

Vanguard University  
School for Professional Studies  
Degree Program

**“THE MINISTRY OF THE SPIRIT IN  
THE CHURCH”**  
MILD 466

Student Guide

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V1.1  
DS 01/10

## TEXTS AND MATERIALS

### **Required texts:**

Lim, David. *Spiritual Gifts*. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1991.  
 Pinnock, Clark H. *Flame of Love*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996.  
 Stronstad, Roger. *The Charismatic Theology of St. Luke*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 1984.  
*The Holy Bible*. New International Version

### **Recommended texts:**

Other Suggested Readings:

Brumback, C. *What Meaneth This?* Springfield, Mo: Gospel Pub. House, 1947.

Bruner, F.D. *A Theology of the Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1970.  
 Burgess, S.M. et. al. *Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988.  
 Dayton, D.W. *Theological Roots of Pentecostalism*. Peabody, Ma: Hendrickson Pub., 1991.  
 Dempster, M. et. al. *Called & Empowered*.- Peabody, Ma: Hendrickson Pub., 1991.  
 Dunn, James. *Jesus and the Spirit*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1976.  
 Fee, Gordon; *Paul, the Spirit and the People of God*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers 1996.  
 Hildebrandt, Wilf; *An Old Testament Theology of the Spirit of God*. Peabody, MA: Henderickson Publishers 1995.  
 Koenig, J. *God's Gifts for God's People*. Philadelphia: Westminster press, 1978.  
 Menzies, Robert. *Empowered for Witness: The Spirit in Luke-Acts*. Sheffield, England: Sheffield U. Academic Press, 1994.  
 Shelton, J.B. *Mighty in Word and Deed*. Peabody, Ma: Hendrickson Pub., 1991.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

A Biblical and theological study of the role of the Holy Spirit in the birth and development of the church and the larger world.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will:

1. Explore the work of the Spirit in the birth of the church.
2. Examine the place of the Spirit in the Trinity, Creation and Kingdom.
3. Develop a theological understanding of the ministries of the word (*Kerygma*) and sacrament (*Liturgia*).
4. Study the role of the Spirit in the mission and social concern of the church.
5. Evaluate the scriptural teaching of *Koinonia* and spiritual gifts.

## STUDENT EVALUATION

Students will receive a grade for the course based on the evaluation of their performance in the following areas:

- I. *Class Attendance/Participation* (200 points). Attendance is expected. Since this is a highly participatory class, absences are *strongly* discouraged. In accordance with the Student Handbook, if you are absent from class for more than one session, you will fail the class. The professor will assign a separate grade for this part of the course which will be averaged with other portions of the grade. The criteria will be the quality of the contribution to the class or small group discussions. Be prepared, each week, to be called on and asked about the readings.
- II. *Completion of Weekly Readings and Writing Assignments* (500 points). You will receive points for each question each week for the readings and assignments for Weeks One through Five.
- III. *Final Exam* (300 Points)
  1. Relate the bestowal of the Spirit at Pentecost with the act of Jesus breathing on the disciples in John 20. How would you integrate these two reports of the bestowal of the Spirit to the birth of the church?
  2. What are the three elements of life in the Spirit? Discuss them individually and how they relate together.
  3. Why does Paul mention the Triune God when introducing the fellowship of the church in I Corinthians 12:4-6 and Ephesians 4:1-6? Discuss the Trinitarian basis and goal of the church's fellowship.
  4. Discuss how the Spirit transcends the church in the light of the doctrine of creation and the inauguration of the Kingdom of God in Christ. In the light of the witness of Acts and of Revelation 1 - 3, discuss how the Spirit is both the soul of the church and is sovereign over the church at the same time. Relate this to the need for "constant reformation" (Niebuhr) or renewal in the church.
  5. What is Koinonia in the light of Acts 2:43-47. Compare this with what the church commonly refers to as "fellowship" today.
  6. What is the literal meaning of the term, "charismata?" Discuss one major point concerning this doctrine from I Corinthians 12 and one from Ephesians 4. And what are the four goals and standards of the gifts given in I Corinthians 12 - 14?
  7. What is the "inspiration" of scripture according to 2 Timothy 3:16? How has this been traditionally distinguished from "illumination?" What has been the traditional debate between Catholics and Protestants on the relationship between scripture and tradition as sources of revelation for the church? How has Vatican II altered the Catholic view? Discuss the issue of scripture and prophecy in the light of I Corinthians 14:26, 33f.

8. Discuss the role of the Spirit in Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Draw from Romans 6 and I Corinthians 11.

9. Discuss the role of the Spirit as the missionary Spirit in Acts (especially ch.2). Then relate the mission of the Church through the Spirit to social concern and to devout people in other, Non-Christian religions.

