

HOM/TH6/702 – The Holy Spirit & the Renewal of the Church

Jason Byassee Spring 2020

Description:

The descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, transforming bewildered disciples into apostles, is the birth of the church. Yet the doctrine of the Spirit has often been neglected in western theology. The rise of Pentecostalism has rejected this rejection, so that now it is difficult to do theology without sustained attention to pneumatology. And yet even in this Pentecostal revival of attention to the Spirit, actual churches are often neglected. The living, breathing, temple of the Holy Spirit is almost a distraction in constructing doctrine.

Let's change that, shall we?!

This course will attend to the history of the dogma of the Spirit in the ancient church, examining Basil, Gregory Nazianzen, and Augustine. We will then turn to renewed 20th and 21st century attention to the Spirit in dogmatic theology. We will read Amos Yong together on the rise of Pentecostalism. Then we will attend to local churches in Vancouver and see what is to be learned about the Spirit by talking to our neighbours, perhaps especially those most challenging to our presuppositions. The course is part dogmatics, part journalism, part reimagining our own ministries and theologies in light of the Spirit who confuses language, teaches speech, melts division into love, and prays that the kingdom would come soon.

Competencies

- 1-to articulate the stakes and the decisions of the ancient church on the doctrine of the Holy Spirit
- 2-to narrate well the 20th and 21st century revival of the Spirit in doctrine and practice, especially Pentecostalism's role in that revival
- 3-to attend to living, breathing churches in our midst now
- 4-to articulate and defend a pneumatology for the sake of one's own doctrine and practice

Assignments

- 1-Present in class on some key pneumatological passage in the bible and how this became part of the patristic pneumatology of the ancient church.
- 2-Journalistic engagement with a place undergoing renewal: travel to a place, interview people, see with your own eyes, and come back and present to the class signs of the Spirit's new creation somewhere within travel distance here of Vancouver. Freedman will guide you in how to do this. Presentation can take oral, written, or other creative form.
- 3-Study the pneumatological section of a leading contemporary systematic theologian (Coakley, Sonderegger, Webster, Moltmann, Pannenburg, Oden, Wainwright . . .). Present to the group in class on this person's pneumatology and what we stand to learn from it.
- 4-Presentation on a contemporary charismatic theologian (examples in the reference section below). How does this work shed light on the person and work of the Spirit?
- 5-Final paper that draws on both ancient and contemporary pneumatology. This can be an academic paper, or a project for the sake of a new ministry in your church, or other creative form subject to instructor approval.

To buy:

Basil the Great *On the Holy Spirit* trans. Stephen Hildebrand (Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's, 2011).

Samuel Freedman *Letters to a Young Journalist* (New York: Basic, 2011).

Amos Yong *The Spirit Poured Out on All Flesh: Pentecostalism and the Possibility of Global Theology* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004).

On Canvas:

Gregory Nazianzen's fifth theological oration in *Of God and Christ: The Five Theological Orations and Two Letters to Cledonius*, ed. John Behr (Crestwood: St. Vladimir's, 2002).

Augustine *The Trinity* Vol I/5 of *The Works of St Augustine* (Hyde Park, NY: New City Press, 2012), books VIII & XV.

Geoffrey Wainwright *Doxology: Praise of God in Worship, Doctrine, and Life* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1984), 87-117.

Jason Byassee *Trinity: The God We Don't Know* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2015), chapter 2 "The Spirit We Don't Know: Generous Gift-Giver"

Sarah Coakley "Praying the Trinity: A Neglected Patristic Tradition," in *God, Sexuality and the Self* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013) 100-151.

Vladimir Lossky "The Economy of the Spirit" in *The Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church* (St. Vladimir's, 1997), 156-173

For reference

David Beck *The Holy Spirit and the Renewal of All Things: Pneumatology in Paul and Jurgen Moltmann* (Eugene, Or.: Wipf & Stock, 2007).

Gordon Fee *Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1996).

Alasdair Heron *The Holy Spirit* (Louisville: Westminster, 1983).

Michael Horton *Rediscovering the Holy Spirit: God's Perfecting Presence in Creation, Redemption, and Everyday Life* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2017).

Christopher James *Church Planting in Post-Christian Soil* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017).

Philip Jenkins *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002).

Craig Keener *Gift and Giver: The Holy Spirit for Today* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011).

Roger Stronstad *The Charismatic Theology of St. Luke: Trajectories from the Old Testament to Luke-Acts* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012).

Max Turner *The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts: In the New Testament Church and Today* (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1997).

Gary Tyra *The Holy Spirit in Mission* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2011).