

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Continuing Education Course
Springfield, MO
January 21-25, 2002

**BTHM 640/HISM 546 SPIRIT AND POWER:
FOUNDATIONS OF PENTECOSTAL EXPERIENCE**
(3 Credits)

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SPRING 2002

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the historical roots and biblical basis for Pentecostal doctrine and experience. Special attention will be given to the challenges and opportunities currently facing Pentecostals as we seek to define our place in the broader evangelical world. Thus the course will highlight hermeneutical and exegetical perspectives pertinent to the crucial issues of our day. These issues will be considered in the light of recent Evangelical and Pentecostal history. The course will feature the distinctive character of Luke's pneumatology, the nature of the Pentecostal gift (or Spirit-baptism) and its relationship to speaking in tongues. In addition, the relationship between Spirit-baptism and the gifts of the Spirit, fruit of the Spirit, and various other significant issues will be considered.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

When the student has successfully completed this course, he/she should be able to:

1. Define what it means to be Pentecostal.
2. Identify key hermeneutical and exegetical issues in the current debate between Pentecostal and non-Pentecostal Christians.
3. Construct a biblical rationale for a Pentecostal understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the individual and of the Church.
4. Appreciate the historical context of contemporary pentecostal theology.

TEXTBOOKS

The following volumes are required reading for this course:

1. **Pre-Session Reading:**
Dunn, James. *Baptism in the Holy Spirit* (London: SCM, 1970).

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Menzies, Robert and William Menzies, *Spirit and Power: Foundations of Pentecostal Experience* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000), chs. 1-6.

Turner, Max. *The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts: Then and Now* (Carlisle: Paternoster Press, 1996).

2. Session Reading:

Fee, Gordon. *Gospel and Spirit: Issues in New Testament Hermeneutics* (Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1991), pp. 83-119.

Menzies, Robert and William Menzies, *Spirit and Power: Foundations of Pentecostal Experience* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000), chs. 7-15.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Pre-Session

A Reflection Paper. Write a 6-8 page paper which interacts with James Dunn's *Baptism in the Holy Spirit* and Max Turner's *The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts*. Your paper should (1) outline the major points of criticism for Pentecostal theology raised by Dunn and Turner; (2) discuss the key exegetical and theological issues which have emerged; and, in light of this, (3) suggest how we as Pentecostals might provide a solid, Pentecostal theology which deals effectively with these key criticisms and issues.

DUE: The beginning of the first session of the class (January 21, 2002).

B. Session

1. Punctual attendance at all sessions is expected.
2. Active participation in classroom discussions is also expected.

C. Post-Session.

1. *Take Home Exam.* You will be asked to write several take-home essay questions which feature material from *Spirit and Power* and our class lectures.

DUE: the Take Home Exam should be submitted to the AGTS Continuing Education Office on or before Friday, March 1, 2002.

2. *Research Paper.* A research paper (3500-4000 words) on one of the topics listed below (or a topic mutually agreed upon by the instructor and student) will be prepared by the student.

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DUE: The research paper should be submitted to the AGTS Continuing Education Office on or before Friday, May 3, 2002.

Paper Topics:

Interview Three Non-Pentecostal Evangelical Pastors in Your Area Concerning their Views on Pentecostal Theology. Summarize their comments and describe how you might respond.

- The Hermeneutics of Pentecostal Theology
- Evangelical Hermeneutics and the Genre of Luke-Acts
- The Biblical Basis for the Pentecostal View of Baptism in the Spirit
- Tongues as Initial Evidence: A Biblical Appraisal
- John the Baptist's Prophecy (Lk 3.16) and Pentecostal Theology
- The Nature of the Pentecostal Gift (Acts 2)
- A Critique of Evangelical Interpretations of the Pentecostal Gift (Acts 2)
- The Samaritan Pentecost (Acts 8): Implications for Pentecostal Theology
- The Ephesian Pentecost (Acts 19): Implications for Pentecostal Theology
- A Biblical/Theological Study of (one of the Gifts of the Spirit)
- Cessation of the Gifts: An Evaluation
- The Origin of Paul's Pneumatology
- The Flesh/Spirit Contrast in Paul
- An Evaluation of Third Wave Theology
- The Johannine Pentecost
- The Paraclete in John
- Born of Water and Spirit (John 3)

GRADING

- 1. Reflection Paper.....30%
- 2. Take Home Exam.....30%
- 3. Research Paper.....40%

NOTE: Work received after the post-session due date specified in the syllabus will result in a change of grade fee (\$15.00) being charged, even when an extension has been granted by the instructor.

COURSE FORMAT

The class will meet for eight hours (1:00-10:00 PM, with an hour break from 5:00-6:00 PM) each day from Monday, Jan. 21 through Friday, Jan. 25, 2002. The class time will consist of lecture and discussion of assigned topics.

COURSE SCHEDULE

- 1.21 Mon Introduction
The Origins and Development of Classical Pentecostal Theology
Varieties of Contemporary Charismatic/Pentecostal Theologies
Implications for Pentecostal Theology
- 1.22 Tu Pentecostal Theology: The Contemporary Challenge
The Quiet Revolution: Evangelical Hermeneutics
Intertestamental Jewish Perspectives on the Spirit
The Infancy Narratives
John the Baptist' Prophecy
- 1.23 Wed. Jesus and the Spirit
The Disciples and the Spirit (1)
The Disciples and the Spirit (2)
Johannine Pneumatology
- 1.24 Th. The Doctrine of Subsequence
Initial Evidence
The Spirit and Miracles
The Spirit and Holiness
- 1.25 Fri. A Pentecostal Perspective on Suffering
Spirit-Baptism and Spiritual Gifts
Gifts of the Spirit (1)
Gifts of the Spirit (2)
Conclusion

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Dunn, J. Baptism in the Holy Spirit. SCM, 1970. A classic critique of Pentecostal theology from a sympathetic observer.

Fee, Gordon D. Gospel and Spirit: Issues in New Testament Hermeneutics. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1991.

McGee, G. (ed.). Initial Evidence: Historical and Biblical Perspectives on the Pentecostal Doctrine of Spirit Baptism. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1991.

Menzies, R. The Development of Early Christian Pneumatology with Special Reference to Luke-Acts. JSNTSS #49. JSOT Press, 1991.

_____. Empowered for Witness: The Spirit in Luke-Acts. JPTSS #6. Sheffield Academic Press, 1994.

_____. "Luke and the Spirit: A Reply to James Dunn," Journal of Pentecostal Theology 4 (1994), 115-138.

Menzies, William. Anointed to Serve. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1971.

Menzies, William and Menzies, R. Spirit and Power: Foundations of Pentecostal Experience (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000).

Menzies, W. and Horton, S. Bible Doctrines: A Pentecostal Perspective. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1994.

Stronstad, R. The Charismatic Theology of St. Luke. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1984.

_____. Spirit, Scripture, and Theology: A Pentecostal Perspective. Baguio City, Philippines: Asia Pacific Theological Seminary Press, 1995.

Shelton, James. Mighty in Word and Deed: The Role of the Holy Spirit in Luke-Acts. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1991.

Turner, Max. Power from on High: The Spirit in Israel's Restoration and Witness in Luke-Acts. JPTSS #9. Sheffield Academic Press, 1994.

_____. The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts: Then and Now (Carlisle: Paternoster Press, 1996).

Williams, Rodman. Renewal Theology. 3 vols.

SPECIFIC DATA

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Syllabus prepared by Robert and William Menzies September 2001.