Syllabus for Spiritual Gifts (BST 705)
Front Range Bible Institute (Fall 2011)
Professor Tim Dane

I. Course Description

The class Spiritual Gifts includes a study on (1) a biblical survey of the nature and purpose of all spiritual gifts, (2) a study of the doctrine of cessationism at an exegetical level, (3) a study of the doctrine of cessationism at a theological level, (4) a study of the doctrine of cessationism from a historical level, and (5) a survey of the teachings and practices of teachers from a Pentecostal/Charismatic background and how these teachings and practices line up with biblical and theological findings.

The course will include classroom lectures that are primarily based upon the professor’s notes, although the format will not be in a pure lecture form. Students are encouraged to participate by asking and answering questions and taking notes. Detailed notes will be provided, but the student is encouraged to make additions in the margins based upon classroom discussions that will expand and elaborate.

Participation in the weekly threaded discussions is a requirement as is completion of a semester paper.

II. Course Objectives

A. One objective of this class is to have students become familiar with biblical teachings on spiritual gifts so that he might know how Jesus Christ has provided His church with a means for rich spiritual growth.

B. A second objective is that the student would know how to properly understand the nature of how those gifts have operated throughout church history up to the present time.

C. A third objective of this class is to help the student develop a sound theological method that formulates theology from an exegetical level up. A proper analysis of any present phenomena should begin with exegesis, biblical theology and systematic theology and not with experience.

D. A fourth objective of this class is that the student would be able to skillfully speak with others about this subject with gracious, Christ-like confidence.

E. A fifth objective of this class is that this theological learning process would achieve its true end of producing a greater love for God and a greater desire for genuine worship. Jesus said that the Father seeks true worshippers who worship in spirit and truth. The goal of theology is more than acquisition of knowledge, it is to produce true worshippers of God.
III. Required Course Materials

A. All: Charismatic Chaos by John MacArthur (359pp.)
B. All: Understanding Spiritual Gift by Robert Thomas’ (276pp.)
C. All: Spiritual Gifts class notes by Tim Dane
D. Master’s level: Satisfied by the Promise of the Spirit by Thomas Edgar (pp.)
E. All: Your own computer or at least access to a computer (You do not need to have a laptop in class, but you may use one for note-taking if you prefer)
F. Suggested: Logos Libronix Bible Software Program (highly recommended as a personal study tool, but not required for the class. A 30% group discount is possible through FRBI).

IV. Course Requirements

A. Attend all classes (if a student must miss a class, he/she must obtain a DVD copy and watch the lecture)
B. Take notes as appropriate
C. Reading
   i. All students:
      1. Read Charismatic Chaos by John MacArthur (359pp.)
      2. Read Understanding Spiritual Gift by Robert Thomas’ (276pp.)
      3. Read Divine Revelation and the Close of the Prophetic Age by Tim Dane (40pp.)
      4. Review Spiritual Gifts class notes by Tim Dane (153pp.)
   ii. Master’s level: Read Satisfied by the Promise of the Spirit by Thomas Edgar (263pp.)
D. Interact with the weekly threaded discussions (listed below in the schedule, but these will be posted on the website that students will access and utilize).
   i. On a weekly basis, answer the professor directly on the weekly question given to the class (appx. 200-300 words).
   ii. On a weekly basis, interact with at least one other student with the answer he has given. This might be to add additional information on what that student said to ask for clarification, or to give a gracious correction if you think there is a deficiency in what that student said in his answer (appx. 100-200 words).
   iii. All threaded discussion interaction must be with graciousness.
E. Write a three-part semester paper on the subject of spiritual gifts, charismatic issues, and the doctrines of cessationism.
   i. Begin formulating a bibliography to consult at the beginning of the class.
ii. Sources can be from books (ones you will read or others), journal articles (a good source, and I am supplying you with a large quantity on your CD), magazine articles, newspaper clippings, internet sources, the professors notes or the professors MP-3 messages on the topic or other teachers.

iii. Use the style and form as provided by the professor in the article titled *Divine Revelation and the Close of the Prophetic Age* or the *Young Earth Creationism* article (which also has the format for internet citations).

iv. Each of the three parts of this project should be roughly 3-5 pages double spaced as a general objective.

v. Use proper form and cite sources with footnotes (copy the style as you see in the sample paper provided)

vi. You have four weeks to work on each of the three portions of the paper.

vii. Write this paper with the goal of having one single paper with three major portions along with an introduction and a conclusion. The outline I am giving below tells you the kinds of things I want you to address, but you have the liberty to arrange the exact content and flow as you want.

