

Reflection Chapter 7

This chapter focuses on the Holy Spirit and Pentecostalism. It emphasizes the importance of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and how Pentecostalism is moving throughout the land. There is an emphasis on Pentecostalism in Latin America but Tennent also discusses Pentecostalism in other regions.

Tennent refers to the Asuza street revival in 1906 as the root of the birth of Pentecostalism in North America. What stood out to me is that this revival started because the people were questioning God as to why He would allow an earthquake to take place in San Francisco, killing thousands. So out a place of despair came a revival which led to a movement, Pentecostalism, that has since spread to other nations and denominations. During this time God was at work throughout the world and Pentecost experience was taking place in several areas at the same time during a 2-3-year period. Revivals were breaking out in Welch, Korea, parts of Africa and India and people were having an encounter with the Holy Spirit that was never experienced before. What had started as a few revival meetings has turned into a major explosion touching millions of people and moving throughout the world.

Pentecostalism in Latin America for example arose mainly from those who have backgrounds in Roman Catholicism. Again, this movement of Pentecostalism is fused into denominations. It is Latin American Pentecostalism that brought about a new thought on ecumenism. It brought denominations together by the shared Pentecostal experience, breaking the separation of churches. People were united around the experience of the Holy Spirit.

Latin American Pentecostalism also challenged several areas of evangelical. It had an

evangelistic movement directed toward those who already confessed to be Christians, rather than nonbelievers. Pentecostalism connected Christ and the Holy Spirit. As many denominations concentrated on Christ, neglecting the work of the Holy Spirit. In Latin America the connection of the Holy Spirit to evangelism, showing how a region can have many Christians but still lack understanding of the power that goes with being a Christian. The power of the Holy Spirit for effective preaching, believing for signs and wonders and casting out of demons was a more active role of bring the gospel to people.

These are a few things that stood out to me as I read the chapter. I also thought about how change is constant. We often talk about taking the Bible as a whole but often only concentrate on one or a few portions. On this we build our faith or denominations leaving out the rest. This is a disservice to us and those we serve or attempt to evangelize. This is good food for thought.