

Charismatic movement

The **charismatic movement** in Christianity is a movement within established or mainstream [Christian](#) denominations to adopt beliefs and practices of Charismatic Christianity with an emphasis on [baptism with the Holy Spirit](#), and the use of [spiritual gifts](#) (*charismata*). It has affected most denominations in the US, and has spread widely across the world.

The movement is deemed to have begun in 1960 in [Anglicanism](#), and spread to other mainstream protestant denominations, including [Lutherans](#) and [Presbyterians](#) by 1962 and to [Roman Catholicism](#) by 1967. [Methodists](#) became involved in the charismatic movement in the 1970s.

The movement was not initially influential in evangelical churches, and although this changed in the 1980s in the so called [Third Wave](#), this was often expressed in the formation of separate evangelical churches such as the [Vineyard Movement](#) - neo-charismatic organisations that mirrored the establishment of Pentecostal churches. Many traditional evangelical churches remain opposed to the movement and teach a [cessationist](#) theology.

History

The classic [Pentecostalism](#) movement usually traces its origin to the early twentieth century, with the ministry of [Charles F. Parham](#)^[1] and the subsequent ministry of [William Joseph Seymour](#) and the [Azusa Street Revival](#).^[2] Its unique doctrine involved a dramatic encounter with [God](#), termed [baptism with the Holy Spirit](#). The evidence for having received this experience was interpreted by some as [speaking in tongues](#).^[3]

Before 1955 the religious mainstream did not embrace Pentecostal doctrines. If a church member or clergyman openly expressed such views, they would (either voluntarily or involuntarily) separate from their existing denomination. However, by the 1960s many of the characteristic teachings were gaining acceptance among Christians within mainline Protestant denominations.^[4] The charismatic movement represented a reversal of this previous pattern as those influenced by Pentecostal spirituality chose to remain in their original denominations.^[5] The popularization and broader acceptance of charismatic teachings as well as ideas are linked to the [Healing Revival](#) that occurred from 1946 to 1958. The revivalists of the time, including [William Branham](#), [Oral Roberts](#), and [A. A. Allen](#), held large interdenominational meetings which emphasized the gifts of the spirit. This global revival led to greater awareness and acceptance of Pentecostal teachings and practices.^[6]

The [high church](#) wing of the American [Episcopal Church](#) became the first traditional ecclesiastical organization to feel the impact of the new movement internally. The beginning of the charismatic movement is usually dated to Sunday, April 3, 1960, when [Dennis J. Bennett](#), rector of St Mark's Episcopal Church in [Van Nuys, California](#) recounted his Pentecostal experience to his parish, doing it again on the next two Sundays, including Easter (April 17), during which many of his congregation shared his experience, causing him to be forced to resign.^{[7][8]} The resulting controversy and press coverage spread an awareness of the emerging charismatic movement. The movement grew to embrace other mainline churches, where clergy began receiving and publicly announcing their Pentecostal experiences. These clergy began holding meetings for seekers and healing [services](#) which included praying over and [anointing of the sick](#). The charismatic movement reached [Lutherans](#) and [Presbyterians](#) in 1962.^[9] The [Catholic Charismatic Renewal](#) began in 1967 at [Duquesne University](#) in [Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania](#).^{[10][11]} Methodists became involved in the charismatic movement in the 1970s.^[12]

The charismatic movement led to the founding of many covenant communities, such as [Sword of the Spirit](#) and [Word of God](#), that are a force of [ecumenism](#) in that they have members from many major Christian denominations, such as Catholics, Lutherans, Anglicans, Reformed and Methodists, who live and pray together.^{[13][14][15]}

Despite the fact that Pentecostals currently tend to share more in common with [evangelicals](#) than with either Roman Catholics or non-evangelical wings of the church,^[16] the charismatic movement was not initially influential among evangelical churches. [C. Peter Wagner](#) traces the spread of the charismatic movement within evangelicalism to around 1985. He termed this movement the [Third Wave of the Holy Spirit](#).^[17] The Third Wave has expressed itself through the formation of churches and denomination-like organizations. These groups are referred to as "[neo-charismatic](#)" and are distinct from the charismatic movement of the historic Christian Churches.^[18] The [Vineyard Movement](#) and the [British New Church Movement](#) exemplify Third Wave or neo-charismatic organizations.

