

## Starting a New Decade (January 19, 2020 by Rev. Anthony Menzel)

Today we are going to make our new prayer cards for the basket.

As we make the cards, I want us to realize we are setting the tone not only for a new year but a new decade...

As we set this important tone, it is very important that we try to have the best priorities...

### Scripture 1: 2 Chronicles 1:1-12

Now Solomon the son of David was strengthened in his kingdom, and the LORD his God was with him and exalted him exceedingly.

<sup>2</sup> And Solomon spoke to all Israel, to the captains of thousands and of hundreds, to the judges, and to every leader in all Israel, the heads of the fathers' houses. <sup>3</sup> Then Solomon, and all the assembly with him, went to <sup>[a]</sup>the high place that was at Gibeon; for the tabernacle of meeting with God was there, which Moses the servant of the LORD had made in the wilderness. <sup>4</sup> But David had brought up the ark of God from Kirjath Jearim to *the place* David had prepared for it, for he had pitched a tent for it at Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup> Now the bronze altar that Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, had made, <sup>[b]</sup>he put before the tabernacle of the LORD; Solomon and the assembly sought Him *there*. <sup>6</sup> And Solomon went up there to the bronze altar before the LORD, which was at the tabernacle of meeting, and offered a thousand burnt offerings on it.

<sup>7</sup> On that night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, "Ask! What shall I give you?"

<sup>8</sup> And Solomon said to God: "You have shown great mercy to David my father, and have made me king in his place. <sup>9</sup> Now, O LORD God, let Your promise to David my father be established, for You have made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude. <sup>10</sup> Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?"

<sup>11</sup> Then God said to Solomon: "Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches or wealth or honor or the life of your enemies, nor have you asked long life—but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king—

<sup>12</sup> wisdom and knowledge *are* granted to you; and I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings have had who *were* before you, nor shall any after you have the like.”

Solomon asked the Lord for wisdom, but that wisdom did not keep Solomon on the right path...

### Scripture 2: 1 Kings 11:1-10

But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, *and* Hittites— <sup>2</sup> from the nations of whom the LORD had said to the children of Israel, “You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods.” Solomon clung to these in love. <sup>3</sup> And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. <sup>4</sup> For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not <sup>[a]</sup>loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David. <sup>5</sup> For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom<sup>[b]</sup> the abomination of the Ammonites. <sup>6</sup> Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as *did* his father David. <sup>7</sup> Then Solomon built a <sup>[c]</sup>high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that *is* east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon. <sup>8</sup> And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

<sup>9</sup> So the LORD became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the LORD God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, <sup>10</sup> and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the LORD had commanded.

I believe the best thing to keep as our main priority is to be with the Lord...

I think our church has the best mission a church can have...

**\*\*\*Our mission is to love God and to love others and to help them achieve their potential.**

### Scripture 3: Matthew 22:36-40

<sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?”

<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup> This is *the* first and great commandment. <sup>39</sup> And *the* second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

\*\*\*\*It came up during the Youth meeting that some people do not know some of the basic information about our church:

Three of the tabs on our Web site provide basic information about our church:

“Our Mission, Our History & Practices, and Our Beliefs.”

Excerpts from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentecostalism>:

**Pentecostalism** or **Classical Pentecostalism** is a [Protestant Christian](#) movement<sup>[1][2]</sup> that emphasises direct personal experience of [God](#) through [baptism with the Holy Spirit](#). The term *Pentecostal* is derived from [Pentecost](#), the [Greek](#) name for the [Jewish Feast of Weeks](#). For Christians, this event commemorates the descent of the [Holy Spirit](#) upon the followers of [Jesus Christ](#), as described in the second chapter of the [Acts of the Apostles](#).

