The Toronto Blessing PPT

Jordan P Ballard
The Toronto Blessing: Key to Evaluating Recent Revivals

Jordan P. Ballard
The Toronto Blessing

- Introduction
- Theological Background
- Leaders
- The Toronto Blessing
- Evaluation

The Toronto Blessing, from which the subsequent revivals were spawned, was not a genuine revival of God because of its promotion of signs and wonders (in place of repentance and salvation), its misguided emphasis upon the Holy Spirit (in place of Jesus Christ), and its counterfeit manifestations which are not from the Holy Spirit.
The Toronto Blessing

- Introduction
- Theological Background
- Leaders
- The Toronto Blessing
- Evaluation
Introduction

- My church background
- My theological views
- Fair representation
- Test the spirits

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ~ 1 John 4:1
The Toronto Blessing

- Introduction
- **Theological Background**
- Leaders
- The Toronto Blessing
- Evaluation
Theological Background

- Wesley >> Holiness Movement
  - Second Blessing >> baptism of the Spirit (Mahan)
    - Baptism + imminent return + divine healing
      - A. B. Simpson
      - A. J. Gordon

- Expectation: end-time outpouring
  - Latter rain (Joel 2:23)
First Wave: Classic Pentecostalism

Bethel Bible College (1901)

First report of glossolalia: New Year’s Day, 1901
First Wave: Classic Pentecostalism

William J. Seymour (1870-1922)
First Wave: Classic Pentecostalism

Azusa Street Revival (1906)
First Wave: Classic Pentecostalism

- Parham condemned the meetings when he visited in October of 1906 because of the “animalism” which included “trances, falling under the power, holy-rolling-dancing-jumping, shaking, jabbering, chattering, wind-sucking and giving vent to meaningless sounds and noises as practiced by the Negroes of the Southland.”

- Revival continued for three years

- Over 1,500 people at meetings

- Seymour traveled and spread the message from 1907-1919.

Charles Fox Parham (1873-1929)
Second Wave

- 1960s & 1970s
- Tongues in mainline churches
- Charismatic worship
Third Wave

- 1980s-1990s
- John Wimber & Vineyard Churches
  - Jack Deere
- Power evangelism
  - Signs & wonders
- Restoration of apostles & prophets
  - Kansas City Prophets
- Expectation of end-time revival
The Toronto Blessing

- Introduction
- Theological Background
- Leaders
- The Toronto Blessing
- Evaluation
Rodney Howard-Browne

- 1979: “God, I want your power!”

- Holy Ghost Bartender
  - “drunk in the Spirit”
  - Uncontrollable laughter
  - Holy Ghost Glue

- Revivals
  - 1989 – Albany, NY
  - 1990 – Orlando, FL (Benny Hinn)
  - 1991 – Kenneth Copeland
  - 1993 – Lakeland, FL
  - 1993 – Oral Roberts University
  - 1993 – Rhema Bible Training Center
Randy Clark
John Arnott

FEATUED SPEAKER
7 OCT 2012

CATCH THE FIRE
JOHN ARNOTT
CATCH THE FIRE TORONTO
The Spread of the Toronto Blessing

- **1994**
  - 600,000 people
  - 20,000 church leaders
  - 900 conversions
- **1995**
  - 800,000 people
- **1996**
  - Partners in Harvest
- **1999**
  - 2 million visitors
  - School of ministry
  - Catch the Fire television program
- **2004**
  - 4-5 million people
  - 60 nations
The Spread of the Toronto Blessing

- Drunk in the Spirit
- Lying prostrate
- Prophesying
- Visions/raptures
- Tongues
- Jerking/twitching
- Laughing
- Frozen
- Running
- Surfing
- Bouncing
- Pogoing
- Weeping
- Shouting
- Barking
- Roaring
- Clucking
The Decline of the Toronto Blessing

- Condemned by cessationists
- Endorsed by Pentecostals/charismatics
- 1994 – caution by John Wimber
- 1995 – disowned by Vineyard Church
- 1996 – Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship
- 2010 – Catch the Fire Toronto
The Influence of the Toronto Blessing

- The Brownsville Revival (Pensacola Outpouring)
  - 1995-2000
  - John Kirkpatrick
  - Steve Hill
  - Laughing, drunk in the Spirit, prophecy, healing
The Influence of the Toronto Blessing

- The Lakeland Revival
  - 2008
  - Todd Bentley
  - 188 days
  - 10,000 people each day
  - 350,000 visitors
  - 200 countries
  - 40 million viewers
- Toronto connection
The Influence of the Toronto Blessing

- The Bay Revival
  - 2010-2011
  - John Kirkpatrick
  - Nathan Morris
  - Emphasis on healing
  - Delia Knox
- Toronto connection
The Toronto Blessing

- Introduction
- Theological Background
- Leaders
- The Toronto Blessing
- Evaluation
Evaluation

- What was the revival message?
  - Signs & wonders vs. salvation
    - John Wimber’s concerns

- Spiritual experience vs. repentance
  - Blackaby, Orr, Finney: no repentance = no revival
Evaluation

The word “revival” is thrown around loosely these days. If a few people fall on the floor, get goose bumps or see gold dust, we are ready to christen it a revival and put it on television as soon as possible. After all, if large crowds gather, it must be God!

I’m tired of imitations. History shows that genuine revival is more than a bunch of blessed bodies in a pile. We need more than angel feathers, emotional euphoria and limp pep talks about getting high on Jesus. We need the strong Word of God that convicts hearts, demands repentance, slays sin and has the power to produce converts who will withstand temptation.

J. Lee Grady, Charisma Magazine
Evaluation

- Who was the focus of the revival?
  - The Holy Spirit or Jesus?

“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.” ~ John 15:26

“Thus, a true work of the Spirit directs people first and foremost to exalt Christ as Lord of all and give their attention and affection to Him. The Spirit is most glorified when we honor the Son.”

MacArthur, Strange Fire
Evaluation

- What was the source of the manifestations?
  - Self-induced
    - E.g., John Arnott’s story
  - Power of suggestion
    - Hypnotists, psychics, etc.
  - Demonism
    - Testimony of Paul Gowdy
    - Similarities to Kundalini cult
    - Similarities to Cane Ridge Revival
Objections

- We should not blaspheme the Holy Spirit.
- Biblical justification for manifestations
- “Touch not mine anointed” (Psalm 105:15)
- How can this be done in Jesus’ name?
The incredible irony is that those who talk the most about the Holy Spirit generally deny His true work. They attribute all kinds of human silliness to Him while ignoring the genuine purpose and power of His ministry.... To promulgate a corrupted notion of the Holy Spirit and His work is nothing less than blasphemy, because the Holy Spirit is God. He is to be exalted, honored, and adored. Along with the Father and the Son, He is to be glorified at all times for all He is and all He does. He is to be loved and thanked by those whom He indwells. But for that to occur, He must be worshipped in truth.

MacArthur, Strange Fire
Evaluation

- What is on the horizon?
  - Bethel Church Redding
    - Connection to IHOP
    - Connection to Toronto
    - Jesus Culture
  - John Crowder

- Spiritual damage & deception

- Diversion from repentance & the Gospel
The Toronto Blessing: Key to Evaluating Recent Revivals

Jordan P. Ballard