

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINAR**  
**MATS Degree Completion Program**  
**Springfield, Missouri**

**BTHD 533 THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH**

February 15, 22, March 8, 15, 22, 2007  
(3 Credits)

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Spring 2007

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An investigation of 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. Includes a special unit on the theology of the Church.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

For the purpose of clarity and focus, the learning objectives will be listed at the beginning of each unit. By design the student is expected to comprehend the core knowledge presented in reading for this course. On the graduate level students are expected to analyze the basic concepts so they can explain their meaning and apply them to contemporary life. For your convenience the core objectives you should comprehend in your reading are listed below:

1. Explain the role of the Holy Spirit in the early Christian community.
2. Analyze the main contributions of New Testament writers to the development of Christian pneumatology.
3. Integrate key hermeneutical and exegetical issues in addressing the current debate concerning New Testament perspectives on the work of the Spirit in interpersonal relationships.
4. Develop a biblical basis for a Pentecostal understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the individual and of the Church today.
5. Analyze the challenges and opportunities that await those anticipating Pentecostal ministry today.
6. Develop a practical theology of the Church in relationship to the biblical teachings on the ministry and gifts of the Holy Spirit in today's church.

## **COURSE TEXTBOOKS**

The Bible (preferably NASB or NIV).

Fee, Gordon. *God's Empowering Presence: The Holy Spirit in the Letters of Paul*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1994.

\_\_\_\_\_, *Paul, The Spirit, and the People of God*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1996.

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

### **\*Supplemental Text:**

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

Menzies, Robert P. *Empowered for Witness: The Spirit in Luke-Acts*. Journal of Pentecostal Studies Supplement Series 6. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1994.

Machia, Frank. *Baptized in the Spirit: A Global Pentecostal Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006.

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

(\*Some assignments may come from these supplemental texts, however, these books and articles are also on the reserve shelf in the library or may be purchased through the bookstore.)

## **COURSE METHODOLOGY**

The classes meet each Thursday night for five weeks (6-10 p.m., February 15—March 22). The course methodology will include group activities, reacting to articles or chapters, class discussion, online chats, lecture, and critical reflection.

## **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

For each week of the course, you will be expected to complete the assignments, a set of readings, prepare for class discussion, and complete in class worksheets and group projects.

**Weekly Readings:** The assigned readings will form the basis of our group discussions. These assignments must be completed prior to each class session. You should summarize your reading, make note of key terms and concepts, and a list of discussion questions based on the readings. Bring summaries, glossaries, and questions to class to help in class discussions.

**Attendance and Participation:** Discussion will be a part of each class session. Your participation in group activities and class discussions will be considered as a part of your course grade. Since the class sessions are four hours each, it is vital that you not be absent. As much as 10% for class participation could increase or decrease your course grade. If you miss two class periods, you will be dropped from the course.

**Short Written Assignments:** The written assignments should be completed before class and handed in before the class is over. Each assignment should run from one to two typewritten pages and should conform to the following format requirements:

- 12-point Times New Roman font
- 1” margins
- Double-spaced
- The following identifying information should appear in single-spaced format in the upper-left corner of the first page:

Your Name	(example) ⇒	John Q. Jones
Due Date for the Assignment		2/15/2007
Assignment number		Short Assignment # 1
- Begin the body of your text two line-spaces down the page after the identifying information

Short written assignments will be evaluated in terms of content, scholarship, style, thoroughness, and formal English within the pages allotted

**In-Class Group Projects:** Each week certain projects will be done in class. Some will be group projects or individual worksheets based on what is covered in class. Others will be a one-page summary of what you have learned or an application of certain concepts to contemporary society. These assignments require your participation and cannot be completed outside of class. You must be present to earn credit.

## **COURSE UNIT OBJECTIVES AND REQUIREMENTS**

The Background for the Role of the H/S in the NT Church

### **Unit Objectives for February 15, 2007:**

**By the conclusion of Session One, you will be able to:**

1. Understand the role of the H/S in the OT (manifestations of the H/S, who received the H/S, the purposes for the OT manifestations)
2. Explain the Promise of the H/S by John the Baptist (the prophesy of the coming Messiah, the promised Holy Spirit, variations of the Greek text about John’s prophesy)
3. Compare and analyze the various passages where Jesus promises the Holy Spirit (compare the Synoptic passages to John, analyze the similarities and differences, rank the significance of these promises)
4. Design a model showing the implications of the fulfillment of the promised outpouring

**Unit Requirements for February 15, 2007:**

1. Read Gordon Fee, *God's Empowering Presence: The Holy Spirit in the Letters of Paul*, pp. 904-910 and provide a one-page summary of the role of the Holy Spirit in the OT.
2. Do the worksheet on John the Baptist and his promise of the Spirit accompanying the work of the Messiah (see syllabus attachments packet--this assignment will be completed in class).
3. Analyze in one page or more the similarities and difference of Jesus' teaching on the Holy Spirit in the Synoptic Gospels with those passages on the H/S in John.
4. Write a two-page paper on the implications for the believers of the fulfillment of the Holy Spirit's outpouring on the day of Pentecost (see Acts 2).
5. Reading in Gordon Fee, *God's Empowering Presence: The Holy Spirit in the Letters of Paul*, pp. 1-271. Please provide a one-page summary and one-page critique of these pages.

