

Encountering the Living God: A Critical Examination of Charismatic Pneumatology in
relation to the Worshipping Life of the Church

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Abstract

The charismatic movement is present and active in the Church of Ireland and presents many insights and challenges. This dissertation critically examines key charismatic beliefs and practices related to the worshipping life of the church to determine their validity and to gain insight into the person and work of the Holy Spirit. Since charismatic theology is highly experiential, attention is given primarily to the work of charismatic theologians. Their own experiences, theological reflections, and biblical justifications are critiqued on biblical, systematic, and practical grounds. Where appropriate, useful insights are identified, and correctives suggested. Finally, the conclusion will be drawn that the gifts of the Spirit should not be considered ends in themselves but always be exercised in service of the mutual edification of those gathered to worship.