1. Introduction
   a. An explanation of what Spiritual Gifts are.
   b. A listing of where the Bible gives Spiritual Gifts lists, and what these gifts are.

2. Section 1
   a. An explanation of why one should make distinctions between the nature of gifts and how they appear to fall into broad categories.
   b. In this section it would also be good to discuss the nature of biblical prophecy, and how this affects our understanding of the canon.

3. Section 2
   a. An explanation of why (or why not) one should hold to a cessationist theology along with a biblical and theological defense for your position.
   b. List the major views on cessationism with a brief explanation of each view, but then state and support your view.

4. Section 3
   a. An explanation of why (or why not) one should hold to a cessationist theology along with a biblical and theological defense for your position.

5. Summary

6. Bibliography

viii. The final portion of the paper is due on the last class. Late papers are subject to stiff grade penalties.

V. Course Grading Criteria
A. 30% Classroom Participation  
B. 30% Threaded Discussion Participation  
C. 40% Semester Project

VI. Course Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Classroom Topic (subject to change based on progress)</th>
<th>Minimum reading schedule and questions for threaded discussion</th>
<th>Class Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 9-8-11 | Introduction: Tests of truth Present day revelation | Read MacArthur chs. 1-2.  
1. Is experience in itself a valid test of truth?  
2. Should history or experience be brought into our process of theological formulation? | Begin work on part 1 of your semester paper, the introduction (due on 9-29) |
| 2 9-15-11 | Overview of present day practices. Hermeneutics Present day miracles | Read MacArthur chapters 3-5:  
1. Does God do miracles today?  
2. Should one make a distinction between the possibility of miracles and the presence of miraculous gifts? | |
| 3 9-22-11 (note: I will be out. No class 9-22) | Comparing present practices with biblical events The nature and purpose of gifts. | Read MacArthur chapters 6-8:  
1. What is a spiritual gift and when does a person obtain spiritual gifts?  
2. Is it valid to say that there are differences between the various gifts, and that there are certain kinds of broad groupings of gifts? | Turn in part 1 of your paper, and be working on chapter 1, due 10-6. |
| 4 9-29-11 | Analyzing various gifts | Read MacArthur chapters 9-12:  
1. What is the difference between organic and non-organic illness?  
2. What are the main characteristics of miraculous healings done by Christ and the Apostles, and how do those biblical... | |
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Activity</th>
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| 5     | 10-6-11 | Analyzing various gifts | Read Thomas Introductions and chapters 1-2 (**consult all end notes and get the maximum learning from this study**):  
1. What is the overarching purpose of all spiritual gifts?  
2. What is the basis for saying that a gift is for personal and private use?  
   | Turn in chapter 1 of your paper, and be working on chapter 2, due 10-20. |
| 6     | 10-13-11 | Analyzing various gifts | Read Thomas chapters 3-4:  
1. Explain how it is that some gifts are strongly miraculous, yet others seem to be more natural in character.  
2. Can a spiritual gift overlap with some sort of pre-existing natural talent or inclination?  
3. Comment on the difference between spiritual gifts and spiritual fruit?  
   |  |
| 7     | 10-20-11 | Analyzing various gifts | Read Thomas chapters 5-6:  
1. What is the nature of tongues in the Bible?  
2. Explainbiblically and hermeneutically why it isa problematic to argue for a difference in tongues between Acts and 1 Corinthians.  
   | Turn in chapter 2 of your paper, and be working on chapter 3, due 11-3. |
| 8     | 10-27-11 | Analyzing various gifts | Read Thomas Appendices A, B  
1. State and briefly explain the various main positions on cessationism.  
2. State your view and why.  
   |
| 9     | 11-3-11 | Analyzing | Read Thomas Appendices C, D , |

miracles and healings differ from modern claims?
various gifts
and assessing
issues of
cessationsim

1. Use biblical support to explain the nature of prophecy.
2. Is there a genuine biblical for saying that NT prophecy is different from OT prophecy, and hence inferior?

10 11-10-
11
11 11-17-
11

Student paper presentations
Student paper presentations

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EXTENSIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY


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Getz, Gene A. Sharpening the Focus of the Church. Chicago: Moody, 1974.


Knight, George W. III. Prophecy in the New Testament. NN


________. The Interpretation of St. Paul’s First and Second Epistle to the Corinthians. Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1961.


MacLeod, Alexander. *A View of Inspiration, Comprehending the Nature and Distinctions of the Spiritual Gifts and Offices of the Apostolic Age*. Glasgow: Waugh and Innes, 1827. NN


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