

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
Springfield, MO**

**BTH 533 THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH  
(3 Credits)**

**Robert P. Menzies, Ph.D.**

**SPRING 2002**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A study of the New Testament teaching concerning the work of the Holy Spirit. Special attention will be given to the unique contribution Pentecostals have made to the current discussion and to the fresh opportunity we now have for articulating a coherent and wholistic biblical theology of the Spirit. The course will feature the development of early Christian thinking on the Holy Spirit as reflected in the major contributions of Luke, Paul, and John. The conclusions of our study will then be related to contemporary questions raised by the Pentecostal and Charismatic movements.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

When the student has successfully completed this course, he/she should be able to:

1. Summarize the main contributions to the development of the early Christian pneumatology made by Luke, Paul, and John.
2. Identify 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. Appreciate the challenges and opportunities that await those anticipating Pentecostal ministry today.

**TEXTBOOKS**

**[Need to get your books? \(www link to AGTS bookstore\)](#)**

Fee, Gordon. *Paul, The Spirit, and the People of God* (Hendrickson Publishers, 1996).

Menzies, Robert P. *Empowered for Witness: The Spirit in Luke-Acts* (JPTSup #6; JSOT Press, 1994).

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

•Note: students will also be required to read R. Menzies, “Max Turner’s *The Holy and Spiritual Gifts Then and Now: A Review Article*,” *JPT* 15 (1999)

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

- 1.8 Introduction: Pentecostal Theology: The Contemporary Challenge  
The Quiet Revolution: Evangelical Hermeneutics
- 1.15 Reconstructing Early Christian Pneumatology: Four False Assumptions  
Intertestamental Jewish Perspectives on the Spirit  
The Infancy Narratives
- 1.22 John the Baptist’ Prophecy
- 1.29 Jesus and the Spirit
- 2.5 The Disciples and the Spirit (1)
- 2.12 The Disciples and the Spirit (2)
- 2.19 Paul: The Spirit as Soteriological Agent  
The Origin of Paul’s Pneumatology
- 2.26 The Gifts of the Spirit (1)
- 3.5 The Gifts of the Spirit (2)
- 3.12 Mid-Term Exam  
Johannine Pneumatology: The Life-Giving Spirit
- 3.19 The Paraclete  
John 20:22  
Was John the Revelator Pentecostal?
- 3.26 The Rest of the NT  
Subsequence

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- 4.2 Initial Evidence
- 4.9 Gifts and Fruits of the Spirit
- 4.16 The Spirit and Miracles Pentecostal  
Theology: Future Directions
- 4.23 Final Exam

## **METHODOLOGY**

The class will meet Tuesday evenings (6:30-9:10 PM) from January 8 through April 23. The class time will consist of lecture and discussion of assigned topics.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. **Exams.** There will be two exams: a mid-term and a final. The exams will cover the required reading and lecture material.
2. **Research Paper.** A research paper (approx. 5,000 words; 15 Pgs.) on one of the topics listed below (or a topic mutually agree upon by the instructor and student) will be prepared by the student.
3. **Class Discussion/Participation.** Interaction with points raised during the lectures will be encouraged.

### *Paper Topics:*

Interview Three Non-Pentecostal Evangelical Pastors in Your Area Concerning their Views on Pentecostal Theology. Summarize their comments and describe how you might respond.

The Hermeneutics of Pentecostal Theology

Evangelical Hermeneutics and the Genre of Luke-Acts

The Biblical Basis for the Pentecostal View of Baptism in the Spirit

Tongues as Initial Evidence: A Biblical Appraisal

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John the Baptist's Prophecy (Lk 3.16) and Pentecostal Theology  
The Nature of the Pentecostal Gift (Acts 2)  
A Critique of Evangelical Interpretations of the Pentecostal Gift (Acts 2)  
The Samaritan Pentecost (Acts 8): Implications for Pentecostal Theology  
The Ephesian Pentecost (Acts 19): Implications for Pentecostal Theology  
A Biblical/Theological Study of (one of the Gifts of the Spirit)  
Cessation of the Gifts: An Evaluation  
The Origin of Paul's Pneumatology  
The Flesh/Spirit Contrast in Paul  
An Evaluation of Third Wave Theology  
The Johannine Pentecost  
The Paraclete in John  
Born of Water and Spirit (John 3)

### **GRADING**

1. Mid-Term Exam.....25%
2. Final Exam.....25%
3. Research Paper.....40%
4. Class Participation..... 10%

### **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Barrett, C.K. The Holy Spirit and the Gospel Tradition. London: SPCK, 1947.

Bruner, F.D. A Theology of the Holy Spirit: The Pentecostal Experience and the New Testament Witness. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1970.

Burge, Gary M. The Anointed Community: the Holy Spirit in the Johannine Tradition. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987.

Dunn, J. Baptism in the Holy Spirit. SCM, 1970. A classic critique of Pentecostal theology from a sympathetic observer.

Ervin, Howard. Conversion-Initiation and the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1984.

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Fee, Gordon D. Gospel and Spirit: Issues in New Testament Hermeneutics. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1991.

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Horton, Stanley. What the Bible Says about the Holy Spirit. Springfield, MO: Gospel, 1976.

Lim, David. Spiritual Gifts: A Fresh Look. Springfield, MO: Gospel, 1976.

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

Menzies, R. The Development of Early Christian Pneumatology with Special Reference to Luke-Acts. JSNTSS #49. JSOT Press, 1991.

\_\_\_\_\_. Empowered for Witness: The Spirit in Luke-Acts. JPTSS #6. Sheffield Academic Press, 1994.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Luke and the Spirit: A Reply to James Dunn," Journal of Pentecostal Theology 4 (1994), 115-138.

Menzies, William. Anointed to Serve. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1971.

Menzies, William and Menzies, R. Spirit and Power: Foundations of Pentecostal Experience (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000).

Menzies, W. and Horton, S. Bible Doctrines: A Pentecostal Perspective. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1994.

Montague, G.T. The Holy Spirit: Growth of a Biblical Tradition. New York: Paulist, 1976.

Penney, John Michael. The Missionary Emphasis of Lukan Pneumatology. JPTSS #12. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic, 1997.

Stronstad, R. The Charismatic Theology of St. Luke. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1984.

\_\_\_\_\_. Spirit, Scripture, and Theology: A Pentecostal Perspective. Baguio City, Philippines: Asia Pacific Theological Seminary Press, 1995.

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Shelton, James. Mighty in Word and Deed: The Role of the Holy Spirit in Luke-Acts. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1991.

Turner, Max. Power from on High: The Spirit in Israel's Restoration and Witness in Luke-Acts. JPTSS #9 . Sheffield Academic Press, 1994.

\_\_\_\_\_. The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts: Then and Now (Carlisle: Paternoster Press, 1996).

Williams, Rodman. Renewal Theology. 3 vols.

**SPECIFIC DATA**

Syllabus prepared by Robert Menzies October, 2001.