In 1995, David Barrett estimated there were 217 million "Denominational Pentecostals" throughout the world.<sup>[108]</sup> In 2011, a [Pew Forum](#) study of global Christianity found that there were an estimated 279 million classical Pentecostals, making 4 percent of the total world population and 12.8 percent of the world's Christian population Pentecostal.<sup>[5]</sup> The study found "Historically Pentecostal denominations" (a category that did not include independent Pentecostal churches) to be the largest Protestant denominational family.<sup>[109]</sup>

The largest percentage of Pentecostals are found in [Sub-Saharan Africa](#) (44 percent), followed by [the Americas](#) (37 percent) and Asia and the Pacific (16 percent).<sup>[110]</sup> The movement is enjoying its greatest surge today in the [global South](#), which includes Africa, Latin America, and most of Asia.<sup>[111][112]</sup> There are 740 recognized Pentecostal denominations,<sup>[113]</sup> but the movement also has a significant number of independent churches that are not organized into denominations.<sup>[114]</sup>

Comprising over 700 denominations and many independent churches, there is no central authority governing Pentecostalism; however, many denominations are affiliated with the [Pentecostal World Fellowship](#). There are over 279 million Pentecostals worldwide, and the movement is growing in many parts of the world, especially the [global South](#). Since the 1960s, Pentecostalism has increasingly gained acceptance from other Christian traditions, and Pentecostal beliefs concerning Spirit baptism and spiritual gifts have been embraced by non-Pentecostal Christians in [Protestant](#) and [Catholic](#) churches through the [Charismatic Movement](#). Together, [Pentecostal and Charismatic Christianity](#) numbers over 500 million adherents.<sup>[5]</sup> While the movement originally attracted mostly lower classes in the global South, there is an increasing appeal to middle classes.<sup>[6][7][8]</sup> Middle class congregations tend to be more adapted to society and withdraw strong spiritual practices such as divine healing.<sup>[9][10][11]</sup>

Excerpt from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charismatic\\_movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charismatic_movement):

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.<sup>[7]</sup> 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 [Catholic Charismatic Renewal](#) began in 1967 at [Duquesne University](#) in [Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania](#).<sup>[8]</sup>

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,<sup>[9]</sup> 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](#).<sup>[10]</sup> The Third Wave has expressed itself through the formation of churches and denomination-like

organizations. These groups are referred to as "[neo-charismatic](#)".<sup>[11]</sup> The [Vineyard Movement](#) and the [British New Church Movement](#) exemplify Third Wave or neo-charismatic organizations.

### *Beliefs*[\[edit\]](#)

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Charismatic Christians believe that the gifts (Greek [charismata](#) χάρισμα, 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](#).<sup>[12]</sup> 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 from group to group, charismatics generally believe that the baptism with the Holy Spirit occurs at the [new birth](#) and prefer to call subsequent encounters with the Holy Spirit by other names, such as "being filled".<sup>[12]</sup> 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.<sup>[13]</sup>

Pentecostals are also distinguished from the charismatic movement on the basis of style.<sup>[14]</sup> 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.<sup>[15]</sup>

Detractors 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.<sup>[16]</sup> This position is called [cessationism](#), and is claimed by its proponents to be the almost universal position of Christians until the Charismatic movement



started.<sup>[16]</sup> The Charismatic Movement is based on a belief that these gifts are still available today.

\*\*\*\*\*Based on this last article, our church could be classified as an independent Pentecostal church...

However, many Pentecostal churches have a lot of strict rules...

Our church believes in only putting those rules that are truly Biblical...

We want the least number of rules possible...

That is why I have listed our church as a Charismatic church instead of a Pentecostal church...

\*\*\*Now, as we set the tone for a new decade, it is important that we remember that the most important thing is not wealth, not even health, but salvation...

#### Scripture 4: Luke 12:13-21

<sup>13</sup> Then one from the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

<sup>14</sup> But He said to him, “Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?” <sup>15</sup> And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

<sup>16</sup> Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. <sup>17</sup> And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ <sup>18</sup> So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry.”’ <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’

<sup>21</sup> “So *is* he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

#### Scripture 5: Matthew 16:24-26

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”