B. The Birth of the Church

**Unit Objectives for February 22, 2007:**

**By the conclusion of Session Two, you will be able to:**

1. Explain the symbolic significance of Pentecost (empowerment, tongues, and prophetic witness)
2. Analyze the role of Peter's empowered preaching (the Greek phrase, the message, the results)
3. Synthesize the role of the Holy Spirit and the expansion of the church (H/S baptism passages in Acts, the witness of believers, signs following the witness)
4. Apply these biblical truths to the contemporary church

**Unit Requirements for February 22, 2007:**

1. Do the worksheet on the symbolic significance of Pentecost (see syllabus attachments packet—this assignment will be completed in class).
2. Class assignment—to be done in class. Read the handout on Roger Stronstad, *The Charismatic Theology of St. Luke*, and complete the worksheet on analyzing the role of Peter's empowered preaching.
3. Provide a one-page summary on how the Holy Spirit impacted the expansion of the early church.
4. Write a one-page application of how these church growth principles in Acts can be applied to the contemporary church (this assignment will be completed in class).
5. Reading in Gordon Fee, *God's Empowering Presence: The Holy Spirit in the Letters of Paul*, pp. 282-634. Please provide a one-page summary and a one-page critique of these pages.
6. Read Roger Stronstad, *The Charismatic Theology of St. Luke* and provide a one-page summary and a one-page critique.

C. The Role of the H/S in Christian Living

**Unit Objectives for March 8, 2007:**

**By the conclusion of Session Three, you will be able to:**

1. Explain the role of the H/S in conviction, regeneration, and sanctification (define, explain, and apply each of these terms).

2. Show how the biblical teaching impacts Pentecostal teaching on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, the gifted ministry of the H/S, and the fruit of the Spirit (synthesize the biblical use of H/S baptism with the phrase “filled with the Spirit,” compare the list of spiritual gifts and explain each gift, identify the impact of the fruit of the Spirit upon the believer’s lifestyle).
3. Evaluate the impact of the charismatic movement and modern scholarship upon the Pentecostal doctrine of initial physical evidence (react to handout on the effects of the charismatic revival upon Pentecostalism, discuss the issues in McGee’s book, create a biblical response to the issues discussed).
4. Identify the similarities and differences between the Lucan concept of empowerment and the Pauline teaching on the gifted ministry of the H/S (Summarize the Lucan and Pauline views, identify the differences and list the similarities, demonstrate how you would integrate these teachings).
5. Evaluate how “empowerment” and “giftedness” impacts the believer’s witness and lifestyle.

**Unit Requirements for March 8, 2007:**

1. Complete the worksheet on the role of the H/S in conviction, regeneration, and sanctification (see syllabus attachments packet—this assignment will be completed in class).
2. Write each passage in Acts where someone is baptized in the Holy Spirit and highlight the words “filled” or “baptism” in the Spirit.
3. List the spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 11 and provide a written two-paragraph summary of each gift. See Harold Horton, *The Gifts of the Spirit* on the reserve shelf in the library (this assignment will be completed in class).
4. Provide a one-page reaction to the handout on the impact of the charismatic movement on Pentecostalism and a one-page biblical response to the issue of initial physical evidence. See Gary McGee, *Initial Evidence: Historical and Biblical Perspectives on the Pentecostal Doctrine of Spirit Baptism* on the reserve shelf in the library.
5. Complete the worksheet on comparing Luke’s pneumatology with that of Paul (see syllabus attachments packet—this assignment will be completed in class).
6. In a one-page paper, evaluate how “empowerment” and “giftedness” of the H/S impacts the believer’s lifestyle and witness today.
7. Reading in Gordon Fee, *God’s Empowering Presence: The Holy Spirit in the Letters of Paul*, pp. 635-868. Please provide a one-page summary and one-page critique of these pages.

