

## The Return to Tradition

# Introduction

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This is a series of articles about Greek Orthodox practice and livelihood from the perspective of someone who has recently converted to Orthodoxy after living their whole life with a completely different methodology to worship. I have been Pentecostal all my life, praising with the latest hits of varying theological integrity and treating our heavenly Father like a heavenly roommate. Even opting to prefer to pray to Jesus over the other persons of the trinity. So how can someone like that see the importance of Orthodoxy in worship, that not changing the church to fit the culture was in fact strongly the will of God as articulated through the prophetic saints?

In this series of articles I will seek to draw a deep understanding of Orthodox practices from many academic sources to create a detailed yet effective picture of them that is easily digestible for someone of my previous denominations, and also present their reasoning effectively to convince the reader that the orthodoxy of church is valuable and rich and not heretical. Most books about orthodoxy are written in Greek and Russian and are for those already steeped in their culture, so I seek to stand out in that department.

As much as the protestant method, with its guitars, pianos and drums is a legitimate way of worshipping God, it misses out on the beautiful tradition of the ancient eternal church we are immanently part of. Especially now, when many of the more charismatic churches are selling albums and t-shirts and merchandise, promoting and re-enforcing a brand throughout, thus detracting from the experience of reverence for God. One could even compare some of the behaviours of these churches with the temple where Jesus overturned the tables of those who sold sacrifices for profit.

I believe that this series of articles will be important for the protestant communities baffled by the various liturgies and practices that some even suggest are heretical. So that they can find out, from a person who understands worship from their perspective also, how orthodoxy is in fact the best way to worship the Lord.