

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

HIS/PCS 546 INITIAL EVIDENCE AND SPIRIT BAPTISM

May 5-30, 2008

9:50 a.m.-12:00 p.m., MTWTF

Gary B. McGee, Instructor

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of the historical and theological development of the doctrine of initial evidence for the baptism in the Holy Spirit in the Pentecostal movement. Biblical perspectives and foundations of the doctrine also receive attention in the course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Discuss the hermeneutical, historical, and theological development of the doctrine of initial evidence in modern Pentecostalism.
2. Discuss the primary and secondary literature on the subject.
3. Analyze the significance of the doctrine for the Pentecostal movement and Pentecostal spirituality.
4. Analyze more recent expositions of the doctrine.

TEXTBOOKS

General Presbytery of the Assemblies of God. "Baptism in the Holy Spirit: The Initial Experience and Continuing Evidences of the Spirit-filled Life." Position paper, August 11, 2000. Available for downloading from The Assemblies of God Online.

McGee, Gary B. *Initial Evidence: Historical and Biblical Perspectives on the Pentecostal Doctrine of Spirit Baptism*. Eugene, Ore.: Wipf & Stock, 2008.

Menzies, William W., and Robert P. Menzies. *Spirit and Power: Foundations of Pentecostal Experience*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 2000.

COURSE OUTLINE (KEY: IE—*Initial Evidence*; SP—*Spirit and Power*; PP—*GPAG position paper*)

First Week:		READING ASSIGNMENT: McGee—Intro., chaps. 1-8; F. F. Bosworth, <i>Do All Speak in Tongues?</i> (Copies of the latter will be provided by the instructor.)
May	5	Introduction to the course Historical and theological background
May	6	Charles Parham and the "Bible Evidence"
May	7	Early differences on the necessity of tongues
May	8	Debate within the AG

May 9 Later expositions of initial evidence

Second Week

May 12-16 Reports

Third Week READING ASSIGNMENT: McGee—chaps. 9-13

May 19-23 Reports

May 21 CHAPEL 9:50-11:00

Fourth Week READING ASSIGNMENT: *Spirit & Power*, GPAG position paper

May 27 Discussion of *Spirit & Power*

May 28 GPAG position paper

May 29 Discussions

May 30 Discussion and final comprehensive exam

METHODOLOGY

Lecture, discussion, reports

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. The successful completion of all assigned reading
2. Meaningful contributions in classroom discussions
2. Attendance according to the AGTS policy
3. Presentation of two reports
4. Final comprehensive examination

GRADING PROCEDURE

The final grade will be based on the following:

Personal evaluation of reading and class participation	20%
1st report	20%
2 nd report	20%
Comprehensive examination	40%

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is assumed that students at AGTS will endeavor to be honest and of high integrity in all matters pertaining to Seminary life. A lack of respect and integrity is evidenced by cheating, fabricating, plagiarizing, misusing facilities, removing books and other property not one's own, and disrupting classes.

Cheating is defined as "intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise." It is assumed that whatever is submitted by

a student is the work of that student and is new work for that course. Fabrication is “intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise or form.” Plagiarism is “intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own in any academic exercise.” One who facilitates any of the above is equally responsible with the primary violator.

Penalties may include restitution, an “F” on an individual paper, exam, or course; loss of campus employment; disciplinary probation; removal from extracurricular activities; and suspension.—*AGTS Student Handbook.*

THE USE OF COMPUTERS IN THE CLASSROOM

The use of computers for word processing in the classroom represents a privilege given to students to enhance their learning. They may only be used for purposes related to the course. Therefore, it is breach of classroom etiquette, an act of rudeness, and a distraction to other students, when computers are also used to surf the web, watch videos, play games, send messages, etc., during class time. The professor assumes that seminarians will be persons of integrity when using computers in the classroom.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

See bibliographies in the textbooks and the bibliography for “Initial Evidence” in NIDPCM.

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Gary B. McGee, March 10, 2008.