

## What is a Charismatic Church?

A charismatic church is a full gospel, New Testament, born again believing, and Bible based church. It preaches that Jesus is Lord in resurrection power, manifesting gifts of the Holy Spirit to minister to the lost and edify the church.

### Where did the term Charismatic come from?

In order to answer this it is important to understand the history of Spiritual gifts manifesting after the day of Pentecost:

1. The manifestation of the gifts declined after the apostolic age, due largely to the fact that the church had become lukewarm. This is evidenced by the Lord's warning to the church at Ephesus in Revelation 2:4-5.

2. In the second and third centuries they continued to more or less manifest.

But shortly after Constantine's Edict making Christianity the national religion, at which time the church came into Imperial favor, the ministry of the gifts rapidly declined. *Although* it is important to note that the operation of the gifts *never* altogether ceased. The story of St. Francis contains thrilling incidents of miracles of healing.

3. Middle ages. The history of the persecuted sects of the Waldenses and Albigenses shows that the gifts of the Spirit were in manifestation even then.

4. 18th Century. John Wesley records remarkable Pentecostal phenomena in his journals in the meetings of the early Methodists. The Moravians and other contemporary groups also experienced many unusual supernatural manifestations.

5. 19th and 20th century revivals. When *at last* men began to earnestly to pray for their restoration to the Church, outpourings of His Spirit resulted. The Azusa street revival in 1907 ignited spiritual gifts around the world.

In the early days of the restoration of the gifts of the Spirit the movement became known as Pentecostal, referring to the outpouring of the Spirit in Acts chapter 2 during the feast of Pentecost (A harvest festival):

### Acts 2:1-4

In the 1960's and 70's, to the surprise of some Pentecostal traditionalists, the Holy Spirit began to move among traditional denominational churches: Catholic, Methodist, Episcopalian, etc. This moved the Holy Spirit's presence among the middle and upper class people as well, becoming more mainstream. The term "Charismatic Renewal" began to be applied to this new move of revival.

The word charismatic comes from the Greek word *charis*, which is often used for the word "gift" to describe the spiritual gifts. It means Grace, often interpreted and used in words such as favor, gifts, grace. One definition calls it a gift of grace. As with salvation, the gifts are not based on our merit or personality, but on the grace and favor of God.

The dictionary defines charismatic as having or possessing great powers of charm or influence; to have a magnetic personality. A great leader and motivator can be known to have charisma, or a charismatic personality. While this definition is not negative, it does not apply to a charismatic church. The world's definition is man centered. The Bible definition is God centered and resourced by Him.

### A Charismatic Church is characterized by:

#### 1. An Atmosphere of prayer

- o Acts 1:14; 2:1
- o Acts 14:31

#### 2. Desire for a Manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit: (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)

A charismatic church is open to, and gives opportunity to the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in its services. That manifestation could be a message spoken in tongues and interpretation, prophesy, laying on of hands, healing, or a miracle.

#### 3. Exuberant worship (1 Corinthians 14:14-15)

A charismatic church has responsive worship often marked by lifting of hands, verbal praise such as "Hallelujah, glory to God, praise you Jesus, I love you Lord, thank you Lord", and singing in the spirit (tongues).

#### 4. Spiritual Hunger

Zeal in the things of God and a desire to read, study and meditate on the word of God.

- o Psalm 119:162
- o 2 Timothy 2:15 (KJS)

#### 5. Desire to witness (Acts 1:8)

#### 6. Desire for fruit of the Spirit and the greatest motivation of all: Love

- o 1 Corinthians 12:31
- o 1 Corinthians 14:1