

**THE BEAUTY OF THE BALANCE: TOWARD AN
EVANGELICAL-PENTECOSTAL THEOLOGY**

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Millions of Christians refer to themselves as either “Evangelical” or “Pentecostal” believers. A great number within the body of Christ identify themselves as being a part of both of these camps at the same time. On the essentials of the faith concerning Scripture and salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ, much harmony exists between Evangelical and Pentecostal thought. However, on many distinctive issues such as sanctification, Spirit baptism, divine healing, and the second coming, much distance seems to separate the two theological systems.

This project sought to serve as a bridge between these two movements that have greatly influenced the world with the gospel. If construction of such a passage way begins, it must do so at the place called balance. Extremes from both sides rightfully meet with suspicion and rejection. Only the centrality of Christ and the Cross offers hope for a genuine blending of beliefs into an Evangelical-Pentecostal theology for the twenty-first century.

This writing, then, is offered as a biblically balanced treatment of classical Pentecostal theology. As a life-long Pentecostal, I feel permitted, yet humbled, to speak to Pentecostals. In one direction, imbalance may occur if the truths of holiness, the Spirit, and healing are softened. Compromise is not an option. The holiness-Pentecostal heritage remains too priceless to surrender for any alliance. However, imbalance may occur at the other end of the spectrum—by overstating the claims of the distinctive experiences of the movement.

A return to the biblical base allows Evangelicals an opportunity to see the attractiveness of Pentecostalism, without any abuses or excesses. This project directs every eye in both the Evangelical and Pentecostal communities to behold the beauty of the balance in the Word of the Lord and the Lord of the Word.