

# **History and impact of Pentecostalism in the Nigerian society**

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## **Abstract**

Pentecostalism is a phenomenon that has engulfed the entire world for quite some time now and Nigeria is not an exception. In recent times, there is really no challenge in knowing the detailed history of Christianity in Nigeria, same goes for Pentecostalism. The main aim of this paper is to assess the impact of Pentecostalism in the Nigerian society taking into consideration the challenges presently faced by most Pentecostal oriented churches in Nigeria ranging from the quest for material gains by ministers, fundamentalism due to shallow knowledge in the interpretation of the Scriptures, prosperity gospel which has become the order of the day in many churches, leadership tussle, lack of accountability on the part of many church workers including Pastors, fake miracles and miracles which have some elements of the traditional religion thereby leading to syncretism and many other vices. The question often asked is, how can one be fully involved in Christian mission in Nigeria especially by Pentecostals without a proper understanding of the gospel of Christ? These and other issues would form the basis of the discourse in this paper. However, Pentecostal churches have also be at the forefront of evangelism in Nigeria and have contributed to the growth and development of Christianity in so many areas. The research methodology in this work will be historical, sociological and comparative.