When the points you earned have been added together, you will receive a letter grade according to the following scale:

### STUDENT EVALUATION

<b>Percentages</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Significance</b>	<b>GPA</b>
93-100%	930-1000	A	Exceptional	4.00
90-92.9%	900-929	A-		3.67
87-89.9%	870-899	B+		3.33
83-86.9%	830-869	B	Above Average	3.00
80-82.9%	800-829	B-		2.67
77-79.9%	770-799	C+		2.33
73-76.9%	730-769	C	Average	2.00
70-72.9%	700-729	C-		1.67
67-69.9%	670-699	D+		1.33
63-66.9%	630-669	D	Below Average	1.00
60-62.9%	600-629	D-		0.67
00-59.9%	000-599	F	Failure	0.00

All reading and written work is to be completed before class each week. This includes the first week of class. Late work, as well as the failure to read all assignments, will result in a loss of points and will adversely affect your grade. 150 points can be earned each week from written work and attendance/participation. Make every effort to be in class and be prepared to participate in class discussions.

Your written work will be graded for the soundness of your arguments, the critical use of class readings, the Bible and sound theology, and for formal matters such as spelling, grammar, and formatting. The criteria for the evaluation of your work will include:

1. **Proofing.** Papers must be typed and proofed before they are submitted. Miss-typing and grammatical errors will be factors in the determination of your grade.
2. **General hints for your essays.**
  - a. **Coherence:** Is the essay balanced? Carefully developed? Thoughtful? Does it unfold in a logically coherent fashion?
  - b. **Accuracy:** Is the evidence it presents accurate?
  - c. **Completeness:** Is there additional evidence, which is important, but overlooked?

- d. Methodology: Does the essay reflect a sound understanding of appropriate theological methodology ?
- e. Writing style: Is the essay grammatically correct? Is the prose interesting, clear, rhetorically appropriate?
- f. Sensitivity: Are the theological issues dealt with in a sensitive manner? Is there evidence that the complexity of the issues is understood?

## OVERVIEW

One of our texts captures the mission of this course:

*The Spirit is elusive but profound and worthy of adoration. If Father points to ultimate reality and Son supplies the clue to the divine mystery, Spirit epitomizes the nearness of the power and presence of God. St. John of the Cross (b. 1542) aptly calls the Spirit a living flame of love and celebrates the nimble, responsive, playful, personal gift of God.*

*As we begin, let us say: Welcome, Holy Spirit, come and set us free! Let each one catch the living flame and be ravished by your love! Let our souls glow with your fire. Help us overcome our forgetfulness of Spirit. Pinnock, Clark H. *Flame of Love*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996, Pg. 9.*

The Pentecostal, and later charismatic, movement in the twentieth century church renewed interest in the Spirit. The long neglect of the third member of the Trinity has finally ended. Now there is a rich and varied supply of books, courses and studies on the Spirit. This course seeks to explore this plentiful harvest of resources. We will be exploring some of the key themes that have developed over the last century.

We will examine the Spirit's ministry in the church in the light of the full range of His activities in the context of the Trinity, creation, Christology and the Kingdom of God. There will also be an in-depth discussion of spiritual gifts and the place of the Spirit in worship and the word. The Spirit is still at work in the world and this requires us to consider that work in social action as well as salvation.

The move of the Spirit has brought controversy as well. The Pentecostal and charismatic movements have created strains in the Christian community. These movements have millions of adherents and have high lighted what has been called "experience certified theology." This has made some in the Christian community very uncomfortable and critical of this developing trend in theology. This course will address some of these issues.

It is our hope that the Spirit Himself will come alive to students in this course.

Frank Macchia  
Don Baldwin

## STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS

### WEEK ONE

The first week focuses on the birth of the church by the Spirit of God as the foundation of the Spirit's ministry in the church. The emphasis is on the regenerative and sanctifying powers of the Spirit (which are the powers of the "born again" experience and the holy life separated unto and faithful to God) that flow from the resurrection of Christ. The emphasis will also be on Pentecost as the fulfillment of the Spirit's work in charismatic (vocational) empowerment. The reading is to be from Pinnock's, *Flame of Love*, chapter 5, and the entire book by Roger Stonstad, *The Charismatic Theology of St. Luke*. Answer the questions below. Be prepared to hand in these essays on the first day of class. All reading is to be completed before class each week.

Using the essay guidelines under "Student Evaluation" above, write short essay answers (one or two paragraphs are usually sufficient) for each of the following questions (except no. 1).

