

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

BTH/PCS 533 The Holy Spirit in the New Testament Church

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Fall 2004

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course investigates the role of the Holy Spirit in the primitive Christian community. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the worship and interpersonal relations of Christians will be stressed. Included in the course is a special unit on the theology of the Church.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon the completion of the course the student should be able to:

1. Integrate the main contributions to the development of the early Christian pneumatology made by the Gospel writers and Paul into his/her ministry.
2. Analyze some of the key hermeneutical and exegetical issues in the current debate concerning New Testament perspectives on the work of the Spirit.
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. Explain the challenges and opportunities that await those anticipating Pentecostal ministry today.

TEXTBOOKS

The Bible (preferably NASB or NIV).

Burge, Gary M. *Anointed Community: The Holy Spirit in the Johannine Tradition*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1987. Reprint, Ingram, 2004.

Fee, Gordon D. *Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1996.

Shelton, James B. *Mighty in Word and Deed: The Role of the Holy Spirit in Luke-Acts*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1991. Reprint, Wipf and Stock, 2004.

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

COURSE OUTLINE

- I. The Commissioning of the Church
 - A. Pentecost
 - B. Proclamation
 - C. Why Tongues?
 - D. Tongues and the Spread of the Gospel
- II. The Spirit of Promise
 - A. The Old Testament
 - B. John the Baptist
 - C. Jesus the Christ
- III. The Believer's Life
 - A. Conviction of Sin
 - B. Regeneration
 - C. Sanctification
 - D. Baptism in the Holy Spirit
 - E. Maturity (Fruit of the Spirit)
 - F. Ethics
 - G. Witness
- IV. The Church's Life
 - A. The Fellowship of the Spirit
 - B. Gifted by the Spirit
 - C. Worship in the Spirit
- V. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit
 - A. Nomenclature
 - B. Subsequence
 - C. Initial Evidence
 - D. Rationale for Spirit Baptism

METHODOLOGY

The class will meet Tuesday and Thursday, from 1:00 to 2:15 P.M., during the Fall term. The class time will consist of lectures by the professor and classroom discussion of assigned reading material and other pertinent matter. The learning experience will be enhanced by written assignments and examinations.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. The student is expected to attend all class sessions in accordance with the policies of the Seminary. "Barring a serious medical emergency, credit cannot be granted for a course in which a student has been absent beyond the equivalent of more than 2 weeks (3 days, 4-week summer session)."
2. The student is expected to submit four book report/critiques, one on each of the four assigned texts. The due dates for the critiques are: September 30—Burge book; October 28—Shelton book; November 18—Fee book; December 2—Turner book. The student should be prepared to discuss each book in class as it come due. Each

critique is expected to be 3-5 typed pages in length and should deal with the author's purpose for and theological positions revealed in the writing, a brief summary of the argumentation of the book, a critical and engaged evaluation of the argumentation and positions held by the author, and an overall evaluation of the value of the work.

3. The student should submit a fifteen-page paper on a topic germane to the course. The professor will discuss possible topics early in the course. The paper should conform to the Turabian (current edition) format, employing footnotes to document source usage. (Note: students in the counseling programs may use chapter 10, Parenthetical References and Reference Lists). The paper should make use of ten twelve sources and will be graded on grammar, composition, form, and content. The paper is due at class time, November 4, 2004. The paper will be received without grade penalty through November 11, after which the grade on the paper will be reduced by one-third of a letter grade for each calendar day late.
4. The student should sustain successfully a midterm and final exam, both of which will be essay in nature. The midterm exam will be given on October 21, 2004 and the final on Thursday, December 16, 2004, 10:15 A.M. to 12:45 P.M. The exams will cover the classroom material and the required textbooks. The final exam will not be comprehensive.

GRADING PROCEDURE

The final grade will be determined as follows:

Book reports/critiques	33%
Term paper	33%
Exams	34%

Grades are recorded and averaged on the basis of the following grade scale: A=12; A-=11; B+=10; B=9; B-=8; C+=7; C=6; C-=5; D+=4; D=3; D-=2; F=1. Late work will be penalized commensurate with the lateness.

The grade of I (Incomplete) may be granted only for extenuating circumstances upon the written request of the student. Except in the case of severe extenuating circumstances the course grade will be reduced by one letter.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Bruce, F. F. *The Book of Acts*. Revised Edition. New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1988.
- Bruner, F. D. *A Theology of the Holy Spirit*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1970.
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- Cullmann, Oscar. *Early Christian Worship*. Trans. A. Stewart Todd and James B. Torrance. London: SCM, 1953.
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Holdcroft, L. Thomas. *The Holy Spirit: A Pentecostal Interpretation*. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1979.

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SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by James H. Railey, July 2004.