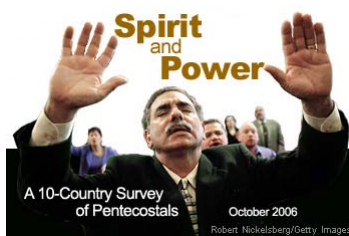


Executive Summary

October 5, 2006

By all accounts, pentecostalism and related charismatic movements represent one of the fastest-growing segments of global Christianity. At least a quarter of the world's 2 billion Christians are thought to be members of these lively, highly personal faiths, which emphasize such spiritually renewing "gifts of the Holy Spirit" as speaking in tongues, divine healing and prophesying. Even more than other Christians, pentecostals and other renewalists believe that God, acting through the Holy Spirit, continues to play a direct, active role in everyday life.



Despite the rapid growth of the renewalist movement in the last few decades, relatively little is known about the religious, political and civic views of individuals involved in these groups. To address this shortcoming, the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life recently conducted surveys in 10 countries with sizeable renewalist populations: the United States; Brazil, Chile and Guatemala in Latin America; Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa in Africa; and India, the Philippines and South Korea in Asia. In each country, surveys were conducted among a random sample of the public at large, as well as among oversamples of pentecostals and charismatics.

Navigate this Report

- Complete Report (233-page pdf)
- Executive Summary
- Preface
- About this Survey (Methodology)
- Topline Survey Results (131-page pdf)
- Glossary
- Pentecostal Resource Page
- News Release

In this report, the term pentecostal is used to describe individuals who belong to classical pentecostal denominations, such as the Assemblies of God or the Church of God in Christ, that were founded shortly after the famous Azusa Street Revival in the early 20th century, as well as those who belong to pentecostal denominations or churches that have formed more recently, such as the Brazil-based Universal Church of the Kingdom of God.

Religious Demographic Profiles

Profiles include, but go beyond, our pentecostal survey data.

Select a country...

Pentecostalism: Key Terms

- Pentecostals** are Christians who belong to pentecostal denominations and churches, such as the Assemblies of God, the Church of God in Christ or the Universal Church of the Kingdom of God.
- Charismatics** are other Christians, including Catholics and mainline Protestants, but who either:
 - describe themselves as "charismatic Christians,"
 - OR
 - describe themselves as "pentecostal Christians" (but do not belong to explicitly pentecostal denominations)
 - OR
 - speak in tongues at least several times a year.
- Renewalist** is an umbrella term that refers to both pentecostals and charismatics as a group.

Charismatics, by contrast, are a much more loosely defined group. The term generally refers to Christians who have experienced the "in-filling" of the Holy Spirit but who are not members of pentecostal denominations. Indeed, most charismatics are members of mainstream Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox denominations. In the surveys, respondents were categorized as charismatic if they met one of three criteria: (1) they describe themselves as "charismatic Christians"; or (2) they describe themselves as "pentecostal Christians" but do not belong to explicitly pentecostal denominations; or (3) they speak in tongues at least several times a year but they do not belong to pentecostal denominations.

"Renewalist" is used as an umbrella term throughout the report to refer to pentecostals and charismatics as a group.

How Many Renewalists?

The surveys find that the size and composition of the renewalist population varies substantially from country to country, ranging from a low of 5% in the areas of India surveyed to a high of 60% in Guatemala. In every nation surveyed except India, at least 10% of the population can be described as renewalist; in three countries (Brazil, Guatemala and Kenya) membership in the renewalist movement approaches or exceeds 50%.

In two countries (Kenya and Nigeria), pentecostals outnumber charismatics. In every other country, by contrast, the renewalist movement is primarily charismatic in character, with charismatics outnumbering pentecostals by a margin of at least two-to-one.

Pentecostals are more concentrated in Latin America and Africa (where they range from 9% of the population in Chile to 33% in Kenya) than they are in the United States or Asia (where they range from 1% of the population in the areas of India surveyed to 5% in the U.S.).