Beliefs

Charismatic Christians believe in an experience of [baptism with the Holy Spirit](#) and spiritual gifts (Greek *charismata* χάρισματα, from *charis* χάρις, [grace](#)) of the [Holy Spirit](#) as described in the [New Testament](#) are available to contemporary Christians through the infilling or baptism of the Holy Spirit, with or without the [laying on of hands](#).^{[19][20]}

The charismatic movement holds that Baptism in the Holy Spirit is the "sovereign action of God, which usually occurs when someone with a disposition of surrender and docility, prays for a fresh

outpouring of the Holy Spirit in his or her life."^{[19][21]} Additionally, "baptism in the Holy Spirit unleashes the Holy Spirit that is already present within us, by revitalizing the graces we received in the sacrament of Baptism."^[21] Baptism with the Holy Spirit "equips and inspires the individual for service, for mission, for discipleship and for life."^{[19][22]} Rev. Brenton Cordeiro teaches that those who have received Baptism with the Holy Spirit "testify that the experience brought them to a new awareness of the reality and presence of Jesus Christ in their lives [as well as] a new hunger for the Word of God, the Sacraments and were filled with a renewed desire for holiness."^[21]

Although the Bible lists many [gifts from God through his Holy Spirit](#), there are nine specific gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8–10 that are supernatural in nature and are the focus of and distinguishing feature of the charismatic movement: word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, distinguishing between spirits, speaking in different tongues (languages), and interpretation of tongues.

While Pentecostals and charismatics share these beliefs, there are differences. Many in the charismatic movement deliberately distanced themselves from Pentecostalism for cultural and theological reasons. Foremost among theological reasons is the tendency of many Pentecostals to insist that speaking in tongues is always the initial physical sign of receiving Spirit baptism. Although specific teachings will vary by denomination, charismatics generally believe that the Holy Spirit has already been present in a person from the time of [regeneration](#) and prefer to call subsequent encounters with the Holy Spirit by other names, such as "being filled".^{[20][22]} In contrast to Pentecostals, charismatics tend to accept a range of supernatural experiences (such as prophecy, miracles, healing, or "physical manifestations of an [altered state of consciousness](#)") as evidence of having been baptized or filled with the Holy Spirit.^[23]

Pentecostals are also distinguished from the charismatic movement on the basis of style.^[24] Also, Pentecostals have traditionally placed a high value on [evangelization](#) and [missionary work](#). Charismatics, on the other hand, have tended to see their movement as a force for revitalization and renewal within their own church traditions.^[25]

[Cessationists](#) argue these sign and revelatory gifts were manifested in the New Testament for a specific purpose, upon which once accomplished these signs were withdrawn and no longer function.^[26] Cessationists evidence this claim with an appeal for the rapid decline in reports of such gifts from the time of the Church Fathers onwards.^[27] Non-cessationists argue that testimonial claims of God doing signs, wonders and miracles can especially be found in the first three centuries of the church.^[28] Sacramental charismatics also point out that the means of distribution of charismatic gifts in the early church, was not limited to the laying on of hands of the canonical

apostles, but was tethered to the receptivity of prayer connected to the sacrament of baptism.^[29] The Charismatic movement is based on a belief that these gifts are still available today.

Denominations influenced

Anglicanism

In America, the Episcopalian [Dennis Bennett](#) is sometimes cited as one of the charismatic movement's seminal influences.^[30] Bennett was the [rector](#) at St Mark's [Episcopal](#) Church in Van Nuys, California when he announced to the congregation in 1960 that he had received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.^[31] Soon after this he ministered in Seattle, where he ran many workshops and seminars about the work of the Holy Spirit.^[32]

In the United Kingdom, [Colin Urquhart](#), [Michael Harper](#), [David Watson](#) and others were in the vanguard of similar developments.

The [Massey](#) conference in New Zealand, 1964 was attended by several Anglicans, including the Rev. Ray Muller, who went on to invite Bennett to New Zealand in 1966, and played a leading role in developing and promoting the *Life in the Spirit* seminars. Other Charismatic movement leaders in New Zealand include [Bill Subritzky](#).