1. Read John 20:21-23 in the light of I Corinthians 15:45. Then read Galatians 5:15-26.
2. Mainstream Protestant churches (following the general tendency of Christianity in the west) have tended to view salvation essentially as legal acquittal from judgment and forgiveness of sins. Such a view of salvation is based on what Christ did in dying on the cross and fulfilling the righteousness of God for us. What is lacking in this emphasis on salvation as legal acquittal and forgiveness is the role of Christ's resurrection and the giving of the Spirit in our salvation. How does Pinnock (*Flame of Love* chap. 5) fill out the role of the Spirit in salvation? Be specific and thorough in describing major points that Pinnock makes in chapter 5 in showing what the salvation experience involves experientially. Critically respond to his argument.
3. Carefully study pages 5-12 in Stronstad's book. What points is he making about the theological nature of Luke's narrative and the uniqueness of Luke's theology of Spirit baptism in relation to Paul's teaching on the subject? How do these points relate to those who argue that Paul's reference to Spirit baptism in I Corinthians 12:13 as incorporation into the community of faith should be used to interpret what Luke means by the term "Spirit baptism?"
4. According to chapter two of Stronstad's book, what are the dominant Holy Spirit themes of the Old Testament and the Intertestamental literature (the Judaistic literature written after the close of the Old Testament period but before the start of the New Testament period)? Do you agree or disagree with his position? Why?
5. In chapter three of Stronstad's book he makes several points about the ministry of the charismatic Christ. What are those points and how would you evaluate his line of argument?
6. On pages 53 to 55, Stronstad gives four observations on the meaning of Luke's use of the phrase "filled with the Holy Spirit." What are they? On pages 56-57, what are the three factors that characterize the gift of the Spirit? On pages 57-58, what is the three-fold emphasis of Peter's message in Acts 2? Summarize what pages 59-62 say about the religious experience of Pentecost. Do you find this line of inquiry correct? Explain.
7. Using both the Book of Acts and Stronstad's chapter 5, summarize the major points involved in the reception of the gift of the Spirit in Acts 8, 9, 10 and 19.

8. There are those who say that Spirit baptism in Acts is conversion to Christ. In the light of Stronstad's book, especially chapter 6, how would you respond to this viewpoint? Do not feel obligated to agree with Stronstad. But whether you agree or disagree, you need to state your reason for doing so.

## WEEK TWO

Last week we noted how essential the Spirit is to the birth of the church as a regenerated, sanctified, and empowered community of faith. This week we will focus on how the Spirit transcends (extends beyond) the confines of the church and its ministry. We will discuss general themes of the Spirit's work in God's triune life (in the context of the Trinity), creation, and the Kingdom of God inaugurated by the work of Christ. Our purpose is to provide a broad background for our understanding of the Spirit's ministry in the church. Using the essay guidelines under "Student Evaluation" above, write short essay answers (one or two paragraphs are usually sufficient) for each of the following questions (except no. 1).

1. Read I Corinthians 12:4-6 and Ephesians 4:1-6. Next read Genesis 1:1-2 and Acts 17:24-28. Then read Matthew 12:28-32 in the light of Romans 14:17. Next read Revelation 1-3.
2. From pages 33-35 of Pinnock's book, describe what he means by the Trinity as a "loving community" of persons (a "social" Trinity) in opposition to the efforts of Barth, Rahner, and Kung to emphasize God as one even to point of shying away from speaking of three "persons." Add to this how Pinnock describes the Spirit as the Spirit of communion on pages 37-40. Is his position viable? Why?
3. Many have seen God as an "absolute ego" that is, distant from the world and untouched by it. How does Pinnock on pages 42-48 use the notion of God as a society or community of persons to describe God and God's relation to the world through the Spirit? Explain.
4. Why do you suppose I Corinthians 12:4-6 and Ephesians 4:1-6 speak of God in a triune way as an introduction to the role of the Spirit in the church? Answer this in light of pages 198-216 (chapter 5) of Lim's book?
5. Read pages 50-55 in Pinnock's book. How does he respond to those who confine the Spirit to the church and its piety (or religious devotion)? Do you agree with him? Why?
6. Read pages 55-61 in Pinnock. How does he describe the Trinitarian act of creation, especially the role of the Spirit in it?
7. How does Pinnock (pages 62-64) develop the implications of the Spirit's role in creation?
8. On pages 79-82 how does Pinnock correct the lack of emphasis on the role of the Spirit in Christ's work? In light also of pages 85-91, how does he describe this role of the Spirit in relation to Christ? Do you agree?
9. On pages 93-101, how does Pinnock describe salvation by the Spirit and Christ? What are his major points? Is he correct?

**WEEK THREE**

Now we begin to describe the major ways that the ministry of the Spirit in the church is active. We naturally begin with Spiritual gifts ("*charismata*" or gifts of grace). This is the place to begin since the gifts of the Spirit reveal that the ministry of the Spirit takes place through the whole people of God, and not just through the ordained clergy. Answer the questions below from Lim's book. Using the essay guidelines under "Student Evaluation" above, write short essay answers (one or two paragraphs are usually sufficient) for each of the following questions (except no. 1).

