

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Degree Completion Program
Springfield, Missouri

BTHD 533 THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH
October 7-November 4, 2004
3 credits

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COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students who take this course will gain an increased understanding of the role of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament Church, providing them with the foundation for sound theological thinking about the nature and role of the Spirit, the Holy Spirit's involvement in the life of the individual believer and the corporate worship of the Church, as well as a fresh appreciation of the practical application of the working of the Spirit in their daily Christian lives.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a clear understanding of the biblical teaching on the person and work of the Holy Spirit, including his role in the individual believer as well as corporate worship;
2. Identify the scriptural foundations for key Pentecostal teachings regarding Spirit baptism, and analyze how various expressions of Christian faith have resulted from this;
3. Connect a biblical understanding of the Holy Spirit to practical Christian living on an individual and daily basis, in order to experience an increased dependence on the Holy Spirit and living in the fullness of the Spirit;
4. Recognize your personal spiritual gift(s) and how to exercise them effectively for the edification of the Body of Christ;
5. Integrate a biblical understanding of the Holy Spirit into the contemporary corporate worship of the Church, allowing the Holy Spirit to minister to and through you like never before.
6. Design relevant tools/resources to assist you in the process of communicating sound teaching about the Holy Spirit to others.

COURSE METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this course is not to merely present a set of facts, but to equip students with the tools necessary to think critically from a theological perspective. To this end, class sessions will combine lecture, discussion, interviews, interactive exercises, case studies, examinations, and other instructional techniques. Regular and vigorous student participation is expected.

COURSE TEXTBOOK

The Bible (preferably NIV or NASB).

Fee, Gordon. *Paul, The Spirit, and the People of God*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1996. [192p]

Keener, Craig. *The Spirit in the Gospels and Acts*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Pub, 1997. [216p]

Palma, Anthony D. *The Holy Spirit: A Pentecostal Perspective*. Springfield, MO: Logion Press, 2001. [258p]

Stronstad, Roger. *The Charismatic Theology of St. Luke*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1984. [83p]

Turner, Max. *The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts: In the New Testament Church and Today*. Rev. ed. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1996. [359p]

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Attend class regularly.** Regular and vigorous student participation is a key component to a successful academic experience. The class atmosphere is to be personal and collegial. When appropriate, questions, comments, and discussion are both welcome and expected, with the understanding that they are part of the learning process in a group setting. In respect to others, it is assumed that cell phones, pagers, etc. will remain off in the classroom. (AGTS's degree completion attendance policy will be followed.)

2. **Complete weekly scheduled reading.** The nature of the Degree Completion Program requires that class sessions move through a significant amount of material in a relatively short period of time. Consequently, to maximize our time together, diligent preparation will be expected of each student. Students are required to follow the schedule below. Students should complete the reading prior to the class session, since the class experience will complement the reading assignments. Students will verify each week that they have completed that week's reading.

Reading due:

Week 1 (Oct. 7): Book of Acts, Fee

Week 2 (Oct. 14): Keener

Week 3 (Oct. 21): Palma

Week 4 (Oct. 28): Turner

Week 5 (Nov. 4): Stronstad

3. **Complete weekly homework assignment.** Beginning with the second session, you will complete and submit a homework assignment that corresponds to material covered during the previous week's class session and reading.

Homework due:

Week 2 (Oct. 14): Read the book of Acts and complete worksheet distributed in class

Week 3 (Oct. 21): Write a 2-3 page personal reflection paper (details given in class)

Week 4 (Oct. 28): Complete "Spiritual Gifts" and "Fruit of the Spirit" assessments

Week 5 (Nov. 4): Complete a take home final examination

4. **Complete a final project.** Each student will design a final project that assists him/her in integrating materials from the course in their personal context. Each project should be the equivalent of at least 15 pages, and should demonstrate thoughtful and thorough research. The project should be well-written, and free from grammatical error. Project options include:

- *Multimedia project:* Using the course as a starting point, develop a brief multimedia presentation (PowerPoint/Video/Music/Web-based, etc.) designed to effectively and relevantly communicate an aspect of the Holy Spirit to a specified target audience. A written manuscript should accompany the electronic presentation.
- *Respond to a Postmodern challenge of classical Pentecostal teaching on the Holy Spirit.* Select a theological issue currently being challenged/stretched by Postmodernism and provide a written response. This response should outline the major divergent view(s), then provide a scriptural, balanced, well-researched response.
- *Internet Project:* research quality Christian resources available via the Internet relative to life in the Spirit (spiritual gifts assessments, fruit assessments, teaching, etc.) and prepare a written summary of your findings. This report should include recommendations and implications for the Church today.
- *Sermons/Lessons:* using insights gained from the course, write a series of at least four manuscript messages designed to clearly communicate sound theological understanding regarding some aspect of life in the Spirit. These messages should be contextualized and relevant to a specified target audience.
- *Research paper:* prepare a well researched paper on some aspect of life in the Spirit pertinent to the course that would be helpful to you.
- *Self-designed project:* Students have the option of proposing a customized final project. The proposal must be submitted in written form, and the professor's permission must be secured in advance.

COURSE GRADING

	<i>Pts</i>	<i>% of Grade</i>
1. Class participation and attendance	100	10%
2. Assigned reading (1000 pages)	300	30%
3. Weekly homework (4@75pts. ea.)	300	30%
4. Final Project	300	30%

Note: Grade will be deducted for late work.

OFFICE HOURS

My desire is to help every student succeed. Should you need assistance outside of normal class hours, I can be reached at my office on Tuesdays and Thursdays (268-1043). You can also reach me at my home (889-5123). Please leave a message if necessary.

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SPECIFIC DATA

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