As of the early 21st century a "charismatic evangelical" wing or school of thought is commonly identified in the [Church of England](#), contrasted with the [conservative evangelical](#), [Anglo-Catholic](#) and other tendencies. An influential local church in this movement has been London's [Holy Trinity Brompton](#), and [Justin Welby](#), Archbishop of Canterbury since 2013, has a background in charismatic evangelicalism.^[33]

Lutheranism

Larry Christenson, a Lutheran theologian based in San Pedro, California, did much in the 1960s and 1970s to interpret the charismatic movement for Lutherans. A very large annual conference was held in Minneapolis during those years.^[34] Some Lutheran charismatics in the US formed the Alliance of Renewal Churches. [Richard A. Jensen's](#) *Touched by the Spirit* published in 1974, played a major role of the Lutheran understanding to the charismatic movement. Another Lutheran charismatic leader is [Morris Vaagenes](#). In Finland the emergence of charismatic congregations has reversed, in some places, a decline in attendance of Lutheran congregations.^[35]

Reformed

In Congregational and Presbyterian churches which profess a traditionally [Calvinist](#) or [Reformed theology](#), there are differing views regarding present-day [continuation](#) or [cessation](#) of the gifts (*charismata*) of the Spirit.^{[26][36]} Generally, however, Reformed charismatics distance themselves from renewal movements with tendencies which could be perceived as overemotional, such as [Word of Faith](#), [Toronto Blessing](#), [Brownsville Revival](#) and [Lakeland Revival](#).

Prominent Reformed charismatic denominations are the [Sovereign Grace Churches](#) and the [Every Nation Churches](#) in the United States, in Great Britain there is the [Newfrontiers](#) churches and movement, founded by [Terry Virgo](#).^[37]

Roman Catholicism



Praise and Worship during a Catholic charismatic renewal Healing Service.

In the United States the Catholic charismatic renewal was focused in individuals like [Kevin Ranaghan](#) and others at the [University of Notre Dame](#) in [Notre Dame, Indiana](#). [Duquesne University](#) in [Pittsburgh](#), which was founded by the [Congregation of the Holy Spirit](#), a Catholic religious community, began hosting charismatic revivals in 1977.

In a foreword to a 1983 book by [Léon Joseph Cardinal Suenens](#), at that time the Pope's delegate to the Catholic charismatic renewal, the then [Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith](#), Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (later [Pope Benedict XVI](#)), comments on the Post Second Vatican Council period stating,

At the heart of a world imbued with a rationalistic skepticism, a new experience of the Holy Spirit suddenly burst forth. And, since then, that experience has assumed a breadth of a worldwide Renewal movement. What the New Testament tells us about the Charisms—which were seen as visible signs of the

coming of the Spirit—is not just ancient history, over and done with, for it is once again becoming extremely topical.

and

to those responsible for the ecclesiastical ministry—from parish priests to bishops—not to let the Renewal pass them by but to welcome it fully; and on the other (hand) ... to the members of the Renewal to cherish and maintain their link with the whole Church and with the Charisms of their pastors.^[38]

In the [Roman Catholic](#) church, the movement became particularly popular in the [Filipino](#), [Korean](#), and [Hispanic](#) communities of the United States, in the Philippines, and in [Latin America](#), mainly Brazil. Travelling priests and lay people associated with the movement often visit parishes and sing what are known as charismatic masses. It is thought to be the second largest distinct sub-movement (some 120 million members) within global Catholicism, along with [Traditional Catholicism](#).^[39]

A further difficulty is the tendency for many charismatic Catholics to take on what others in their church might consider sacramental language and assertions of the necessity of "Baptism in the Holy Spirit," as a universal act. This causes difficulty as there is little to distinguish the "Baptism" from the sacrament of confirmation.^[40] In this regard, a Study seminar organized jointly in [São Paulo](#) by the [Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity](#) and the [Bishops Conference](#) of Brazil raised these issues. Technically, among Catholics, the "Baptism of the Holy Spirit" is neither the highest nor fullest manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