Estimated Size of Renewalist Populations

The surveys find that the size of the renewalist population varies from country to country.

	Pentecostals	Charismatics	Total (Renewalists)
United States	5%	18%	=23%
Latin America			
Brazil	15	34	=49
Chile	9	21	=30
Guatemala	20	40	=60
Africa			
Kenya	33	23	=56
Nigeria	18	8	=26
South Africa	10	24	=34
Asia			
India (localities)	1	4	=5
Philippines	4	40	=44
South Korea	2	9	=11

Renewalist Influence on Protestantism

In many countries, renewalists constitute the majority of all Protestants.

% of Protestants who are...

The largest charismatic populations are in Brazil (34% of the population), Guatemala (40%) and the Philippines (40%). In

	Pente- costals	Charis- matics	Non- renew- alists	Total Protestant/ AIC ^c
United States	10	18	72	=100 (n=388)
Latin America				
Brazil	72	6	22	=100 (n=148)
Chile	59	19	22	=100 (n=87)
Guatemala	58	27	15	=100 (n=341)
Africa				
Kenya	50	23	27	=100 (n=436)
Nigeria	48	12	40	=100 (n=289)
South Africa	14	29	57	=100 (n=533)
Asia				
India (localities) ^a	-	-	-	-
Philippines	37	30	33	=100 (n=89)
South Korea	9	29	63	=101 (n=150)

^aAfrican Independent Church
^bResults for India are not reported here because the general population survey in that country included only a small number of Protestants.

several other countries, including the U.S., Chile, Kenya and South Africa, approximately one-in-five people are charismatic. Taken together, these findings confirm that members of renewalist movements can be found in sizeable numbers throughout the world.

In six of the 10 countries (all except the U.S., South Africa, the regions of India surveyed and South Korea), the surveys

find that renewalists account for a majority of the overall Protestant population. Indeed, in five nations (Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Kenya and the Philippines) more than two-thirds of Protestants are either pentecostal or charismatic. In Nigeria, renewalists account for six-in-ten Protestants.

Renewalist Religion

The surveys find that there are certain religious experiences and practices that differentiate pentecostals, and, to a lesser degree, charismatics, from other Christians. In seven of the 10 countries surveyed, for instance, at least half of pentecostals say that the church services they attend frequently include people practicing the gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues, prophesying or praying for miraculous healing. These types of services are less common, but still relatively prevalent, among charismatics. By contrast, in most of the countries surveyed, only small numbers of non-renewalist Christians report attending religious services where these sorts of religious experiences occur.

While many renewalists say they attend religious services where speaking in tongues is a common practice, fewer tend to say that they themselves regularly speak or pray in tongues. In fact, in six of the 10 countries surveyed, at least four-in-ten pentecostals say they never speak or pray in tongues.

In all 10 countries surveyed, large majorities of pentecostals (ranging from 56% in South Korea to 87% in Kenya) say that they have personally experienced or witnessed the divine healing of an illness or injury. In eight of the countries (India and South Korea are the exceptions) majorities of pentecostals say that they have received a direct revelation from God.

Pentecostals around the world also are quite familiar with exorcisms; majorities in seven of the 10 countries say that they personally have experienced or witnessed the devil or evil spirits being driven out of a person. Generally, fewer charismatics, and even fewer other Christians, report witnessing these types of experiences.

Divine Healings, Divine Revelations and Exorcisms

Pentecostals are more likely than other Christians to report having experienced or witnessed divine healings, having received direct revelations from God and having experienced or seen exorcisms.

