

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Extension Education Course
Valley Forge Christian College
Phoenixville, Pennsylvania
March 3-7, 2003

HISB 546 INITIAL EVIDENCE AND SPIRIT BAPTISM

Gary B. McGee, Instructor

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of the historical and theological development of the doctrine of initial evidence for the baptism in the Holy Spirit in the Pentecostal movement.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Discuss the hermeneutical, historical, and theological development of the doctrine of initial evidence in modern Pentecostalism.
2. Discuss the primary and secondary literature on the subject.
3. Analyze the significance of the doctrine for the Pentecostal movement and Pentecostal spirituality.
4. Analyze more recent expositions of the doctrine.

TEXTBOOKS

General Presbytery of the Assemblies of God. "Baptism in the Holy Spirit: The Initial Experience and Continuing Evidences of the Spirit-filled Life." Position paper, August 11, 2000. Available for downloading from The Assemblies of God Online.

Goff, Jr., James R. *Fields White Unto Harvest: Charles F. Parham and the Missionary Origins of Pentecostalism*. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 1988.

McGee, Gary B., ed. *Readings on the Doctrine of Initial Evidence*. Springfield, Mo.: AGTS Bookstore, 1996.

_____. "Shortcut to Language Preparation? Radical Evangelicals, Missions, and the Gift of Tongues. *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* 25 (July 2001): 118-123. Available for downloading on AGTS faculty website.

_____. "The Calcutta Revival of 1907 and the Reformulation of Charles F. Parham's 'Bible Evidence' Doctrine." *Asian Journal of Pentecostal Studies* (forthcoming 2003). Available for downloading on AGTS faculty website.

Menzies, William W., and Robert P. Menzies. *Spirit and Power: Foundations of Pentecostal Experience*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 2000.

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Synan, Vinson. *A Century of the Holy Spirit: 100 Years of Pentecostal and Charismatic Renewal*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2001.

Recommended: "Initial Evidence," by Gary B. McGee in *New International Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements*, ed. Stanley M. Burgess (Zondervan, 2002).

COURSE OUTLINE

<i>Monday</i> March 3	Introduction to the course Historical and theological background
<i>Tuesday</i> March 4	Charles F. Parham and the "Bible evidence" A. G. Garr and the reformulated doctrine
<i>Wednesday</i> March 5	Discussion of primary sources Bosworth/Kerr debate in the Assemblies of God
<i>Thursday</i> March 6	Discussion of primary sources
<i>Friday</i> March 7	Initial evidence related to Pentecostal spirituality Exegetical discussions

METHODOLOGY

Lecture and discussion led by the instructor.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Pre-Session

1. Read Synan's *Century of the Holy Spirit* and prepare an eight-page reflection paper on the contributions of Pentecostal dynamics to twentieth-century Christianity. Organize carefully, double-space, and proofread carefully.
2. Read Goff's *Fields White Unto Harvest*.
3. Read McGee's "Shortcut to Language Preparation".

B. Session

1. Attendance at all sessions of the class.
2. Read McGee's *Readings on the Doctrine of Initial Evidence*; "The Calcutta Revival"; General Presbytery position paper on baptism in the Holy Spirit.

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C. Post-Session

1. Read Menzies and Menzies, *Spirit and Power*. Write a six-page paper on Robert Menzies's use of the Lukan literature to explain the doctrine of initial evidence.
2. Comprehensive Examination (to be taken after all reading and papers are completed)

GRADING PROCEDURE

The final grade will be based on the following:

Reflection paper (Synan)	20%
Reflection paper (Menzies)	20%
Personal evaluation of reading and class participation	20%
Comprehensive examination	40%

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

See bibliographies in the textbooks and the bibliography for "Initial Evidence" in NIDPCM.

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Gary B. McGee, January 23, 2003.