

From Jon Mark Ruthven, PhD
Author of *On the Cessation of the Charismata: The Protestant Polemic on Postbiblical Miracles*

Never underestimate the power of ideas. Ideas, effectively communicated, for good or for ill have shaped history.

A century ago, in a ramshackle stable, an obscure black preacher announced to a largely hostile world the most revolutionary idea of all: that the ultimate Power of the universe could be bestowed on anyone, even “the low and despised . . . to bring to nothing the things that are.” William Seymour’s revealed idea would spark the largest human movement of any kind in history, a movement to be fulfilled by the Rider on the white horse Who overcomes all darkness with the sword of his mouth—the power of an Idea: the Logos, the Way, the Truth, the Life.

The Foundation for Pentecostal Scholarship seeks to articulate and promote the power of this great Pentecostal idea. While salvation history has proven that God can produce mighty events without the aid of theologians, He nonetheless has placed within the believer the impulse to “test all things and to hold fast that which is true.” He commends “Beroeans” who receive “the word with all eagerness, examining the scriptures daily” to validate their ideas of God and his graces. Many a struggling student, myself included, in a hostile environment, has exclaimed, “Your book saved my [spiritual] life!” Many a scholar has moved from negativity to neutrality and thence to acceptance, because of Pentecostal scholarship.

Accordingly, the task of Pentecostal academics should be also encouraged among us. The Foundation for Pentecostal Scholarship serves to plant and water the seeds of the next great Pentecostal ideas—swords of the Spirit issuing from pens and word processors, articles and books, from proclamation and debate. Through this foundation, Pentecostal scholarship will be equipped to “tear down strongholds” to “destroy arguments and every proud obstacle to the knowledge of God.”

I therefore warmly commend the mission of this foundation to your prayer and support.