

Northside

FOURSQUARE CHURCH

The Foursquare Gospel

November 4, 2018 | Pastor Barry Buzza

Big Idea: Denominations are like the Tribes of Israel, or like family clans. They have traditions, beliefs and customs that make them unique. As long as the Denominations believe and practise the fundamentals of the Gospel, they are considered to be Christian.

The Fundamentals

Jesus is the second person of the Godhead, fully God.

Jesus came to earth, born of the Holy Spirit, as a human and represented all people. Jesus died on the cross vicariously for all people.

Jesus literally rose from the dead on the third day. Jesus is imminently returning for his bride, the Church.

The Bible is God-breathed and is fully accurate and without error in its original autographs.

The Protestant Church: Protestantism is the second largest form of Christianity with collectively more than 900 million adherents worldwide or nearly 40% of all Christians. It originated with the Reformation, led by Martin Luther. It was a movement against what its followers perceived to be errors in the Roman Catholic Church.

The Evangelical church: Any of the classical Protestant churches or their off shoots, but especially in the late 20th century, churches that stress the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ,



personal conversion experiences, Scripture as the sole basis for faith, and active evangelism (the winning of

personal commitments to Christ). The word *evangelical* comes from the Greek (*euangelion*) “good news,” which evolved into the word *gospel*, and has long been in use. In the 16th century Martin Luther and his followers, who stressed justification by faith in Jesus Christ and based their faith on Scripture alone, were known as Evangelicals.

The Pentecostal Church: Pentecostalism is a form of Christianity that emphasizes the work of the Holy Spirit and the direct experience of the presence of God by the believer. Pentecostals believe that faith must be powerfully experienced, and not something found merely through ritual or thinking. It originated on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the young Church. Jesus said ... *for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.* ... *but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My*

witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Acts 1:5-8 NASB

The Foursquare Gospel Church: The International Church of the Foursquare Gospel (also known as The Foursquare Church) developed out of the evangelistic ministry of Aimee Semple McPherson in 1923. While she became the founder of the movement, she would have been the first to repudiate the idea that she originated the Foursquare message. Though the Foursquare movement, like all other Pentecostal and Full Gospel organizations, commenced in the twentieth century, the Foursquare message began in the Bible days!

As of 2000 there were about 8 million Foursquare believers in 60,000 churches in 144 countries. A new Foursquare church is being planted somewhere every 12 hours.

The movement exists to promote proclamation, experience, and practice of the message. The aim or goal is nothing less than to recover for the present-day church all the benefits and blessings which crowned with glory the apostolic church.

While the gospel received the name “Foursquare” in 1922, and while it had been proclaimed by the denominational founder for about fourteen years before the descriptive phrase was coined, the message itself, is by no means novel.

Foursquaredom strives to propagate the identical message, ministry, emphasis, and experience which formed the norm of the early apostolic church as described in the book of Acts and the New Testament epistles.

The Foursquare Message

Jesus saves us according to John 3:16.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

He baptizes us with the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

He heals our bodies according to James 5:14-15.

Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

Jesus Christ is coming again to receive us unto Himself:

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.