	% who have...		
	Witnessed divine healings	Received direct revelations from God	Experienced or witnessed exorcisms
United States - All	29%	26%	11%
Pentecostals	62	54	34
Charismatics	46	39	22
Other Christians	28	25	7
Latin America			
Brazil - All			
Pentecostals	38	35	34
Charismatics	77	64	80
Other Christians	31	28	30
Chile - All			
Pentecostals	32	29	26
Charismatics	26	22	13
Other Christians	77	55	62
Guatemala - All			
Pentecostals	37	29	20
Charismatics	24	19	8
Other Christians	56	39	38
Africa			
Kenya - All			
Pentecostals	79	59	62
Charismatics	63	39	41
Other Christians	47	39	28
Nigeria - All			
Pentecostals	71	39	61
Charismatics	87	57	86
Other Christians	78	43	67
South Africa - All			
Pentecostals	47	16	39
Charismatics	62	41	57
Other Christians	79	64	75
Asia			
India (localities) - All			
Pentecostals	75	46	62
Charismatics	38	33	33
Other Christians	73	64	60
Philippines - All			
Pentecostals	47	41	40
Charismatics	32	27	25
Other Christians	44	17	21
South Korea - All			
Pentecostals	74	31	41
Charismatics	61	18	47
Other Christians	55	23	19
Asia			
Philippines - All			
Pentecostals	38	27	28
Charismatics	72	58	52
Other Christians	44	35	29
South Korea - All			
Pentecostals	30	19	26
Charismatics	10	3	6
Other Christians	36	20	30
	61	25	35
	20	4	11

Question wording: Have you ever...
a. experienced or witnessed a divine healing of an illness or injury?
b. received a direct revelation from God?
c. experienced/witnessed the devil/evil spirits being driven out of person?

Intensity of Belief

In addition to their distinctive religious experiences, renewalists also stand out for the intensity of their belief in traditional Christian doctrines and practices. For instance, in eight of the 10 countries surveyed (all except the U.S. and Chile),

Views of Scripture

Biblical literalism is more common among pentecostals than among non-renewalist Christians.
% saying scriptures are actual word of God to be

majorities of non-renewalist Christians believe that the Bible is the word of God and is to be taken literally, word for word; but this view is even more common among pentecostals than among non-renewalist Christians. Similarly, large majorities of all Christians, renewalists and non-renewalists alike, believe that miracles still occur today as in ancient times. But this belief tends to be even more intense among pentecostals and, to a lesser extent, charismatics than among non-renewalist Christians.

Pentecostals also stand out, especially compared with non-renewalist Christians, for their views on eschatology, or "the end times." In six countries, at least half of pentecostals believe that Jesus will return to earth during their lifetime. And the vast majority of pentecostals (more than 80% in each country) believe in "the rapture of the Church," the teaching that before the world comes to an end the faithful will be rescued and taken up to heaven. This belief is less common (though still widely shared) among charismatics, who in turn tend to express higher levels of belief in the rapture than do other Christians.

Pentecostals also make a concerted effort to share their faith with non-believers. In eight of the 10 countries surveyed, majorities of pentecostals say they share their faith with non-believers at least once a week. And relatively few pentecostals say this is something they never do. Charismatics tend to be somewhat less likely than pentecostals to share their faith on a weekly basis.

Pentecostals' frequent attempts to spread the faith are consistent with their widespread belief that faith in Jesus Christ represents the exclusive path to eternal salvation; in every country surveyed except South Korea, at least 70% of pentecostals completely agree that belief in Jesus is the only way to be saved from eternal damnation.

Renewalists and Politics

Renewalist Christians' strong focus on the supernatural has led to the widespread perception that the movement is largely apolitical in outlook. Although renewalists are focused on spiritual matters, many also say there is a role for religion in politics and public life. In nine of the 10 countries surveyed, for instance, at least half of pentecostals say that religious groups should express their views on day-to-day social and political questions; support for this position is equally widespread among charismatics. In every country surveyed, furthermore, renewalists are at least as likely as others to express this view.

Majorities of renewalists in every country surveyed say that it is important to them that their political leaders have strong Christian beliefs. In six of the 10 countries, at least three-quarters of pentecostals share this view; in the other four countries, at least two-thirds of pentecostals agree with this position. Charismatics, as well, share the conviction that political leaders should have strong Christian beliefs.

