Cultures of American Theology

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By: Evan Colon

While people travel and engage with others, they are exposed to new ideologies and cultures that cause them to question what they believe to be true. Therefore, travel influences the spiritual lives of those who are brave enough to break out of their comfort zone and ask questions pertaining to their identity. As communities of people change their perception of their identity, the culture they’ve created changes simultaneously. Billy Graham, an American traveling-preacher who founded a multi-billion-dollar Christian ministry, led many evangelic crusades in the United States with the intent of converting people to Christianity. Not long after his conversion, Allen attended a camp meeting in Oklahoma, where he “found the baptism of the Holy Ghost ... spoke in tongues, and lay prostrate in the sawdust until after midnight,” persuading him that he wanted to become a preacher” (205). This quote shows the transformation A. A Allen underwent as a result of his spiritual seeking. The supernatural experience of “finding the baptism of the Holy Ghost” during his travels caused him to be dissatisfied with simply converting to Christianity. It ignited a passion for him to preach so others could experience this spectacular occurrence.

Later in Allen’s career “When his church refused to construct a new building and sponsor a proposed radio program, he resigned his pastorship and started holding his own revival campaigns in a used tent he bought in 1951 from fellow evangelist Jack Coe... Now an independent tent evangelist, Allen, through radio, television, and Miracle Magazine, spread his ministry far and wide. In 1957, Allen’s television commercials across the United States proclaimed, “See! Hear! Actual miracles happening before your eyes. Cancer, tumors, goiters disappear. Crutches, braces, wheelchairs, stretchers discarded. Crossed eyes straightened. Caught by the camera as they occurred in the healing line before thousands of witnesses” (Faith Healers 1957:39).

Works Cited


Miracle Magazine. Miracle Magazine. 1959, Magazine, Revival History.com
