

OUR USE OF THE TERM “FOUR SQUARE GOSPEL”

Aimee Semple McPherson, pioneer, evangelist and International Church of the Foursquare Gospel founder, first used the term “Foursquare Gospel” while preaching during the Oakland, Calif., revival in the summer of 1922.

Under a big top tent packed to standing room only, Sister Aimee, as she was often called, delivered her message “The Vision of Ezekiel.” Over 8,000 people were privy to her description of the prophet’s vision of four living creatures with the faces of a man, a lion, an ox and an eagle (Ezek. 1:4-10).

Sister Aimee explained how the four faces represented the four-fold ministry of Jesus:

“In the clouds of heaven ... Ezekiel had beheld the being whose glory no mortal can describe. As he gazed upon the marvelous revelation of the Omnipotent One, he perceived four faces: those of a man, a lion, an ox and an eagle.

In the face of the lion, we behold that of the Mighty Baptizer with the Holy Spirit and fire. The face of the ox typifies the Great Burden-Bearer, who Himself took our infirmities and carried our sicknesses, who in His boundless love and divine provision has met our every need.

In the face of the eagle, we see reflected soul-enrapturing visions of the Coming King ... And in the face of the man, we behold the Savior, the Man of Sorrows, acquainted with grief, dying upon the tree for our sins.

Here is a perfect gospel, a complete gospel, for body, for soul, for spirit and for eternity, a gospel facing squarely in every direction.”

In that pulpit, the term Foursquare Gospel came into being.



*“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday
and today and forever”*

—Heb. 13:8 (NKJV)

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THE FOUR SQUARE CHURCH



Roots of the Foursquare Gospel:

Terminology, Origin and
Application

THE TERM “FOURSQUARE” AS USED IN SCRIPTURE

Foursquare is not a term created by Sister Aimee. First mentioned in Exodus and lastly in the book of Revelation, it's a biblical term. Each of the 10 biblical references containing the word “foursquare” pertain to God's redemptive pattern, His acceptance of those who believe in Christ and their worship of Him (Exod. 27:1; 28:16; 30:2; 37:25; 38:1; 39:9; 1 Kings 7:31; Ezek. 40:47; 48:20; and Rev. 21:16).

Foursquare is an appropriate term to describe the four key aspects of the ministry of Jesus Christ: the Savior, Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, Healer and Soon-Coming King.

SYMBOLISM

Emblems

Each emblem represents a facet of the Foursquare Gospel message. The cross represents Jesus as Savior. The dove represents Jesus as Baptizer with the Holy Spirit. The cup represents Jesus as the Healer. The crown represents Jesus as the Soon-Coming King.



The Foursquare Flag

In many Foursquare churches, the Foursquare flag is prominently displayed. Like the emblems, the flag serves as a reminder of the Foursquare Gospel—the four key aspects of the ministry of Jesus Christ. In the upper left-hand corner of the flag is a “4,” placed in a square on a Bible. The flag has four large stripes. Across the bottom of the flag, like a solid foundation, is the red stripe, which represents Jesus as Savior by the color of His blood that was shed. Next is the gold stripe, which signifies the fire of the Holy Spirit. The blue stripe represents divine healing, which was the color of the high priest's garment in the Old Testament. The top stripe is purple, which represents the royalty of Jesus, our Soon-Coming King.

FACETS OF THE FOURSQUARE GOSPEL

Jesus Christ, the Savior

Jesus Christ is the only hope of humanity. Jesus loved us and died to save us from the penalty of our sin and rebellion. The salvation He brings begins with a person's decision to put faith in Him (Luke 4:18; Rom 10:8-10; 1 John 1:9). That decision opens a lifetime of healing, restoration and deliverance from oppression; and freedom to stand in spiritual, emotional and physical wholeness.

Jesus Christ, the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit

Some of Jesus's last words to His disciples concerned empowerment. He charged them to carry on the good works He modeled for them. He promised that He would send the Holy Spirit to give them the power to spread the Good News about Him. On the day of Pentecost, in Acts 2, the disciples experienced the presence and power of God as they became witnesses of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ, the Healer

Jesus went about “doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him” (Acts 10:38, NKJV). Jesus draws us to Himself in love and then touches us with healing power. He perpetuates that healing power by promising that signs and wonders will accompany His followers as they go out to minister (Mark 16:17-18).

Jesus Christ, The Soon-Coming King

As Jesus ascended into heaven, the angels declared that He would return to take His church to live with Him forever (Acts 1:10-11). This is the great hope of those who believe in Jesus as their Savior (John 14:1-3).



IN SUMMARY

The Foursquare Gospel is not a new gospel—it is the same gospel proclaimed by the early church. Foursquare is simply a term used to describe the four most important aspects of the gospel as taught in the New Testament.

Lastly, in addition to the four major tenets of faith, The Foursquare Church is Trinitarian. We proclaim the Bible as true, immutable, steadfast and unchangeable. Additionally, Foursquare churches practice water baptism by immersion, and regularly observe the Lord's Supper (Communion).

Perhaps the most straightforward scriptural summary possible of the Foursquare Gospel would be the testimony that Jesus saves us (according to John 3:16); He baptizes us with the Holy Spirit (according to Acts 2:4); He heals people (according to Jas 5:14-15); and He is coming again to receive us to Himself (according to 1 Thess. 4:16-17).

Today's church is called and empowered, just as early believers were, to minister in the name of Jesus—to bring wholeness through salvation, to witness through the infilling of the Holy Spirit, and to bring healing, wholeness and hope for the promised return of Christ.