D. The Role of the H/S in the Church’s Life

**Unit Objectives for March 15, 2007:**

**By the conclusion of Session Four, you will be able to:**

1. Develop a theology of the church in the light of the NT teaching on the H/S (explain the meaning of the Greek words for church and community). Define the “unity of the Spirit.” Explore the implications of the NT concept of *koinonia*. Analyze the impact “unity” and “fellowship” have upon the life of the church
2. What does “empowerment” mean for the church? (explain the meaning of *exousia* and *dunamis*, decide what empowerment is for)

3. Evaluate the biblical role of the gifts of the H/S in the church (examine First Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4)
4. Apply these biblical teachings to the contemporary church (explain the role of the gifts, analyze their practical use in the church today)
5. What impact does the Spirit have upon Pentecostal worship? (apply the biblical pattern to today, explain what has changed in Pentecostal worship styles since the charismatic revival, discover what is different about worship in a Spirit-filled church)

**Unit Requirements for March 15, 2004:**

1. Provide a one-page analysis on how the “unity” and “fellowship” of the Spirit impacts the modern church.
2. Do the worksheet on the empowerment of the church (see syllabus attachments packet—this assignment will be completed in class).
3. **Major Project.** Evaluate the biblical role of the gifts of the H/S in the church by interpreting First Corinthians 12:8-11, Romans 12:6-8, and Ephesians 4:11-12 and the context of these verses. Provide practical ways these gifts can be used in the church today (one page for each passage).
4. Be prepared to have a quiz on how the Spirit impacts Pentecost worship and what implications the charismatic revival had on Pentecostal worship (in class assignment).
5. Reading in Gordon Fee, *God’s Empowering Presence: The Holy Spirit in the Letters of Paul*, pp. 870-916. Please provide a one-page summary and one-page critique of these pages.

E. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

**Unit Objectives March 22, 2007:**

**By the conclusion of Session Five, you will be able to:**

1. List the NT terminology for being baptized in the Holy Spirit (explore the meaning of the Greek terms, compare the terms with today’s nomenclature, compose a lesson on how to utilize the biblical terms today)
2. Describe the sequence of conviction, regeneration, sanctification, and H/S baptism (is there one particular pattern in the NT, what is the NT understanding of being baptized in the H/S, how should we apply this to the contemporary church)
3. Explore the biblical evidence of speaking in tongues (summarize the passages in Acts and Corinthians; define the Greek terms: glossolalia, dialectos, and xenolalia; explain the difference in teaching and practicing the doctrine of initial physical evidence)
4. Demonstrate the biblical rationale for Spirit baptism (review the biblical teaching, examine the Greek terms, provide a synopsis)

**Unit Requirements for March 22, 2007:**

1. Do the worksheet on NT terminology for being baptized in the Holy Spirit (see syllabus attachments packet—this assignment will be completed in class).
2. In a one-page summary provide the NT pattern for being baptized in the Holy Spirit (use the passages in Acts 2:4; 8:15-24; 10:44-48; 19:1-7).
3. Do the worksheet on the biblical evidence for speaking in tongues as the initial physical evidence (see syllabus attachments packet—this assignment will be completed in class).

4. Complete the worksheet on the rationale for Spirit baptism (see syllabus attachments packet—this assignment will be completed in class).
5. Earn ten extra-credit points for any assignment: Provide a one-page summary and critique of Robert Menzies, *Empowered for Witness: The Spirit in Luke-Acts*. Journal of Pentecostal Studies Supplement Series 6. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1994.

## **COURSE EVALUATION**

The final grade will be determined as follows:

Class assignments/group participation	10%
Book reports/critiques	15%
Outside Reading	10%
Reaction to Articles	15%
Online chats	05%
Major project	20%
Final exam	25%

Grades are recorded and averaged on the basis of the following grade scale:

Publishable = A+
100% - 94% = A
93% - 90% = A-
89% - 87% = B+
86% - 84% = B
83% - 80% = B-
79% - 77% = C+
76% - 74% = C
73% - 70% = C-
69% - 67% = D+
66% - 64% = D
63% - 60% = D-

Late work will be subject to a five-point penalty for each day beyond the due date; work unduly late will not be accepted. **NOTE:** A \$30.00 fee will be charged to the student's account for every grade change even if the instructor has approved an extension for completing the work. Any exception to the policy will be made by the registrar.

## **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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## **SPECIFIC DATA**

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Syllabus

Attachments Packet

The Holy Spirit in the NT Church

Charles A. Estridge, Ph.D.











**WORKSHEET FOR UNIT 5**  
**Class Assignment, March 22**

1. What terms are used in the NT for being baptized in the Holy Spirit?
2. Write out the following passages in Acts 2:4; 8:15-24; 10:44-48; 19:1-7.
3. List the biblical evidence for speaking in tongues as the initial physical evidence.
4. What is the rationale for Spirit baptism?