

Cooke, TonyMiracles and the Supernatural Throughout Church History

23. The Twentieth-Century Explosion

This chapter traces the rapid spread of Pentecostal and healing revival in the 1900s. It starts with worldwide prayer and revival stirrings, focuses on the 1906 Azusa Street outpouring, and then profiles key ministers who carried a message that Jesus still saves, heals, and fills people with the Holy Spirit.

Key takeaways

- After the Reformation, the Church steadily recovered neglected truths (grace, Scripture's authority, sanctification, missions, empowerment for ministry, and healing), and these came to a head in the 20th century.
- Global revival was already stirring — Wales under Evan Roberts, Korea (1907), and India under Pandita Ramabai, whose women's prayer movement saw an outpouring in 1905.
- Azusa Street (Los Angeles, 1906), led by William J. Seymour, ran services three times a day for three and a half years and spread Pentecostalism worldwide. It was notably interracial and gave women a place in the pulpit.
- Seymour kept the focus on Jesus, not just tongues, and wanted the fruit of the Spirit valued alongside the gifts.

- New Pentecostal denominations formed to organize the movement (Assemblies of God, Church of God in Christ, Foursquare, and others).
- Women like Lilian Yeomans — a physician freed from morphine addiction by the Word — and healing teachers like F.F. Bosworth stressed that healing comes by faith built on God's Word, not the minister's gift.
- Bosworth mentored T.L. Osborn, who prayed for crowds en masse overseas, teaching each person to receive by their own faith.
- A major U.S. healing revival (1947–1958) produced men like Hagin, Roberts, and Sumrall; Gordon Lindsay organized and steadied it through *The Voice of Healing*, urging integrity and warning against pride, money abuses, and extremism.

Passages worth keeping

“Don't go out of here talking about tongues; talk about Jesus.”

Seymour keeping Christ, not the gift, at the center

“It is the Word of God, planted and watered and steadfastly trusted, which heals both body and soul.”

Bosworth's core teaching that faith rises from Scripture, not the minister

How it connects

The chapter's thread is that the same gospel preached for centuries kept advancing, now with ministers boldly praying for the sick and expecting the gifts of the Spirit — always, at its best, aimed at love and the salvation of souls rather than spectacle.

Scripture referenced

- **Acts 2:16-18** -- Joel's prophecy of the Spirit poured on sons and daughters — basis for women preaching
- **Luke 24:49** -- believers urged to receive 'power from on high'
- **Psalms 107:20** -- 'He sent his word, and healed them' — healing through the Word
- **Isaiah 53:5** -- 'With his stripes we are healed' — many healed reading it
- **Romans 1:16** -- the gospel as God's power to save; preached when a mass healing broke out in New York