

**BTHM/PCSM 640 Sp. STUDIES**  
**ASPECTS OF PENTECOSTAL THEOLOGY: THE POWER OF GOD**  
**Fall 2005**  
October 24 – 28, 2005

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ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

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## **YOUR PROFESSOR FOR THIS COURSE:**

**Dr. Peter Gräbe**

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**Notes:**

Peter Gräbe (Doctor Divinitatis, University of Pretoria) is a distinguished professor in the Ph.D. program at Regent University and an ordained minister in the Assemblies of God. He did extensive doctoral research in Münster, Germany and post-doctoral research in Munich, as well as at the University of Cambridge (U.K.) as a Visiting Fellow of Clare Hall. His doctoral dissertation, *The Power of God in Paul's Letters*, was published in the series *Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament* (WUNT II, 123) by Mohr Siebeck in Tübingen, 2000. A second major research project on the New Covenant in Early Christian Literature was published by Echter Verlag, Würzburg, Germany in the international series *Forschung zur Bibel* (Vol 96) under the title, *Der neue Bund in der frühchristlichen Literatur unter Berücksichtigung der alttestamentlich-jüdischen Voraussetzungen*. His latest publication, *New Covenant, New Community. The Significance of Biblical and Patristic Covenant Theology for Current Understanding*, appears in October 2005 from Paternoster Press. Professor Gräbe is a member of the international Society for the Study of the New Testament (SNTS), Society for Biblical Literature (SBL) and Society for Pentecostal Studies (SPS). He has just completed the commentary on Second Corinthians in the new Pentecostal Commentary Series (Continuum/Sheffield Academic Press).

## **DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF THIS COURSE**

The course, *Aspects of Pentecostal Theology. The Power of God*, reflects on the power of God as a key dimension of Pentecostal Theology. The purpose of the course is to enable students to understand the richness of God's power as presented in the Bible, and especially in Paul's letters.

## **COURSE COMPETENCIES AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

After completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand the richness of the concept of the Power of God as revealed in Scripture
- Discern the significance of Paul's reflection on God's power for our theology and personal lives
- Articulate the significance of the Holy Spirit in both the Old and the New Testaments for understanding the power of God
- Demonstrate understanding of the significance of the cross of Christ for apprehending and experiencing God's power
- Analyze the consequences of an enriched understanding of the power of God for Pentecostal theology and mission

## **TEXTBOOKS/REQUIRED READING**

Gräbe, Petrus J. *The Power of God in Paul's Letters*. WUNT 2/123. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2000. ISBN 0340-9570.

Students are also required to carefully study the biblical passages discussed by Gräbe.

"The all-surpassing power of God through the Holy Spirit in the midst of our broken earthly existence: Perspectives on Paul's use of *dýnamis* in 2 Corinthians." *Neotestamentica* 28/1, 147-156, 1994.

Savage, Timothy B. *Power through Weakness. Paul's Understanding of the Christian Ministry in 2 Corinthians*. Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series 86. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996. ISBN 0 521 49640 3.

## **PRE-SESSION READING**

Please take time to read the prescribed books before the residency.

Section A is an introductory section, which reviews the concept of God's power in Hellenistic literature, in the Old Testament and in early Judaism. Pay special attention to chapter 2, dealing with the Old Testament background.

Section B is very important and provides the exegetical basis for the conclusions in section C. Each chapter discusses a specific passage from Scripture. Please read each passage carefully in your Bible. In this section you may give attention to the following issues:

- What can you learn in these chapters about the way each passage is interpreted? Do aspects of the text come to your attention that you have not recognized before? Please give an example.
- In which ways can you apply this method of interpretation to other passages in the Bible?
- Reflect on how it would enrich your preaching.

Section C represents the conclusion and should be studied in depth.

## **POST-RESIDENTIAL TERM PAPER**

The aim of the term paper is to give students the opportunity to pursue a topic which is related to this course and which is of special interest to the student. Each student will have the opportunity to discuss his/her term paper personally with the professor during the residency.

## **ADDITIONAL READING**

The additional reading deals with the Holy Spirit and aims to situate our discussion of the power of God within the context of a well developed pneumatology.

Bulgakov, Sergius. *The Comforter*, translated by Boris Jakim. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.

Green, Michael. *I Believe in the Holy Spirit*, Revised Edition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004.

McDonnell, Kilian. *The Other Hand of God. The Holy Spirit as the Universal Touch and Goal*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press.

Kydd, Ronald A.N. *Charismatic Gifts in the Early Church. An Exploration into the Gifts of the Spirit during the First Three Centuries of the Christian Church*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1984.

Moltmann, Jürgen. *The Church in the Power of the Spirit*. Translated by Margaret Kohl. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1994.

Pinnock, Clark H. *Flame of Love: A Theology of the Holy Spirit*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1996.

Welker, Michael. *God the Spirit*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1994.

## GRADING CRITERIA

Term Paper. The term paper will constitute your entire grade for the course, with a 15% factor included for class attendance and participation. Due no later than 90 days after the end of the course. The paper will be graded on the following criteria:

- a. Was written after perfect class attendance (15 points)
- b. Formal aspects: Is 15-20 pages in length. Font size should be 12. Conforms to Turabian or APA style. Is well written, with good structure and correct spelling and grammar. Includes a clear thesis or purpose statement, highlighted in italics in the first two pages of the paper. (30)
- c. Quality of research. The paper shows that the student has done careful research, uses both primary and significant secondary sources and interacts with both Pentecostal/Charismatic theologians as well as with other scholars. A bibliography is important. (50)
- d. The paper is seen as particularly creative and is recommended for submission for publication. (5 points) In other words, a grade of 100 or A+ will be assigned only to those papers deemed to be publishable.

Each grade will include how the calculation was figured on these criteria. In addition to the research paper, the professor would personally appreciate the inclusion of a brief (half-page) "About the Author" sketch that describes the student's background and ministry goals/sense of calling.