seemed to be over.

The Bible teaches that like the wind, the Holy Spirit "blows where he wills" according to God's sovereign will, and "revival" can never be earned or forced.

Cultural, social, economic, and doctrinal factors all influence when, where, and how a revival is experienced, creating many differences.

Healing evangelism had a lasting effect on the growth of the Assemblies of God overseas.

The Assemblies of God has never taught that it is always God's will to immediately heal us of every injury or disease or immediately deliver us from every difficulty.

Independent healing evangelists were subjects of concern because they often made spectacular, unverifiable claims and were often accused of practicing medicine without a license.

A significant outcome of the 1959 General Council in San Antonio, Texas, was election of second generation Pentecostal leaders who had been born in the twentieth century.

The 1963 General Council specifically expressed a concern to give evangelism the highest priority in every department.

When Billy Graham invited an African American to join his evangelistic team it influenced the General Council to officially condemn racial discrimination.

The denomination with the largest number of megachurches in the United States is the Roman Catholic Church. The second is the Southern Baptist Convention.

J. W. Tucker's martyrdom resulted in the salvation of many because custom required the Mangbetu tribe to listen to Tucker's gospel message since his blood had mingled with the water of their river.

Following World War II, efforts to evangelize Muslims resulted in the Assemblies of God's establishment of the Jumaa Prayer Fellowship.

J. Robert Ashcroft served as National Secretary of the Education Department and as President of several Assemblies of God colleges.

The Assemblies of God joined the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) to affirm our commitment to evangelicalism and to the historic Christian church.

Assemblies of God scholars and leaders have long been involved in formal dialogues with evangelical, Reformed, and Catholic scholars and leaders on a range of subjects.

A stated responsibility of the General Superintendent is to serve as president of the corporation.

Many scholars view the Pentecostal movement as having more in common theologically and in practice with the Ancient Church Traditions such as Catholicism, Anglicanism, and Orthodoxy, than with evangelicalism.

Western colonial empires affected American foreign missions by giving missionaries access to areas that had been closed to Christianity.

The goals of the indigenous principle were not achieved because of failure to see missions work as the founding of a national church.

Many Assemblies of God missionaries in the early years had no formal education, but learned the language and culture of the areas where they ministered.

For many years, AGWM (Assemblies of God World Missions) has emphasized continuing formal education for fully appointed missionaries, through the masters or doctoral level, often including it in their budgets.

Many early missionaries were motivated to endure the hardships of missionary work because of their belief that Christ could not return until all nations had heard the gospel.

The 1915 General Council determined that candidate missionaries would now be evaluated by General Council leaders.

The ultimate credentialing authority in the U.S. AG, with authority to grant or remove ministerial credentials, is the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) of the General Council: General Superintendent, Asst Gen'l Superintendent, Gen'l Secretary, Gen'l Treasurer, Director of World Missions, Director of U.S. Missions.

Dispensationalism is a system of Bible interpretation first invented in the 1830's that influenced the eschatology of the young Pentecostal movement for several decades.

Fundamentalism was a reactionary movement that promoted sectarian attitudes and a literalistic interpretation of Scripture, negatively influencing the Assemblies of God from the 1940's through the 1960's.

Fundamentalism tends to be narrow, rigid, fearful of change, insistent on identifying those who are not "genuine" fundamentalists, often seeking to punish or purge those who are not sufficiently traditional.

Wherever Fundamentalism gained influence in the Assemblies of God it was highly detrimental the spirit, ethos, attitudes, and behaviors of ministers and people.

The Assemblies of God has officially disapproved of the doctrines in what is variously called the Hyper-faith / Word of Faith / Name-It-and-Claim-It / Positive Confession / Prosperity Gospel movement.

Solid Pentecostal scholarship has proven that the unique doctrines of the Word of Faith / Prosperity Gospel movement originated in the metaphysical mind-science movements of 19th century New England.

The 1921 General Council delineated the indigenous principle to guide Assemblies of God Foreign Missions.

In 1953 missions leaders showed a shift in thinking when they added humanitarian goals to the list of evangelism goals.

Founding Bible colleges around the world to educate our ministers has been a top priority of the Assemblies of God.

One benefit of missionary itineration has been the development of relationships between pastors, churches, and missionaries.

