

## Pentecost and Pentecostal worship in view of Sacramentality

According to John 4:23-24, Pentecostals claim that true worshippers must worship God in Spirit and in truth. The dynamic movement of the Spirit is associated with spontaneity and freedom and truth is associated with Scripture. This dual emphasis characterizes Pentecostal approaches to worship in church settings and in private devotions.

Additionally, Pentecostals, as people of Pentecost, see the Pentecost event as the starting point of their theological endeavor and the birth place of their spirituality. Therefore, the gifts of the Spirit, with a special emphasis on the glossolalia, shape and motivate Pentecostal expectations for understanding our encounter with God and God's encounter with us (commonly known as worship). The paradigmatic shift for Pentecostals is that Pentecost is available to all and is for all who are flesh in spite of gender, race, or economic background.

This key Pentecostal emphasis on the experiential element of worship as encountering the presence of God mediated by the Spirit is not original to its tradition. Despite similarities with mystical traditions like Orthodoxy in this regard, Pentecostals resist any insinuation of overlap with the older pneumatologists. This is the case for at least two reasons: (1) Pentecostal understanding of the Spirit's descent on the church and its charismatic spirituality is set within a particular missional and apocalyptic framework. The limitations as a result, are historically bound to its roots in the holiness traditions and evangelical fundamentalism; (2) Consequently, any understanding of worship set within liturgical and sacramental language is rejected purely based on an anti-Catholic, protestant instinct.

In this paper, I will seek to explore the intersection between Pentecostal and Orthodox understandings of worship as it relates to the theme of mystical encounter with God. Using the theological symbol of Pentecost that is vital for both Pentecostal and Orthodox theology, I will argue for how Pentecostals can expand and enhance their understanding of worship from the dual emphasis of "Spirit and truth," to a sacramental view. I will show that this sacramental view is implicit within Pentecostal spirituality, but has not been developed previously due to its questionable alliances with other traditions and ignorance of Orthodox beliefs and practices.