

## The Spirit of Renewal & the Things of Renewal

1. My title names two **different** things and they are not to be confused.
2. The **world-wide outpouring of the Holy Spirit** that was God's gift for Christians since the 1960's brought with it a deeper awareness of God; a personal encounter with Jesus; a new love of the Scriptures; a new love of prayer; an upheaval of priorities; a new style of worshipping, etc.
3. Over the years, the 'charismatic movement' has become integrated into many churches, but in the process it tends to lose its distinctive basis, namely a **personal experience of the Holy Spirit**.
4. Many Christian groups have increasingly welcomed the music which has arisen from it, coupled with a freer style of worship. In short they have taken some of the Things of Renewal, and tacked them on to their existing patterns. What they have adopted is a selection from what I would term '**charismatic culture**'.
5. This can be both a blessing and a **trap**. The trap is to think that having worship that looks and sounds 'charismatic' (at least in part), that the Christians concerned have, therefore, opened their lives afresh to the personal upheaval and transformation offered by God's Holy Spirit for their daily empowering – or to use the old jargon "been renewed"!
6. Such personal 'renewal' is **not an optional extra** for the 'normal' Christian. It is God's purpose for us, and thus for his Church, that we should be equipped as soldiers and servants of Christ with the power that he provides by his Spirit. It is this lack which probably accounts for so much effort resulting in such ineffective witness.
7. For most Christians the observance of **Pentecost** is the ideal opportunity to welcome afresh the Spirit of Renewal so that the Things of Renewal may take on a much deeper significance and acquire the power to transform and evangelise.
8. Pentecost hymns and prayers focus on the **COMING of the Holy Spirit**. So should we, at Pentecost, and in indeed daily.