In seven of the 10 countries surveyed, majorities or pluralities of pentecostals say there should be a separation between church and state. But in each of these countries, sizeable minorities of pentecostals say that their government should take special steps to make their country a Christian country. And in three countries, including the U.S., pentecostals who favor separation of church and state are at least slightly outnumbered by pentecostals who say that the government should take special steps to make their nation a Christian country.

taken literally

	<i>taken literally</i>			Other Christians
	All	Pentecostals	Charismatics	
United States	35%	76%	48%	37%
Latin America				
Brazil	53	81	49	65
Chile	39	83	54	37
Guatemala	77	89	81	72
Africa				
Kenya	80	91	84	73
Nigeria	88	94	-	82
South Africa	59	72	72	63
Asia				
India (localities)	50	90	82	66
Philippines	53	55	49	54
South Korea	33	88	82	58

Question wording: Which one of these statements comes closest to describing your feelings about (insert "the Bible" for Christians; "the Koran" for Muslims; "Sacred Scriptures" for all others)? "The Bible is the Koran is sacred scriptures are) the actual word of God and (is/are) to be taken literally, word for word OR (the Bible is the Koran is sacred scriptures are) the word of God, but not everything in (it/them) should be taken literally, word for word OR (the Bible is a book/the Koran is a book/sacred scriptures were) written by men and (is/are) not the word of God.

Religious Groups and Politics

Renewalists are just as likely as others to express support for religious involvement in politics and public life.

% saying religious groups should express views on social and political questions

	<i>% saying religious groups should express views on social and political questions</i>			Other Christians
	All	Pentecostals	Charismatics	
United States	61%	79%	71%	61%
Latin America				
Brazil	57	65	61	53
Chile	59	65	61	61
Guatemala	70	72	73	69
Africa				
Kenya	83	84	87	85
Nigeria	75	79	-	69
South Africa	63	70	70	60
Asia				
India (localities)	42	48	52	42
Philippines	61	63	63	60
South Korea	36	50	56	51

Question wording: In your opinion, should religious groups keep out of political matters - or should they express their views on day-to-day social and political questions?

Social and Moral Issues

Even in these very conservative countries, pentecostals often stand out for their traditional moral values.

% saying behavior is never justified

	<i>% saying behavior is never justified</i>			Other Christians
	All	Pentecostals	Charismatics	
UNITED STATES				
Homosexuality	50%	80%	59%	54%
Drinking alcohol	29	48	42	26
Divorce	11	15	19	8
LATIN AMERICA				
Brazil				
Homosexuality	49	76	46	46
Drinking alcohol	45	72	40	46
Divorce	15	37	12	15
Chile				
Homosexuality	32	64	39	30
Drinking alcohol	56	65	61	56
Divorce	21	44	31	19
Guatemala				
Homosexuality	63	73	61	61
Drinking alcohol	79	86	78	82
Divorce	47	56	46	45
AFRICA				
Kenya				
Homosexuality	98	99	98	98
Drinking alcohol	67	88	79	39
Divorce	61	70	71	51
Nigeria				
Homosexuality	98	97	-	98
Drinking alcohol	82	84	-	63
Divorce	50	81	-	79
South Africa				
Homosexuality	70	79	70	72
Drinking alcohol	52	56	52	48
Divorce	45	48	46	45

Regionally, support for this position is particularly strong among pentecostals in Africa, where 48% of Kenyan pentecostals. 58% of Nigerian pentecostals and 45% of South African pentecostals say the government should take steps to make their nation a Christian nation. In every country, fewer than half of charismatics express support for the idea that their government should take steps to make their country a Christian nation.

In many of the 10 countries surveyed, large majorities of the general population hold quite conservative positions on several social and moral issues. But even in these generally conservative countries, pentecostals often stand out for their traditional views on a wide range of social and moral issues, from homosexuality to extra-marital sex to alcohol consumption. Majorities of pentecostals in nine countries (all except the U.S.), for example, say that drinking alcohol can never be

ASIA				
India (localities)				
Homosexuality	72	87	86	85
Drinking alcohol	69	79	82	77
Divorce	55	74	77	60
Philippines				
Homosexuality	56	86	59	52
Drinking alcohol	57	82	57	55
Divorce	70	84	70	72
South Korea				
Homosexuality	78	90	90	86
Drinking alcohol	26	54	50	28
Divorce	37	63	53	43

Question wording: Please tell me, for each of the following statements, whether you think it can always be justified, sometimes be justified, or never be justified. a. homosexuality...c. divorce...f. drinking alcohol

justified. In six of the 10 countries, majorities of pentecostals say the same thing about divorce.