Thus "Baptism of the Spirit" is one experience among many within Christianity (as are the extraordinary manifestations of the Spirit in the lives of the saints, notably [St. Francis of Assisi](#) and [St. Teresa of Avila](#), who levitated), and thus less dogmatically held by Catholic charismatics (than by Pentecostals).^[41] Possibly, [Padre Pio](#) (now St. Pio) provides a modern-day Catholic example of this experience. Describing his confirmation, when he was 12 years old, Padre Pio said that he "wept with consolation" whenever he thought of that day because "I remember what the Most Holy Spirit caused me to feel that day, a day unique and unforgettable in all my life! What sweet raptures the Comforter made me feel that day! At the thought of that day, I feel aflame from head to toe with a brilliant flame that burns, consumes, but gives no pain." In this experience, Padre Pio said he was made to feel God's "fullness and perfection." Thus a case can be made that he was "baptized by the Spirit" on his confirmation day in 1899. It was one spiritual experience among many that he would have.^[42]

The *Compendium to the [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#)* states:

160. What are Charisms? 799–801. Charisms are special gifts of the Holy Spirit which are bestowed on individuals for the good of others, the needs of the world, and in particular for the building up of the Church. The discernment of charisms is the responsibility of the [Magisterium](#).

Recent Popes (John XXIII, Paul VI, John Paul II and Francis) have all emphasised the importance of a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit for all Catholics, and have spoken encouragingly to the Catholic charismatic renewal organisation on many occasions. On June 8, 2019, Pope Francis encouraged everyone in Charismatic Renewal "to share baptism in the Holy Spirit with everyone in the Church."^[43] On June 6, 2019, the CHARIS (*Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service* (<https://www.charis.international/en/home/>)) service was officially inaugurated by Pope Francis. CHARIS has a "public juridic personality" within the Roman Catholic Church and has come into being as a direct initiative of the highest ecclesiastical authority, Pope Francis.^[44] The primary objectives of CHARIS are "To help deepen and promote the grace of baptism in the Holy Spirit throughout the Church and to promote the exercise of charisms not only in Catholic Charismatic Renewal but also in the whole Church."^[45]

Methodism

In the [Methodist](#) tradition (inclusive of the [holiness movement](#)), [baptism with the Holy Spirit](#) traditionally refers to the [second work of grace](#) subsequent to the [New Birth](#) and is called [entire sanctification](#), in which [original sin](#) is removed and the person is made perfect in love ([Christian perfection](#)).^{[46][47]} Entire sanctification, which may be received instantaneously or gradually, "cleanses the heart of the recipient from all sin (I John 1:7, 9; Acts 15:8, 9), sets him apart and endows him with power for the accomplishment of all to which he is called (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8)."^{[48][49]}

When the Methodist movement was initiated, "many individuals in London, Oxford and Bristol reported supernatural healings, visions, dreams, spiritual impressions, power in evangelizing, [and] extraordinary bestowments of wisdom".^[50] [John Wesley](#), the founder of Methodism, "firmly maintained that the Spiritual gifts are a natural consequence of genuine holiness and dwelling of God's Spirit in a man."^[50] As such, Methodist Churches hold to the theological position of [continuationism](#).^[50] With its history of promoting holiness and experiential faith, many Methodist congregations now engage in charismatic worship since the arrival of the charismatic movement to Methodism, though other Methodist [connexions](#) and their congregations eschew it.^{[51][52]} In the latter case, the Pentecostal doctrine of a third work of grace accompanied by [glossolalia](#) is condemned by some connexions in the Methodist tradition, such as the [Pilgrim Holiness Church](#),

which teaches that the state of [Christian perfection](#) in which a person is perfect in love is the goal for humans.^[49]

Those who teach that some special phenomena such as speaking with unknown tongues constitutes a witness to the Baptism with the Spirit expose themselves and their hearers to peril of dangerous fanaticism. Perhaps no wiser counsel has been given on this matter than that of John Wesley who wrote long before the modern "tongues" movement appeared: "The grounds of a thousand mistakes is the not considering, deeply that love is the highest gift of God - humble, gentle, patient love - that all visions, revelation, manifestations whatsoever are little things compared to love. It were well you should be thoroughly sensible of this. The heaven of heavens is love. There is nothing higher in religion; there is in effect, nothing else. If you look for anything but more love you are looking wide of the mark, you are getting out of the royal way. And when you are asking others, "Have you received this or that blessing," if you mean anything but more love you, you mean wrong; you are leading them out of the way, and putting them upon a false scent. Settle it then in your heart, that from the moment God has saved you from all sin, you are to aim at nothing but more of that love described in the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians. You can go no higher than this till you are carried into Abraham's bosom." – Doctrine, [Pilgrim Holiness Church](#)^[49]

