



Akan witchcraft and the concept of exorcism in the Church of Pent

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Abstract

Witchcraft and "exorcisms" have dominated African cultures and posed problems for African Pentecostalism. This thesis is a study of the current exorcistic practices in the Pentecostal church in Ghana with reference to Akan culture. The general opinion gathered from anthropological studies on witchcraft is that the goal of exorcism is to become modernised. This thesis, through interdisciplinary studies with a theological perspective, departs from this, and contends that it is a form of consultation or an inquiry into the sacred for meaning that underlies the current "exorcistic" ministry, where the focus is to identify and remove so-called demonic forces by the power of the Holy Spirit to "deliver" people from their torment. It re-examines the attempt to contextualise the gospel to Africa. However, its preoccupation with demonology and exorcistic practices are found to bring Christian tension with the Akan culture, family ties and traditional religions. Therefore, to develop a proper ministry of exorcism in an African context, this thesis examines contextualisation and suggests that the integration of divinatory-consultation practices underlies the biblical concept of exorcism in Christianity.

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