

What is Latter Rain Pentecostalism?

Originally it was a rogue and extreme form of Pentecostalism that brought occult elements into church practice; however, today it refers to the doctrines developed from that source which now flourish in many Charismatic churches.

It originated in Canada in 1947-8 in a supposed revival at Sharon Fellowship, North Battleford, where Toronto-type phenomena occurred. Key leaders in this movement were George and Ern Hawtin, Percy Hunt and Herrick Holt. The main influences were the teachings developed by Franklin Hall, George Warnock and the 'healing' ministry of William Branham. Like Toronto and other excitements, people travelled far to experience these phenomena. Churches diminished as people flocked to follow Latter Rain leaders. In time it became elitist, authoritarian and sectarian as people submitted to apostles and prophets with absolute authority. In 1949 the Assemblies of God churches outlawed the movement, which went dormant – only to be revived under John Wimber's influence, and particularly in Paul Cain's ministry. His teaching about 'Joel's Army' is typical of a development of Latter Rain theology called, 'The Manifest Son's of God' (focused much on the Branham's extreme heresies), a radical form of dominionism which is now common in the Charismatic Mvt.

Teachings of Franklin Hall include:

- Impartation of the Spirit, gifts and power through the laying on of hands.
- Healing & exorcism is normal; faith can create new realities.
- Fasting for spiritual results. Pagans who fast will get prayers answered while Christians who fail to fast will not see answered prayer.
- Men can be immortal, hover, fly in space and be free from accidents by ascending mystical degrees of growth. Coloured 'immortal' substances rest on those with faith. Sickness, tiredness and body-odour can be eliminated.
- Belief in a form of astrology. Advocated the benefits of UFOs.
- Restoration of the Tabernacle of David: powerful praise & worship, emotionalism, the felt presence of God, singing in the Spirit.
- The Church must be restored, perfected & ruled by prophets and apostles.
- A purified elite group of overcomers will manifest Christ and possess the Spirit without measure & purge earth of resistance. Some added that 'overcomers' will redeem all creation and eventually overcome death.
- The church will experience a second Pentecost and will celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles when Christ will appear and be incarnated in the church and glorifying it before the Second Coming.

It can be seen that this is a source of serious heresy.

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