



Theological Roots of Pentecostalism

By Donald W. Dayton

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Pentecostalism is one of the most dynamic forces in twentiethcentury Christianity. From fastgrowing denominations such as the Assemblies of God to popular television ministries such as "The 700 Club," the fruits of Pentecostalism can be seen throughout modern Christian life. In this landmark study, Donald Dayton explains how Pentecostalism grew out of Methodism and the nineteenthcentury holiness revivals. He finds evidence of Wesleyan teaching in the classic writings of many Pentecostal leaders. He shows how Pentecostalism is rooted in the Wesleyan theological tradition, rather than being a contrived system of modern revivalistic ideas. Martin E. Marty says in his foreword that Pentecostals "have no choice, it is clear from this book, but to see that there were . . . roots to the growth they reaped." He calls *Theological Roots of Pentecostalism* "a very important statement . . . one without which subsequent commentators on Pentecostalism are not likely to give intelligent accounts."

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Theological Roots of Pentecostalism By Donald W. Dayton Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #128300 in Books
- Published on: 1987-09-01
- Released on: 1987-09-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .47" w x 5.50" l, .55 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 204 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

...the clearest of distillations. But what shines through the most is his fairness...his contribution to Pentecostal studies is a 'blessing;' but its value for evangelical historiography is a 'second blessing.' (*Church History*)

...An illuminating piece of work that concludes with a highly valuable and extensive bibliographical essay and with three indexes... (*Adris Newsletter*)

...A much needed tool. He makes it possible for us to see Pentecostals, so often dismissed as a fringe group, as intimately connected with the so-called mainstream of American religion. (*Theology Today*)

...magisterial...should become the standard work on the theological matrix of Pentecostal self-understanding. (*Ecumenical Review*)

In applying the methods of historical theology to a movement that has rarely been approached in this manner, the author breaks new ground and suggests a closer relationship of Pentecostalism to Reformed and Wesleyan Protestantism than has sometimes been recognized...Very helpful to scholars and a useful addition to undergraduate and graduate collections of American religious, intellectual, and social history. (*Choice*)

About the Author

Donald W. Dayton is professor of theology and ethics at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Lombard, Illinois. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

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