A missionary faith promise is a promise to give a specific amount to missions, trusting God for the resources. Missionaries' budgets are confidential, and AGWM wisely includes such things as money for emergency travel, meetings, retreats and councils, retirement accounts, and sometimes the cost of advanced degrees, such as masters and doctoral degrees.

One benefit of literature evangelism is that literature can be distributed to nearly everyone, not just to those who attend a meeting.

Offerings given to BGMC, Boys and Girls Missionary Challenge, provide a "ready" fund that can be used for any and every need that a missionary may have: literature, vehicles, equipment, anything.

J. Philip Hogan identified the world's major population centers as the "greatest missionary challenge of our time."

The Task Force campaigns were begun in order to accelerate church planting in Paraguay.

Local church follow-up and discipleship were the real keys to the success of Good News Crusades.

One ministry of AGUSM is ministry to people with life-controlling problems.

Chi Alpha, the AGUSM evangelism and discipleship ministry to university students, is widely considered the most effective discipleship program in the Assemblies of God.

In the continuing development of the AG Constitution and Bylaws changes have occurred, but the basic structure and government remain true to the original.

The Statement of Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God and the Doctrines and Practices Disapproved, have been modified numerous times through the years.

The basic distinction between a constitution and bylaws is that the constitution functions as an official description of the organization.

Eventually, better understanding of the Scripture led the General Council to grant ministry credentials to divorced and remarried persons under certain circumstances.

The New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) or Apostles and Prophets movement is a resurgence of the Latter Rain heresy that the Assemblies of God rejected and condemned in 1949.

In drafting the Statement of Fundamental Truths, the founders sought to preserve unity and promote accurate interpretation of Scripture on a few limited points.

The number and the language of the Statement of Fundamental Truths have changed over time.

Assemblies of God ministers are permitted to hold differing views on eschatology than those described in the Statement of Fundamental Truths as long as they do not promote them to the point of making them an issue.

The Position Papers are not adopted by the General Council in session, do not carry the same weight as the Statement of Fundamental Truths, and are not binding on local churches or ministers.

The Assemblies of God General Councils in other nations are not controlled by the U. S. Assemblies of God, and always have their own Statements of Fundamental Truths which are worded differently than the U.S. AG and express different theological perspectives on some points (such as the Second Coming).

One acceptable outward evidence of salvation is a life of righteousness and holiness.

A primary reason Aimee Semple McPherson was very effective in ministry in the 1920's was that she understood American culture and used it as a bridge to understanding the gospel.

The Scriptures teach that salvation is received through repentance for sin and faith in Christ.

The national convention of the General Council of the AG is called the "General Council" in Session, lasts for 4-5 days, consists of large business meetings, worship services, banquets, and vendor exhibits, and is held every two years in odd-numbered years in a U. S. city with adequate space for a large convention.

The state or district council of every district (often called a Network) lasts for 2-3 days, consists of a business meeting, worship services, an ordination service, luncheons, and vendor exhibits, and is held every year somewhere within that state, usually at a church that can accommodate it, is attended largely by ministers, their spouses, with a few lay delegates from local assemblies, and is not intended to be a large camp-meeting style convention.

The term sanctification means an act of separation from evil and dedication to God.

The Holiness Movement taught that sanctification was a second, instantaneous work of grace, occurring at some point after salvation, by which the sin nature was completely eradicated, and the believer was "entirely" sanctified.

Prominent Pentecostal denominations arising from the Wesleyan or Holiness movements include the Church of God In Christ, the Church of God (Cleveland), the Pentecostal Holiness Church, and smaller groups.

The chapel at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary at Evangel University is named after the most revered early leader of the Pentecostal Movement: William J. Seymour, Pastor of Azusa Street Mission.

The heresy of Sabellianism, first taught by an ancient bishop named Sabellius, denies the doctrine of the Trinity, teaches the absolute unity (oneness) of the godhead, and that God revealed or manifested himself three different times: First as Father, then as Son, then as Holy Spirit. This cardinal heresy is believed by a large Pentecostal denomination called The United Pentecostal Church.

The Assemblies of God arose from the “reformed” denominations such as the Baptists, Christian and Missionary Alliance, and Presbyterians, and therefore adopted progressive sanctification, the life-long process of conformation to the image of Christ.

