

Study Guide, 2021-2022

TH5185 Pentecostal Theology (Level 5, 20 Credits)

Module Leader: Revd Dr Simo Frestadius

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Summary of module content

The module explores Pentecostal theology in the context of late modernity. It begins by looking at definitions of Pentecostalism and by outlining the history of the movement. This is followed by methodological reflections on the nature and development of (classical) Pentecostal theology, and by making explicit reference to the modern scientific method. The focus then shifts to analysing central Pentecostal beliefs and practices with respect to soteriology, divine healing, baptism in the Holy Spirit, and eschatology. To help students gain deeper understanding on these key aspects of Pentecostal spirituality and theology, reflections are also offered from a scientific perspective. The guiding methodological approach throughout the module can be called *pluralistic-Pentecostal hermeneutic*; that is, the core convictions of the Pentecostal tradition serve as a starting point for the discussion, but a dialogical hermeneutic is then utilised by bringing key Pentecostal beliefs and practices into critical dialogue with other fields of knowledge, in this case the sciences.

Learning outcomes

After completing the module, students should be able to:

1. Analyse the nature of the Pentecostal movement in relation to its history and wider intellectual environment.
2. Assess the theological methodologies developed and utilised by Pentecostals in dialogue with modern science.
3. Evaluate central Pentecostal beliefs and practices with reference to other fields of knowledge, particularly the sciences.
4. Demonstrate research skills by critically engaging with scholarship and by constructing a coherent argument.

Schedule

Lecture week: Tuesday 22nd February to Friday 25th February 2022

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:20-13:00	Introduction to the History and Theology of Global Pentecostalism (Revd Dr Simo Frestadius)	Saviour: Saved from the Penalty and Power of Sin (Revd Dr Jonathan Black) Assessments (12:00-13:00)	Baptiser in the Holy Spirit: Spirit Baptism and Spiritual Gifts (II) (Revd Peter Read)	Coming King: Eschatology and the Environment (Revd Dr Simo Frestadius & Dr Martin J. Hodson)
13:00-14:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
14:00-17:30	History of British Pentecostalism (Revd Dr Jonathan Black)	Baptiser in the Holy Spirit: Spirit Baptism and Spiritual Gifts (I) (14:00-15:00) (Revd Peter Read)	Healer: Signs, Wonders, and Miracles (Revd Jenny Kimble)	Concluding Reflections (14:00-15:00) (Revd Dr Simo Frestadius)

Seminars and webinars

Tuesday 15/02/22 9:20-10:20 & 10:45-11:45	Introduction to Pentecostal Theology and the Assessment (Revd Dr Simo Frestadius)
Wednesday 16/02/22 9:20-10:20 & 10:45-11:45	Pentecostal Theology in Late Modernity: Science and the Spirit (Revd Simo Frestadius)
Tuesday 01/03/22 9:20-10:20 & 10:45-11:45	Ministry Gifts and Church Governance (Revd Dr Jonathan Black)
Wednesday 02/03/22 9:20-10:20 & 10:45-11:45	Deliverance and Spiritual Warfare (Revd Jenny Kimble)
Tuesday 08/03/22 10:45-11:45	Assessment (Revd Dr Simo Frestadius)

Assessment

The task is to write a 4,000 word research paper on one of the following questions.

1. In relation to a particular Pentecostal/Charismatic denomination in Britain, evaluate Grant Wacker's claim that the brilliance of Pentecostalism has been its ability to hold primitivism and pragmatism in 'productive tension.'

The historian Grant Wacker has argued that the 'genius of the pentecostal movement lay in its ability to hold two seemingly incompatible impulses in productive tension.'¹ That is, Pentecostals appear to be able to simultaneously hold both 'the primitive' and 'the pragmatic' impulses, which Wacker also refers to as 'idealism/principle' and 'realism/practicality.' Wacker has made this claim in relation to early American Pentecostalism. This question asks you to evaluate Wacker's argument in relation to a particular Pentecostal/Charismatic movement in Britain, such as the Elim Pentecostal Church, Assemblies of God, Apostolic Church, NewFrontiers, and Redeemed Christian Church of God. In other words, to what extent does Wacker's observation apply to the particular denomination you have chosen to focus on? What might be some other important 'impulses,' not necessarily mentioned or developed by Wacker? In keeping with the module's learning outcomes, after evaluating Wacker's statement with respect to a Pentecostal movement in Britain, please also offer brief reflections on the possible implications of your discussion for Pentecostal engagement with the sciences.

