

“A River Created by Many Streams”

**Washington Community Fellowship
November 21, 2010**

The Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements: “The Immediacy of God’s Presence”

The First Pentecostals? The Apostles, including Paul: Acts 2:4, Romans 12, I Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4

St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)?

“Kissing Cousins” with the Holiness Movement:

Holiness: Be, Pentecostals: Do

Pentecostalism Today:

- Church of God, Cleveland, TN (1886) – 6 million in 50 countries
- Church of God in Christ – Charles Mason (Founded 1897) – 5 Million
- 80-90% of Protestants in Latin America, 12 Million Assemblies of God in Brazil alone
- Assemblies of God (founded 1914) in 212 countries – 55 million worldwide
- Foursquare – 8 million in 144 countries
- Independent movements worldwide

Pentecostalism “takes off”:

1906 William J. Seymour – Azusa Street Revival – night and day for three years – erased “color line.”
Note Jeannie Evans Moore’s piano playing and languages, without prior knowledge (French, Spanish, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi. Missions emerged within weeks. Newspaper: *The Apostolic Faith*. Seymour stressed primacy of love above gifts.

1927 Aimie Semple McPherson – L.A. Temple

The Charismatic Tradition:

60’s and 70’s movement, started in Mainline and Roman Churches, later the Vineyard Church movement (1500 churches - John Wimber), Pat Robertson, etc. Called the “Radical Middle.”

- Rejects impulse to domesticate God
- Reject anemic faith
- Grow and “rebuke the flesh”
- Empowering witness: “signs and wonders”

Perils: Opportunities for charlatans, anti-intellectualism, having gifts overshadow fruits, elevating gifts too high?

Question: How should WCF wrestle with its view of the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives?