

1. How might you explain the experiences of the worshipers at Spirit Filled Church of Our Lord Jesus from a psychological perspective? How might the theology of the church they attended help us understand their beliefs and behaviors? Do these factors explain away faith, or do they just help us understand its complexities? How might people interpret the experiences of the worshipers at Spirit Filled Church of Our Lord Jesus differently based on their own religious, nonreligious, or denominational affiliations?

Looking at the unfortunate worshipers at “Spirit Filled church of Our Lord Jesus” and the traumatic experiences they and the families had to endure, it is interesting to look at what they went through in different perspectives such as psychological and theological. I think that these events can be interpreted by different people, from my perspective and after reading the article, as it was a poisoning in the church, some may say that it was perhaps the work of the devil, this can be seen as a psychological perspective alongside the viewpoint that they were perhaps not able to see the scientific factors due to them being “blinded by faith” through their prayers. They believed that if they put their faith into God, he would perhaps heal them but maybe it would be good to do that whilst also opening some windows to let in the fresh air. In this situation we can really see their theological thoughts overpower them in this situation, theology allows them to believe in faith and that God will allow them to heal from their nausea which could explain their behavior in the sense that they prayed rather than leaving the church and getting help. These factors help us to better understand faith as in this church it is clear to us that they are strong believers and put their faith and trust into God, therefore when they start to feel unwell their faith is shown through prayer for one another, it can also be seen as rather complex as this faith perhaps blinded them to the fact that they were being poisoned by scientific reasonings. I love this last question as I think it is really interesting to see the different viewpoints on the experiences based on different perspectives including religious and non religious. When looking at it from a psychological perspective, it's interesting that in that moment psychologically they convinced themselves that with the faith they put into prayer that they would be saved. However from a religious perspective it's interesting as those prayers and faith for one another could have led to the concern of family members which ultimately saved their life.

2. From a theological point of view, how might someone explain phenomena such as religious conversions and experiences to which people attach spiritual significance? What spiritual and psychological factors are involved in such an experience?

I think that when it comes to religious conversions and experiences there is huge spiritual significance involved within this. The church's experience for example, I believe that this was a religious experience with huge spiritual significance, when faced with the issue of falling unwell perhaps caused by the devil, the members used their faith in God and their spiritual beliefs to save them from this situation therefore leading their lives to eventually be saved in the end. Events like these have such spiritual significance that they could even lead to religious conversion as this must be an incredibly surreal experience knowing that through spiritual belief your life was saved. Experiences like these where somebody almost loses their life often end in religious conversion as in those dying moments many people look for God even when they aren't religious and when he is there and saves them, it is overwhelming for the person to the point they may even religiously convert. However it is important to integrate theological and psychological perspectives into these experiences as although spiritual factors obviously came into this experience at the church, it's also important to incorporate a psychological perspective into this also, carbon monoxide is a poisonous chemical, therefore was their faith blinding them to the science behind this? Perhaps they could have avoided even being hospitalized if they behaved in a more psychological way rather than spiritual.

3. The author noted that several subdisciplines of psychology (e.g., social, physiological, clinical, developmental) may be relevant to the experience of the worshipers at Spirit Filled Church of Our Lord Jesus. The vast majority of writing on the integration of psychology and Christian theology has focused only on clinical or counseling issues. Why do you suppose this is the case? Is it sufficient to integrate only the counseling aspects of psychology? Why or why not?

In psychology it is very important to understand that there is much more to psychology than just counseling such as the other subdisciplines listed above and it's also key to understand how these subdisciplines were relevant to the experience at the church. For example when looking at integrating subdisciplines into the experience of the people at the church it's interesting to look at all of the subdisciplines using social physiological approaches as an example, social psychological approaches are the influence that society can have on the worshipers' behaviors, feelings and thoughts. Society has taught us that when faced with the experiences like the worshipers in the church we should all act a certain way to meet society's standards, in this scenario the social norm within this church is when they are feeling unwell, they should all pray, due to this social norm it affects the behaviors of everyone in the church by influencing them to do the same, by praying. This social psychological approach is a great example of how psychology affects the experiences of the worshipers within the church

alongside the other subdisciplines. Therefore personally, I believe that Christian Psychology writing pieces should use other subdisciplines in psychology instead of mainly focusing on counseling. I think that this could be the case as when the general public think of psychology and christian psychology it is heavily linked into counseling and I am assuming that many people, when looking into christian psychology, have many questions about the counseling and whether it is different to psychology itself. I understand these questions on why people write on these cases. However, I think that it would be beneficial for more subdisciplines of psychology to be written and discussed within christian psychology as it will help to raise awareness for the full aspect of psychology itself.

4. Recall Tertullian's statement: "What indeed has Athens to do with Jerusalem? What concord is there between the Academy and the Church?" Have your own experiences stressed Athens or Jerusalem? What is your view on the relationship of the academy (human philosophy or knowledge) and the church (Christian theology)? What factors in your own personal and religious background have led you to this view?

I really like this question, Tertullian's statement is a very open statement and I feel like he is really saying "what does human reason have to do with faith?" and I think this really links in with the integration of psychology and philosophy with theology. I think mainly throughout my life my experiences have had a mix of Athens and Jerusalem, for example when making the decision whether to move away from my home country which is England to go to school here at Alliance, I used my human knowledge mainly which weighed up how it will benefit me in life by adding new experiences, cultures and daily soccer, I also thought in a knowledgeable way about leaving friends and family behind. But on the other hand, I also looked at this experience from a different perspective, Jerusalem, as I thought that it was important to integrate my theological viewpoints into this decision by listening to what God is telling me and whether this is a good decision for my life. I think that there is a relationship between human philosophy and Christian theology as it's vital in life to understand that to be the best version of yourself you should integrate the two of these to come to good decisions in certain experiences. There are many different personal and religious factors which led me to believing that there is a relationship between Athens and Jerusalem, personal reasons being my previous experiences in life and the knowledge that I have gained out of them and religious backgrounds including how when I listen to God he leads me to making the right decisions in experiences.

