

Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
DOCTOR OF MINISTRY
PTH 942 Signs and Wonders in Ministry
Elective, February 16-20, 2004
Gary B. McGee

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In the last two hundred years, radical evangelicals and Pentecostals have sought to minister in miraculous “signs and wonders” to achieve the evangelization of the world before the imminent return of Christ. This course examines the biblical and theological foundations for the expectation of miracles in ministry. It also explores the emergence of the “radical strategy” in mission as adapted by movements in the 19th Century (e.g., faith healing), to the Pentecostal and charismatic movements, to the signs and wonders movement with its teachings on “strategic-level” spiritual warfare, as well as the New Apostolic Reformation Movement. Finally, it analyzes the relevance and potential contributions of such movements and teachings to contemporary ministry and missions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

Cognitive Outcomes:

1. The student will explore the history of the expectancy of miraculous phenomena in evangelism and mission.
2. The student will examine key issues related to miraculous signs and wonders in ministry.
3. The student will become acquainted with selected writings by advocates and critics.

Character/Attitude Outcomes:

1. The student will analyze her or his belief structure in regard to the Holy Spirit’s supernatural ministry in evangelism.
2. The student will proceed in ministry with a better-informed understanding of contemporary issues.
3. The student will be able to articulate her or his perspectives on the miraculous in ministry.

Skill Outcomes:

1. The student will be able to integrate insights on Pentecostal and charismatic pneumatology into their ministry.
2. The student's understanding of the unique Pentecostal dimension of power evangelism will be increased in their ministry.
3. The student will be better able to teach about this key facet of the Pentecostal heritage in the local church or other contexts.

TEXTBOOKS

- Engelsviken, Tormod. *Spiritual conflict in Today's Mission*. Occasional Paper No. 29. Monrovia, Calif.: Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, 2001.
- Grudem, Wayne, ed. *Are Miraculous Gifts for Today?* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.
- Hamon, Bill. *Apostles, Prophets & The Coming Moves of God*. Shippensburg, Pa.: Destiny Image Publications, 1997.
- Kydd, Ronald A. N. *Healing Through the Centuries: Models for Understanding*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers, 1998.
- McGee, Gary B. "Miracles and Missions Revisited." *International Bulletin of Missionary Research* 25 (October 2001): 146-56. (Available on AGTS website.)
- Rommen, Edward, ed., *Spiritual Power and Missions: Raising the Issues*. Evangelical Missiological Society Series, No. 3. Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1995.
- Wagner, C. Peter, ed. *The Queen's Domain*. Colorado Springs: Wagner Publications, 2000.
- _____. *Confronting the Queen of Heaven*, Rev. Ed. Colorado Springs: Wagner Publications, 2001.

COURSE OUTLINE

1. The nature of miracles
2. New Testament teaching on the miraculous in ministry
3. The argument that miracles ceased with the first-century church
4. Signs and wonders in ministry to 1800
5. Impact of the Enlightenment and scientific thinking in the West on ministry/mission
6. The emergence of the "radical strategy" in the 19th Century
7. Related developments in the 19th Century
8. Pentecostal perspectives
9. Charismatic perspectives
10. Third Wave perspectives
11. New Apostolic Reformation perspectives
12. Issues facing the Assemblies of God worldwide
13. Issues facing local congregations
14. Reflection

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Pre-Session

1. Read: Grudem, *Are Miraculous Gifts for Today?*
Kydd, *Healing through the Centuries*
McGee, "Miracles and Missions Revisited"

2. Prepare a five-page focus paper on the books by Grudem and Kydd (double-spaced): the first page should summarize the author's thesis and the contents of the book. The last four pages should focus on your opinions on the content.

During Session

1. Read: Engelsviken, *Spiritual Conflict in Today's Mission*
Rommen, chapters 1-2
2. Prepare a five-page focus paper on Engelsviken.
3. Classroom discussion

Post-Session

1. Read: Hamon, *Apostles, Prophets & The Coming Moves of God*
Wagner, *The Queen's Domain; Confronting the Queen of Heaven*
2. Prepare an eight-page focus paper incorporating the three books by Hamon and Wagner.

GRADING

Focus papers	80%
Classroom discussion	20%

OPTION TO FOCUS PAPERS

In place of the focus papers, a student may choose to prepare creative power-point presentations based on the assigned readings. Such a project could be designed for a local church context or an academic context.

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Gary B. McGee, December 29, 2003.