1. Read Acts 2:43-47; I Corinthians 12-14; Ephesians 4; and Romans 12.
2. Briefly, how does chapter 1 of Lim's book categorize and describe the gifts listed in I Corinthians 12:1-11? Be sure to mention any disagreements with his commentary or important points in the text that you feel Lim left out of his discussion.
3. Summarize Lim's commentary on I Corinthians 12:12-31 in chapter two of his book noting any disagreements you might have with his views.
4. What are the major points of Lim's commentary on I Corinthians 13 in chapter three? Is there anything he left out that you would add? Any disagreements with his positions?
5. Repeat the above process for his commentary on I Corinthians 14.
6. Why do you suppose Lim confined his discussion of spiritual gifts largely to I Corinthians 12-14? Review Ephesians 4 and Romans 12. Do the gifts listed in these chapters look somewhat different from those listed in I Corinthians 12-14? How? Does this difference help you to explain why Lim concentrates on I Corinthians 12-14 in his book? Could it be that Lim is revealing a "Pentecostal bias" for miraculous gifts? Or does Lim prefer to describe the spiritual gifts mainly as manifestations of the Spirit (which dominate the lists of I Corinthians 12-14) as distinct from "ministry gifts" which dominate Ephesians 4 and Romans 12? Could the answer be both options? What is your position on this issue?
7. Describe what koinonia (fellowship or "having things in common") is according to Acts 2:43-47.

**WEEK FOUR**

We turn now to the traditional role of the Spirit in Word (scripture and kerygma or preaching) and sacrament (principally the eucharist or Lord's supper and baptism). Using the essay guidelines under "Student Evaluation" above, write short essay answers (one or two paragraphs are usually sufficient) for each of the following questions (except no. 1).

1. Read Romans 6:1-4; I Corinthians 11:20-32; and 2 Timothy 3:15-17.
2. As you will recall, Stronstad defined Spirit baptism narrowly as charismatic (especially prophetic) empowerment. Does Pinnock define Spirit baptism the same way on pages 113-123 (chapter 4) of his book? Does Pinnock agree in chapter 4 of his book with Stronstad's view of Spirit baptism as Pinnock stated he did in the Forward to Stronstad's book? If not, how does Pinnock define the baptism in the Holy Spirit and the experience of Pentecost? With whom do you most agree, Pinnock or Stronstad? Why?
3. How does Pinnock describe the sacramental role of the Spirit on pages 119-129 (chapter 4)? Do you agree or disagree? Why?
4. On pages 129-147 in Pinnock he deals with the work of the Spirit in spiritual gifts and revivals. List the major points of his discussion and emphasize those points with which you most agree or disagree. Why do you agree or disagree?
5. There are those who confuse God's revelation with abstract and dead concepts or doctrines (emphasizing the cognitive or the "head" over the "heart"). On the other hand, revelation is not just mystical experience with no content. How does Pinnock wrestle with this overall issue on pages 215-227 of his book and what is his view of revelation by way of response? Is he correct?
6. How does Pinnock distinguish "inspiration" from "illumination" on pages 227-231? How does he describe the test of legitimate development in "illumination" throughout the centuries of the church in doctrine and worship from page 231 to the end of the chapter?

**WEEK FIVE**

This week we deal with the role of the Spirit in the mission or service of the church to the world (diakonia). Using the essay guidelines under "Student Evaluation" above, write short essay answers (one or two paragraphs are usually sufficient) for each of the following questions. The assignments this week are less extensive. This is to help students prepare for the final exam.

1. Study chapter six in Pinnock carefully. How does he define the Spirit's role in the world, especially in world religions outside of the church? Does Pinnock believe that people can be saved outside the church? Does Pinnock believe that people can be saved outside the role of the Spirit in the ministry of the church? Do you agree? Why?
2. Study Lim chapters 6-8 and list the insights that you found valuable concerning ministering the gifts to the world.

**LOGISTICS CHART**

Hour	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
1	Course Introduction and goals	The Trinitarian Structure of the Spirit's Work	The Meaning of Koinonia Spiritual gifts	The Inspiration and Illumination of Scripture	The Spirit as Missionary Spirit
2	The Birth of the Church  Break	The Spirit in Creation  Break	Charismata in I Cor 12-14  Break	Scripture and Tradition  Break	The Spirit and Social Concern  Break
3	Regeneration and Sanctification	The Spirit and the Kingdom	Goals and Standards of Gifts	Scripture and Prophecy The Spirit in Biblical Interpretation and preaching	The Spirit and World Religions
4	Pentecost and Vocational empowerment Journaling	The Spirit as the Soul of the Church and renewal Journaling	The purpose of gifts Journaling	Roles of the Spirit in Baptism and Eucharist Journaling	Course review and final preparation Journaling