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## Chapter 7: "Pneumatology: The Holy Spirit in Latin American Pentecostalism

### Summary

In this chapter, Tennent discusses the importance of Pentecostalism in shaping how the world talks about the Holy Spirit and starts out by explaining why he'll focus on Latin America. Then, before he goes into talking about the Latin American experience, he presents how Christianity, and even religion, presents itself differently from each other in the Western and Eastern worlds. As Tennent starts to talk about evangelism and missions in Latin America, he talks about the history and how reformation is coming to Latin America. Then, the term "ecumenism" is introduced and Tennent talks about how Pentecostalism is contributing to ecumenism, though they themselves are turned off to the term. Tennent talks about how Pentecostals have influenced Christians in many ways and one way he emphasizes is how they have learned to look past sectarianism between different denominations.

### Key Learning/ Questions

- Pentecostalism is playing an important role in shaping the theological discourse and practice throughout the world.
- Definition of Pentecostalism
  - Baptism of the Holy Spirit
  - Full range of gifts and manifestations of the Spirit are available today as had been back then.
  - Known for more expressive form of worship
  - Special urgency to evangelize
- Three reasons to discuss and focus on Latin America
  - The majority of all Latin American Protestants are Pentecostal
  - Through Pentecostalism, Latin American countries are being reformed uniquely to Latin Americans
  - This study finds it important the theological discourse of Latin Americans concerning the Holy Spirit and how the Holy Spirit works in the world and individually.
- The Holy Spirit's role in the Trinity continued to be debated for almost a century.
- The West's theology gradually started to limit what the Holy Spirit can do.
- Scholars would believe in the deity of the Holy Spirit, but not study the works of the Holy Spirit, the baptism of the Holy Spirit
- In India, people give more supernatural reasons for natural disasters than people in the West.
- Evangelism and Missions in Latin American Pentecostalism
  - Christianity became more evangelistic and faith was less about being born into it and more about actually choosing the faith.
  - In Latin America, the poorer areas were more open to Pentecostalism, which opened the doors for a bigger emphasis on healing

### Mission Implications

This chapter tells us that it's better when Christianity is spread from bottom up than top to bottom, which is exactly what happened in Latin America. The people in poorer areas were attracted to what the Christian God could offer them. The accessible healing benefitted them more than the inaccessible health care system. I do feel that it is great that their faith became their own and not forced on them from their country. I also believe that missions organizations

are doing this well today, in their pursuit of reaching the ends of the world. However, I do have a problem with missions organizations that focus too much on the things that God can do more than God Himself. My question is, how do people transition their church members from focusing on the healing of God, the blessings of God, the provisions of God, to focusing on the Person of God?