

Worship/Discipleship Observation 1

Smita Phillips  
DM906 Leading Worship and Discipleship  
Dr. Alicia Plant  
Beulah Heights University  
DMin  
Fall 2017

Today, I got an opportunity to attend the Pentecostal service. The experience was really heartwarming. My friend belongs to a Pentecostal denomination and he invited me to his church. The order of service was quiet similar to the other services.

During the hour of worship and prayers which they were reciting I could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit and the congregation was devoted into that time.

When addressing whether life in the church and the sacraments are essential to salvation, Tomberlin identifies the church and sacraments as “secondary salvific gifts,” compared to the Son and Spirit as “primary salvific gifts” from the Father. At the same time he ultimately admits “that participation in the sacramental life of the church may not be absolutely essential to salvation due to God’s prevenient grace”<sup>1</sup>

While being open to other sacramental means of encountering the Spirit of God, Tomberlin only addresses the significance of the three institutional ordinances his own denomination recognizes: water baptism, the Lord’s Supper, and foot washing. Besides devoting themselves to “the apostle teaching,” the new believers in Jerusalem were also devoted to “fellowship” they were engaged in the breaking bread and the prayer. According to Acts 2:42-47, these verses include four relational activities:<sup>2</sup>

A personal reflection about the Lord’s Supper and Discipleship

They ate together

The essence of this experience was fellowship---- fellowship with each other as they ate together and fellowship with Christ as they recalled His death. The Christian

---

<sup>1</sup> Tomberlin, Daniel. Pentecostal sacraments: Encountering God at the Altar. Cleveland, Tennessee: Center for Pentecostal Leadership and Care, 2010. Pg 27

<sup>2</sup> Wall, Joe& Getz, Gene. “Effective Church Growth Strategies.” Nashville. Word publishing: A Thomas Nelson Co. [2000]. 46.

began to remember this ritual as the “Lord’s Supper”. As believers in the early church and today engage in the fellowship and “the breaking of bread (Acts 2:42), they are eating together while also remembering the Lord Jesus Christ and what He did on the cross.<sup>3</sup>

### They prayed together

The early believers also devoted themselves to prayer. This was a unique part of their fellowship together----- which leads to another important observation. Prayer among New Testament believers was usually in the context of human relationship. It was a corporate experience. Just as the communion meal was focused on human relationships, which gave this meaning and vitality at the divine level, so prayer had two dimensions, both human and divine needs.<sup>4</sup>

With a Pentecostal theology of the sacraments in place, Tomberlin then provides practical instruction and advice on how pastors can to implement the sacraments in the context of Pentecostal worship.<sup>5</sup>

A brief reflection about leadership and the followers of the church.

1. Sometimes we lose the idea of following, when we try to differentiate the idea of following with discipleship. Most of the people in our churches today are

---

<sup>3</sup> Ibid 48-49

<sup>4</sup> Wall, Joe& Getz, Gene. “Effective Church Growth Strategies.” Nashville. Word publishing: A Thomas Nelson Co. [2000]. 48 -49

<sup>5</sup> Tomberlin, Daniel. Pentecostal sacraments: Encountering God at the Altar. Cleveland, Tennessee: Center for Pentecostal Leadership and Care, 2010. Pg 27

confused with the concept of following and discipleship. The people take these terms in the same way.

2. Concept of following with leadership. As a follower are main focus is on Jesus, our service is first to him and then to the church, church is the body made up of followers. If the idea is reversed backward, then we will be serving people, which will eventually be ended in compromise. Most of the people are fixated on leadership. And, there is a settled temptation for us to forget who we are at the core.
3. There is a room for theological institution and thoughts for the concept to combine the idea of leadership and following and it is called following leader.
4. One cannot be a true leader if no one is following him.

## Bibliography

Wall, Joe & Getz, Gene. "Effective Church Growth Strategies." Nashville. Word publishing: A Thomas Nelson Co. [2000].

Tomberlin, Daniel. Pentecostal sacraments: Encountering God at the Altar. Cleveland, Tennessee: Center for Pentecostal Leadership and Care, 2010.