Charismatic Methodists in the United States allied with the [Good News](#) caucus and those in Great Britain have been supported by the Lay Witness Movement,^[53] which works with Methodist Evangelicals Together.^[51] In the [United Methodist Church](#), the charismatic apostolate Aldersgate Renewal Ministries was formed "to pray and work together for the renewal of the church by the power of the Holy Spirit".^[54] It runs events at local United Methodist churches, as well as the Methodist School for Supernatural Ministry.^[54]

Moravianism

Some members of the [Moravian Church](#) accepted certain elements from the charismatic movement as it spread.^[55]

Adventism

A minority of [Seventh-day Adventists](#) today are charismatic. They are strongly associated with those holding more "[progressive](#)" [Adventist beliefs](#). In the early decades of the church charismatic or ecstatic phenomena were commonplace.^{[56][57]}

Eastern Orthodoxy

Although most [Laestadians](#) are Lutheran and they are often termed Apostolic Lutherans, it is an interdenominational movement, so some are Eastern Orthodox. Eastern Orthodox Laestadians are known as [Ushkovayzet](#) (article is in Russian).^[58] Laestadian charismaticism has been attributed to influences from the shamanistic ecstatic religious practices of the [Sami](#), many who are Laestadians today.

The charismatic movement has not exerted the same influence on the [Eastern Orthodox Church](#) that it has on other mainstream Christian denominations. Although some Eastern Orthodox priests have advanced Charismatic practice in their congregations, the movement is seen as incompatible with Orthodoxy by writers within the church. For instance, an article published in the Journal "Orthodox Tradition" says "There is nothing Orthodox about the charismatic movement. It is incompatible with Orthodoxy, in that it justifies itself only by perverting the message of the Fathers, suggesting that the Church of Christ needs renewal, and indulging in the theological imagery of, Pentecostal cultism."^[59]

Despite this some priests forward Charismatic renewal in the [Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese](#), the Brotherhood of St. Symeon, and other orthodox churches.^[60]

Nondenominational



An [evangelical charismatic worship service](#) at [Lakewood Church, Houston, Texas](#), in 2013

The movement led to the creation of independent evangelical charismatic churches more in tune with the revival of the Holy Spirit. These churches are often [nondenominational](#). [Calvary Chapel](#) Costa Mesa, California was one of the first evangelical charismatic churches, founded in 1965.^[61] also victory outreach international founded in east Los Angeles in 1967 .also the United Kingdom, [Jesus Army](#), founded in 1969, is an example of the impact outside of the United States.^[62] Many other congregations were established in the rest of the world.^[63]

Theologians and scholars

- [Jack Deere](#) (Presbyterian)
- [Paul Fiddes](#) (Baptist)
- [Hobart Freeman](#) (Non-denominational)
- [Wayne Grudem](#) (Reformed / Vineyard)
- [Derek Prince](#) (Non-denominational)
- [Kevin Ranaghan](#) (Roman Catholic)
- [James Robison](#) (Baptist)
- [J. Rodman Williams](#) (Presbyterian)

See also

- [Cessationism versus Continuationism](#)
- [Charismatic Christianity](#)
- [Direct revelation](#)
- [Glossolalia](#)
- [Neo-charismatic movement](#)
- [Pentecostalism](#)
-  [Christianity portal](#)

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19. Elwell, Walter A. (2001). *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*. Baker Academic. p. 220. ISBN 978-0-8010-2075-9. "The charismatic movement has affected almost every historic church and has spread to many churches and countries beyond the United States. ... Particular emphases are reflected variously in the charismatic movement. *Baptism with the Holy Spirit*. There is common recognition of baptism with the Holy Spirit as a distinctive Christian experience. It is viewed as an event wherein the believer is "filled with" the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Baptism with the Holy Spirit is understood to result from "the gift of the Holy Spirit," wherein the Spirit is freely "poured out," "falls upon," "comes on," "anoints," "endues" the believer with "power from on high." ... Baptism with the Holy Spirit, accordingly, is not identified with conversion. It is viewed as an experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit that brings about powerful witness to Jesus Christ. Through this Spirit baptism the exalted Christ carries forward his ministry in the church and world."
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