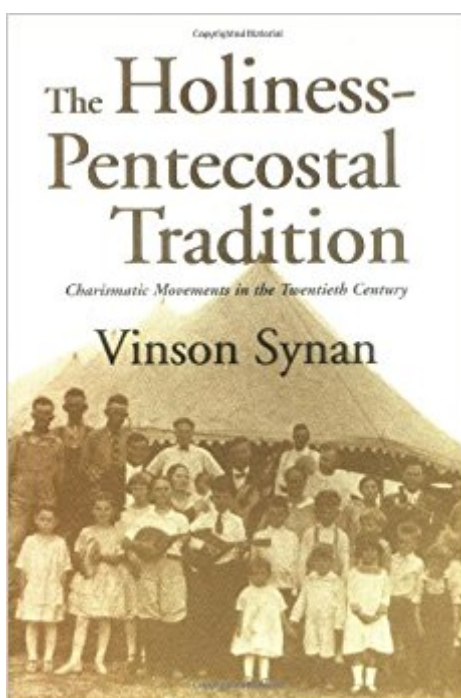


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The Holiness-Pentecostal Tradition: Charismatic Movements In The Twentieth Century



Synopsis

Called "a pioneer contribution" by *Church History* when it was first published in 1971 as *The Holiness-Pentecostal Movement in the United States*, this volume has now been revised and enlarged by Vinson Synan to account for the incredible changes that have occurred in the church world during the last quarter of the twentieth century. Synan brings together the stories of the many movements usually listed as "holiness," "pentecostal," or "charismatic," and shows that there is an identifiable "second blessing" tradition in Christianity that began with the Catholic and Anglican mystics, that was crystallized in the teaching of John Wesley, and that was further perpetuated through the holiness and Keswick movements of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries to the appearance of modern Pentecostalism. Synan then chronicles the story of the spread of Pentecostalism around the world after the heady days of the Azusa Street awakening, with special attention given to the beginnings of the movement in those nations where Pentecostalism has become a major religious force. He also examines the rise of various mainline-church charismatic movements that have their roots in Pentecostalism. Because of the explosive growth of the Pentecostal movement in the last half of the century, Pentecostals and Charismatics now constitute the second largest family of Christians in the world after the Roman Catholic Church. "This could well be the major story of Christianity in the twentieth century," writes Synan. "Pentecostalism has grown beyond a mere passing movement; . . . and can now be seen as a major Christian tradition alongside the Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and Reformation Protestant traditions." *The Holiness-Pentecostal Tradition* will continue to be an important handbook for shaping our understanding of this phenomenon.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Christianity Today, [Number 15 on the Top 25 Books of the Year list](#) (1998) Charisma "As a historian, Synan offers powerful explanations and conclusions." Christian Scholars Review "An indispensable and highly readable account of the origins and growth of what is clearly the most significant movement in the twentieth-century church . . . With the growing [charismaticization](#) of the contemporary church, this book should be of interest to Christians in all academic disciplines." Clergy Journal "A fine historical work that will interest those engaged in the history of the American church. . . This is a book that makes for fascinating reading and is well worth the investment of time and money." Publishers Weekly "This revision of a book originally published in 1971 incorporates five new chapters and further strengthens Synan's detailed and highly readable history of the various [second-blessing](#) movements that form a major branch of Christianity. . . Synan provides an authoritative, highly documented and nuanced survey of a tradition that continues to thrive worldwide."

Vinson Synan is distinguished professor of Christian History at Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

With "The Holiness Pentecostal Tradition" (340 page paperback) Pentecostal theologian Vinson Synan proffers a veritable who's who in the history of charisma. This remarkable 1997 re-write, from its original 1971 edition, narrates 20th century Pentecostalism's explosive worldwide growth. From its 19th century Wesleyan origin Synan presents extensive holiness-pentecostal names, dates, and places. He tells local colloquial tales, presents global facts, and exposes historic myths from the Pentecostal movement. His is a scholarly analysis that presents and evaluate Christianity's "third great tradition" (after Roman Catholicism and Protestantism). From the formation of the 19th century holiness movement and the later birth of Pentecostalism on Azusa Street, Synan explains the history and principal theology of Pentecostals. "Holy Rollers", Tomlinson's scandal, "fundamentalist fury", "Catholic tongues", snake handling, "Jesus only", "finished works", "Wesley's second blessing", Keswick movement, "latter rain", and much more are explained. Pentecostalism principal denominations (Assemblies of God, Church of God in Christ, United Pentecostal Church, Foursquare Gospel Church, and International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, and their

differences) are thoroughly considered. Synan also tells Pentecostal history with extensive documentation (in 28 pages of bibliography). Pentecostal leaders Moody, Finney, Parham, Seymour, Mason, Fuller, Durham, McPherson, Roberts, and more are considered. Their particular contributions are followed through the book's completion. This is an excellent book. It is recommended to everyone.

I like this book because it gives me the true story of the movement from the beginning to date. The people involved are common people but they are filled with the Holy Spirit so that their lives are changed and they can impact the life of others. The story expels myths regarding Pentecostalism/Charismatic movement. It helps me to adjust my attitude towards those people. It is well worth reading and collection.

Describing the various outpourings in our country whose origins was in the early 1900's over in Wales, England and Scotland, this book shows what took place here...the ups and downs, the real and the fake, the right and the wrong; in other words, how man either let God do what He wanted to or not. The author also writes about individuals as well, showing each one's ups and downs. None of us are without faults, but the microscopic look at them only puts a bad light on the entire movement as a whole. Overall though, the story does need to be told and the author is forthright and honest, if not blunt.

This is the comprehensive work on the history of the Holiness-Pentecostal movement. I personally do not agree with this movement and its teachings, but this book is very well written.

VERY INTERESTING READ.

Frank Bartelman and Vinson Synan are the "go to guys," when you want to know the history of our Pentecostal and Apostolic traditions. The flow of his narrative makes the reader feel he is sitting on the "Mourner's Bench" at one of those good ol' camp meetings!

this is the best book on the subject ever written, and it will be read for a century! orzie henderson jr

I was told this book was the classic of Pentecostal/holiness history texts. It did not disappoint me. I found it to be extremely well-written, unbiased, and insightful. Any student of church (and

particularly Pentecostal) history would benefit from this book.

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