

A Brief Historical Overview of Charismatic Gifts Operating in the Church

By Rick McKinney, 2023

- c. 33 AD – Day of Pentecost – Birth of the Church – Speaking in Tongues – Apostles preach and spread the gospel accompanied by signs and wonders. Apostolic age begins.
- c. 54 AD – St. Paul writes first letter to the Corinthians with instructions on the gifts of the Spirit.
- c. 70 AD – Mark, Matthew, & Luke written with instructions to the apostles to heal, deliver, etc.
- c. 80 AD – Acts of the Apostles written with description Day of Pentecost and operation of spiritual gifts.
- c. 100 AD – Didache compiled with Church guidelines on discerning true and false prophets.
- c. 180 AD – Justin Martyr writes that unlike the Jews the prophetic gifts still remain in the Church.
- c. 200 AD – Irenaeus notes that manifestations and miraculous powers still present in some churches.
- c. 220 AD - Tertullian writes that gifts of the Spirit are an expected phenomenon in the early Church.
- c. 280 AD – Growth of the charismatic sect of Montanism creates caution about gifts in the Church.
- c. 400 AD – St. Augustine – miracles noted in his church – writes on how miracles differ from magic.
- c. 500 AD – St. Patrick and his companions spread the gospel throughout Ireland with reported miracles.
- c. 1000 AD – Symeon the New Theologian reports baptism in the Spirit & deep spiritual experiences.
- c. 1220 AD – St. Francis of Assisi preaching often accompanied by miracles, healings, & deliverances.
- c. 1230 AD – St. Anthony preaches and performs many miracles including speaking in tongues to foreigners.
- c. 1400 AD – St. Vincent Ferrer preaches revival and performs miracles throughout Northern Europe.
- c. 1700-1850 AD – Various Catholic & Protestant revivals were marked by gifts of the Spirit including tongues.
- c. 1901 AD – Jan. 1 – At the urging of Blessed Elena Guerra Pope Leo XIII consecrates the 20th Century to the Holy Spirit. On that day in Topeka Kansas Agnes Ozman requests to be prayed over for the baptism in the Spirit & to speak in tongues. The site is now a Catholic Church. Pentecostal teaching begins.
- c. 1906 AD – Azusa Street non-stop revival in Los Angeles begins drawing thousands from all over the world and launches the Pentecostal movement with millions of adherents & multiple denominations. Pew Research estimates there are nearly 600 million Pentecostals/Charismatics worldwide today.
- c. 1955 AD – Charismatic gifts and speaking in tongues begins to spread in mainline Protestant churches.
- c. 1962-65 AD – Vatican II opened by Pope St. John XXIII with a prayer for a New Pentecost in the Church. Vatican II Lumen Gentium document stresses gifts of the Spirit and the role of the laity.
- c. 1967 AD – Duquesne Univ. weekend retreat occurs wherein students speak in tongues which launches the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR).
- c. 2017 AD – 50th Annual Anniversary of CCR in Rome with positive welcome by Pope Francis like previous popes. In 2013 Catholic Charismatics were estimated to number more than 160 million worldwide.