In most of the countries surveyed (all except the U.S. and South Korea), large majorities of the general population say that abortion can never be justified, and renewalists tend to share this view. The percentage of pentecostals who say that abortion can never be justified ranges from 64% in the

U.S. to 97% in the Philippines. Similarly, the percentage of charismatics who say that abortion is never justified ranges from 57% in the U.S. to 96% in the Philippines.

Renewalists in the U.S.

The patterns of religious belief and practice that set renewalists apart from other Christians around the world also apply to pentecostals and charismatics in the United States. In the U.S., for instance, roughly two-thirds of pentecostals and charismatics report attending church at least weekly, compared with less than half for the population as a whole. And the religious services attended by U.S. renewalists tend to be quite different from the ones attended by others; more than half of U.S. pentecostals who report attending church say that the services they attend frequently include people speaking in tongues and manifesting other signs of the Spirit; the same is true for roughly three-in-ten charismatic church attenders in the U.S. Other U.S. Christians are much less familiar with this type of church service.

U.S. renewalists, like renewalists around the world, also often stand out for their moral conservatism. Eight-in-ten U.S. pentecostals say that homosexuality is never justified, for instance, and nearly six-in-ten charismatics share this view. Among the public as a whole, by contrast, roughly half say homosexuality can never be justified. Renewalists in the U.S. also are more likely than others to oppose drinking alcohol.

And just as renewalists around the world favor a role for religion in public life, the same holds true for renewalists in the U.S. For instance, nearly eight-in-ten American pentecostals (79%) say that religious groups should express their views on day-to-day social and political questions, compared with 61% of the public as a whole. And more than half (52%) of American pentecostals say that the government should take special steps to make the U.S. a Christian country, compared with only 25% among Christians overall.

Other Findings

In addition to these results, the 10-nation survey also finds:

- In most countries, pentecostals tend to be somewhat more hopeful than non-renewalist Christians about their future financial prospects.
- Pentecostals are divided on the question of whether or not AIDS is a punishment from God; majorities in three of the countries surveyed (Guatemala, Kenya and South Korea) believe that AIDS is a punishment from God for immoral sexual behavior, but majorities of pentecostals in five other countries explicitly reject this point of view.
- In most countries, pentecostals are somewhat more likely than non-renewalist Christians to sympathize with Israel rather than with the Palestinians.
- Pentecostals in six of the countries surveyed are more willing than the public overall to allow women to serve as pastors or church leaders. This pattern, however, does not generally extend to other gender issues, where there is no consistent pattern differentiating pentecostals from others.
- Majorities of pentecostals in all 10 countries surveyed agree that God will grant good health and relief from sickness to believers who have enough faith, and in nine of the countries most pentecostals say that God will grant material prosperity to all believers who have enough faith.
- Opinions about the U.S.-led war on terror vary substantially from country to country. In South Korea, for instance, only 16% of pentecostals and 10% of charismatics say they favor U.S.-led efforts to fight terrorism. In the U.S. and the Philippines, by contrast, at least seven-in-ten pentecostals (and nearly as many U.S. and Filipino charismatics) support U.S. efforts to fight terrorism.

Roadmap to the Report

These and many more findings are presented and discussed in more detail below. This report is divided into four main sections. Section I describes the religious experiences and beliefs of renewalists. The moral values and social attitudes of renewalists are presented and analyzed in Section II. Section III reports on their personal and social outlooks. Finally, Section IV describes the political views of renewalists, comparing them with the views held by other Christians in each of the 10 countries surveyed.