Prominent Pentecostal denominations arising from the “reformed” side of evangelicalism include the Assemblies of God, Foursquare Gospel Church, Open Bible Standard churches, and smaller groups.

Early Pentecostal mentors taught believers how to be prayer warriors who sensed the moving and leading of the Holy Spirit.

The term blessed hope is defined as the resurrection of all who are in Christ, both living and dead.

Among other Scriptures, 1 Corinthians 12:4-10, 28 implies that speaking in tongues is the initial physical evidence of Holy Spirit baptism.

Luke 24:49 indicates that Spirit baptism is distinct from and subsequent to conversion.

A cooperative fellowship is a fellowship based on mutual agreements voluntarily entered into by the membership.

One effect of the Jim Bakker and Jimmy Swaggart scandals is that the Assemblies of God was praised for defrocking Swaggart and Bakker when the two televangelists refused to submit to discipline.

The Assemblies of God was widely criticized for failing to rebuke these and other televangelists beforehand for their arrogance, greed, and lack of accountability.

The corporate name of the Assemblies of God fellowship is The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

To emphasize our connection to historic evangelicalism, the Assemblies of God once considered changing its name to the Evangelical Pentecostal Church.

A local assembly is sovereign and autonomous, owns its own property, selects its own officers, calls its own pastors, and governs itself according to its own Bylaws.

The district council supervises activities that are ecclesial and sacerdotal (ministerial).

The Assemblies of God has always been a diverse Fellowship in organization, worship and preaching style, ministry and doctrinal emphasis, both in the United States and other nations.

The two religious rites specifically commanded by Jesus are referred to as ordinances by the Statement of Fundamental Truths, but as sacraments by most of the Christian church.

Churches that desire to affiliate with the General Council must have pastors who hold Assemblies of God ministerial credentials.

A local assembly may in its Bylaws organize its government in a variety of ways, including Pastor-led, Elder-led, or Congregational.

If a minister is unfit or unqualified, but disciplinary action is not pursued, the district might indicate the minister’s credentials are “not renewed”.

The New Testament missions strategy adopted by the Assemblies of God World Missions is to plant and nurture indigenous churches.

The three levels of ministerial credentials in the Assemblies of God are Certified, Licensed, and Ordained.

Declining biblical literacy and poor discipleship have been identified as the most serious challenges facing the Assemblies of God today.

Studies by the Assemblies of God national office conclusively proved that the depth and frequency of Bible reading in a believer's life is a far better indicator of spiritual stability and growth than church attendance, service in ministry, witnessing, financial giving, prayer, or Holy Spirit baptism.

Almost all of the wild speculations, failed predictions, and convoluted conspiracy theories about the "end times" come from poorly educated media preachers who are Dispensationalists.

Prominent events and philosophies that preceded and influenced the development of Pentecostalism include the Reformation, romanticism, rationalism, modernism, individualism, and democratization.

Beginning in the early 1800's, restorationism, revivalism, and eschatological expectancy became permanent threads in the development of American religion, and all of the heavily influenced Pentecostalism.

Institutionalization is the process by which any organization or religious denomination gradually removes variety, diversity, and liberty from the grassroots and assumes the authority to redefine "genuine" organizational or denominational purity into uniform, one-size-fits-all requirements.

Institutionalization must always be resisted in order to preserve the original vision the Founders of our Fellowship: *That the AG would be network of variety, diversity, and liberty on most issues, united by a commitment to God's word, the Spirit's power, evangelism, and discipleship.*

Serious challenges and dangers facing the Assemblies of God include continually seeking "last days revival," the Hyper-Faith movement, the Apostles and Prophets (NAR) movement, end-time speculation by false teachers, the decline in expository preaching and teaching, biblical illiteracy, and poor discipleship.

The name of our Fellowship comes from the Greek word which means "a called together assembly" and when referring to the congregation of Christians is translated "church" in the New Testament. That Greek word is ecclesia.

The Assemblies of God offers accredited bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees at several universities and graduate schools around the nation.

The Assemblies of God operates an inexpensive fully accredited online distance education university that offers institute (non-accredited) level ministerial training, lay discipleship and leadership training, and accredited bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees. The name of this university is Global University.