

# Extracts from **Final Report (1998-2006)** of the **Catholic/Pentecostal International Dialogue**

## **On Becoming a Christian: Insights from Scripture & the Patristic Writings**

**Dialogue:** This dialogue began in **1972** and **thirty-five years** of conversation have shown that Pentecostals and Catholics share many aspects of Christian faith and life. The goal of this dialogue is to foster this respect and understanding between the Catholic Church and Classical Pentecostal churches rather than to seek structural unity. In this **fifth round of dialogue**, we have come to appreciate each other in new ways. We quickly discovered that **some standard stereotypes of each of our traditions are too simplistic for any members of our communities to hold.**



**Bible:** Pentecostals and Catholics, along with other Christians, **acknowledge the uniqueness of the Bible as the inspired and authoritative Word of God**, normative for the faith and life of the church. Both Catholics and Pentecostals honour the authority of Scripture, and both look for ways in which Tradition carries biblical truth.

**Conversion and Discipleship:** Catholics and Pentecostals both agree that conversion is essential to salvation in Christ. As Catholics and Pentecostals **we have found a good measure of convergence in our understanding of discipleship.**

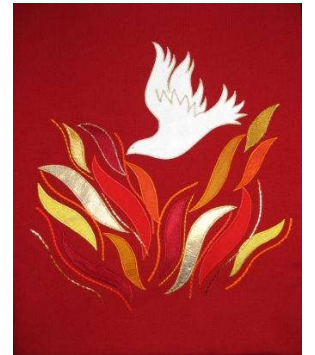
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**Baptism in the Holy Spirit:** To be baptised with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5), to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4) or to receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38) is seen as a gift of God rooted in Jesus' own promise of Acts 1:8 and Peter's claim in Acts 2:38-39. It is through the reception of this gift or grace that God reveals Himself in a personal and life transforming way to the believer. The result is the believer becomes aware in a new way, of the presence of the risen and glorified Christ (John 16:14). This encounter enables the believer to become a **stronger witness** for Christ (Acts 1:8) and to experience a deeper dimension of **prayer and worship** (1 Cor 12-14)

The most fundamental convergence is the common conviction that Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a powerful action of grace bestowed by God upon believers within the church. We affirm together and **embrace the presence and exercise of charisms** as an important dimension in the life of the church.



**Fruit of Dialogue:** In acknowledging the work of the Holy Spirit in each of our traditions, we have been better able to learn from each other. Therefore, we are grateful that the renewal and **outpouring of the Holy Spirit** in the twentieth century has **opened our hearts and minds to one another.**

Each of us has learned about the ways in which the other fosters faith, conversion, discipleship and the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. **These calls for Catholics and Pentecostals to examine their conscience about the way they have sometimes described one another in the past**, for example calling the other a "non-Christian" or a member of a "sect". Although we have significant differences still on some questions, **we are able** because of this dialogue, **to call one another brothers and sisters in Christ.**