

**WHAT IS A PENTECOSTAL CHURCH?**

A Pentecostal church takes its name from the Spirits outpouring which occurred on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-4. The primary distinction is the belief that Christians can receive the same experience as the 120 did, of being baptized by the Holy Spirit, evidenced by speaking in tongues.

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD CHURCH**

This church makes up the largest Pentecostal denomination with some 51 million people around the world.

**HISTORY**

Its roots are in the religious revival that began in the late 1800's. In 1914, preachers and laymen gathered from 20 states and several foreign countries for a "general council" in Hot Springs, Arkansas. A cooperative fellowship emerged and was incorporated under the name "The General Council of the Assemblies of God."

The national headquarters are in Springfield, Missouri.

**WHAT WE BELIEVE....**

1. the Scriptures are inspired by God.
2. there is only One True God revealed in the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).
3. in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. As God's son Jesus was both human and divine.
4. man willingly fell to sin.
5. every person can have restored fellowship with God through 'Salvation'. (1 of 4 cardinal doctrines)
6. and practice – water baptism by immersion and Holy Communion.
7. the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a special experience following salvation (1 of 4 cardinal doctrines).
8. the initial physical evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is 'Speaking in Tongues.'
9. sanctification initially occurs at salvation.
10. the church has a mission to seek and save all who are lost in sin.
11. a divinely called and scripturally ordained leadership ministry serves the church.
12. divine healing of the sick is a privilege for Christians today (1 of 4 cardinal doctrines).
13. the blessed Hope – when Jesus raptures his church prior to His return to earth (1 of 4 cardinal doctrines).
14. the millennial reign of Christ.
15. a final judgment will take place.
16. and look forward to the new heavens and a new earth.

**THEIR MISSION**

They are committed to fulfilling a threefold mission:

1. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world.
2. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God.
3. To be a channel of God's purpose to be a body of saints being perfected in the image of his Son.

**WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN I VISIT....**

Variety is what you will find. You can expect a personal, uplifting experience that is geared for participation.

**Most Sundays begin with a one hour Bible study, Sunday School or Christian Education time.**

Facilities are functional. Most churches have platforms that serve as altars, and a single pulpit from which singing and prayer are led and the Word of God is preached.

**Music is a major part of the worship, before, during and after. Instruments may range from pianos or organs to full orchestras.**

The worship will have quiet times of waiting in God's presence, and other times will be vocal with collective praise. Worship styles reflect the spectrum of personalities. Some are quiet and some shout for joy. No sincere worshiper will feel out of place.

**A special time is devoted to prayer.**

Specific prayer may be offered for the sick. They will be invited to come forward to be anointed with oil or to have leaders and lay people lay hands on them and pray.

**During the service tithes and offerings are collected. Visitors need not feel obligated to give.**

During the service, there might be speaking in 'tongues' (a Spirit guided language other than the language of the congregation). The gifts of prophecy, tongues, interpretation or other spiritual gifts bring the church immediate challenge and confirm Biblical truths.

**The climax comes with the preaching of God's Word, the Bible, and an invitation for hearers to respond.**

Finally, there is an altar call for those needing prayer, forgiveness, healing, or those asking for the Spirit to be upon them.