

Charismatic Movement

Gifts of Holy Spirit are God's free gift. God gives different kinds of gifts to the believer for the benefit of the church. Even though the gifts are given according to the will of God, its fruit is expected from all the believers. Both gifts of the Holy Spirit and the fruit of spirit enable us grow to likeness and overcome our sinful nature.

Every Christian has been given the gifts through the sacraments according to the will of God. For church ministry the believers are requested to be eager to prophecy and other gifts (1Cor. 14:39)

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1. The Purpose

- To strengthen the Church 1Cor. 14:26
- To glorify God. Rom. 15:5
- To evangelize others Rom. 15:18-19
- To reveal the work of the Holy spirit through the gifts.
- To prepare Christians for service

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2. Kinds of Gifts

There are different kinds of gifts.

- **Some believers magnify the three gifts: prophecy, healing and Speaking in tongues.**
- **where as others stress on the ninth**

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3. Spirit baptism (Baptism in spirit)

- **Receiving the Holy Spirit**
- **All believers are baptized with Holy Spirit 1Cor. 12:13**
- **Being Born-again Christian is with the help of the Holy Spirit**

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4. Filling of the spirit

- **It is not a one time event, but**
- **The ongoing process.**
- **Speaking in tongue is not a sign for the filling of the spirit**
- **It enable us grow into the likeness of Christ.**
- **Baptism in sprit takes place once in the life of the Christians,**
- **But the filling can be repeated over and over again.**

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5. Pentecostals view (According to Richard H. Jensen)

- **Speaking in tongue is understood to be the initial evidence of the baptism in spirit.**
- **Water baptism is the first stage where as spirit baptism is the second.**
- **Justification is the first blessing where as sanctification is the second. But the same picture to explain the same reality.**
- **Jesus justifies Holy Sprit sanctifies.**
- **Every believer must speaks in tongue**
- **Holy Spirit is emphasized during the preaching. However, preaching is God-given revelation based on the bible where as prophesying is God-given revelation based on individuals.**

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- **Speaking in tongues is the highest level of spiritual achievement. However, in the bible the gift of tongues is considered the least and most unimportant of spiritual gifts. The Apostle Paul says: I had rather speak five words with my understandings that might teach other also, than ten thousand words in tongues (1Cor. 14:19)**

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6. Spiritual Gifts in EECMY-CS Context.

- It is known that the EECMY is the fast growing Lutheran Church in the world. The main reason for this dramatic growing is the Charismatic movement in the church at large.
- Some claims that the revival in the EECMY is from the out side, Pentecostal Churches; but the reality is the opposite.
- There was no one from Pentecostals when the first revival burst out at Gore EECMY congregation in February 1970. Accordingly, these days the EECMY is not influenced by others; but she influences others in all aspects. Her pastors, evangelists and lay ministers are serving with gifts of prophecy and healing. Even, some of them are very influential both in the EECMY and Pentecostal Churches.
- By its nature charismatic movement is doctrinally neither Pentecostal nor Lutheran but biblical. It has to be noted that all the services rendered in the church and the gifts we exercise are from God. None of them are from outside.

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- **In the EECMY context:**
- **Members give more emphasis on prophecy, teaching, preaching and healing.**
- **Members pay less attention to speaking in tongue**
- **Most often during courses and conferences three ministers, preacher, solo singer and the one who has gifts of prophecy and healing are invited.**
- **God heals some people from any sort of disease and set them free from demonic power.**
- **Through the prophecy God inform his people some new events which will happen in the future either in their life or in the community.**
- **Some times the Holy Sprit gives extra languages to serve with and after service the language is disappeared.**

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As the result of Charismatic Movement in the church

- Tremendous grows in number
- Commitment to witness Christ
- A great number of lay ministers and volunteers
- Many solo singers and choir groups in the church
- Many teachers and preachers
- Good church attendance (90%) are active
- Active participation of women and youth in the church ministry.

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7. How one can receive the gifts?

Through:

- **Prayer**
- **Eagerly desire 1Chor. 12:31**
- **God's determination 1Ch. 12:11**

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- **8. Challenges**
- **Misunderstanding as if the healings and prophecies are the greater gifts than others gifts.**
- **Considering charismatic as Pentecostals doctrine.**
- **Emphases on the church rules rather than the revival. But the word of God is always new and need new ways to communicate the mass.**
- **More attention is paid to the gifts than the word.**
- **Most often biblical principles are not maintained that restricts speaking in tongue not to be used in public if not interpreted.**
- **Less attachment of gifted-ministers with the Church but with wealthy Christians.**
- **Some pretend to serve with the gift in Christian community.**

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- **Conclusion**
- **Despite some irregularities, the EECMY especially the Central Synod has been benefited from the Charismatic movement. As much as possible the gifts are managed according to the biblical principles in regard to this matter. This spiritual renewal enables the church to reach out and to reach in. Church planting, growing in number, social and economic changes and community transformation are the result of this charismatic movement.**

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