Recommended reading

- Aldred, Joe, ed. *Pentecostals and Charismatics in Britain: An Anthology*. London: SCM Press, 2019.
- Wacker, Grant. *Heaven Below: Early Pentecostals and American Culture*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001.
- Warrington, Keith, ed. *Pentecostal Perspectives*. Carlisle: Paternosters Press, 1998.

2. Examine the extent to which Alister E. McGrath's scientifically informed theological methodology is appropriate for doing Pentecostal theology in the 21st century.

Alister E. McGrath, Andreas Idreos Professor of Science and Religion at Oxford University, is one of the leading scholars in the field of science and theology. Among his numerous publications, his more recent book *Through a Glass Darkly: Journeys Through Science, Faith and Doubt – a Memoir* (2020) is his biographical reflection on this topic. The aim of this question is for you to analyse McGrath's theological/intellectual methodology – particularly as presented in *Through a Glass Darkly* – and examine the extent to which Pentecostals should utilise his approach for theologising in the 21st century. To do this

¹ Grant Wacker, *Heaven Below: Early Pentecostals and American Culture* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001), 10.

effectively, you do not just need to show awareness of McGrath's work, but also some of the historical and current trends in Pentecostal theology.

Recommended reading

- McGrath, Alister E. *The Territories of Human Reason: Science and Theology in an Age of Multiple Rationalities*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019.
- McGrath, Alister E. *Through a Glass Darkly: Journeys Through Science, Faith and Doubt – A Memoir*. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 2020.
- McGrath, Alister E.. "Dialogue View." In *Three Views on Christianity and Science*, edited by Paul Copan and Christopher L. Reese, 77-103. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2021.
- Reeves, Josh. *Against Methodology in Science and Religion: Recent Debates on Rationality and Theology*. Abingdon: Routledge, 2019, "Chapter 4: Alister McGrath's *Scientific Theology*."
- Vondey, Wolfgang, ed. *The Routledge Handbook of Pentecostal Theology*. Abingdon: Routledge, 2020.

3. Analyse Pentecostal theologies/practices of healing in relation to the medical sciences and propose a constructive way forward.

Historically divine healing has played a central role in Pentecostal practice and theology. However, the historical relationship between Pentecostal theologies/practices of healing and the medical sciences have been mixed. For example, some Pentecostals have viewed the use of medicine by believers as lack of faith in God, while others have embraced medicine as a gift of God. This question asks you to analyse some of these different Pentecostal approaches to healing and medicine. In light of your discussion, you will also need to provide a constructive way forward for Pentecostal theology/practice of healing with respect to the medical sciences. That is, how should Pentecostals understand the medical sciences in their theologies of healing, and what are the implications of this for their practice regarding (divine) healing?

Recommended reading

- Alexander, Kimberly Ervin. "Divine Healing: Sacramental Signs of Salvation." In *The Routledge Handbook of Pentecostal Theology*, edited by Wolfgang Vondey, 257-267. Abingdon: Routledge, 2020.
- Brown, Candy Gunther. *Testing Prayer: Science and Healing*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2012.
- Carlbreath, Donald F. "Serotonin and Spirit: Can There Be a Holistic Pentecostal Approach to Mental Illness?" In *Science and the Spirit: A Pentecostal Engagement with the Sciences*, edited by James K. A. Smith and Amos Yong, 133-152. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2010.

- Van De Walle, Bernie A. “Cautious Co-Belligerence? The Late Nineteenth-Century American Divine Healing Movement and the Promise of Medical Science.” In *The Spirit Renews the Face of the Earth*, edited by Amos Yong, 53-73. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2009.
- Warrington, Keith. *Pentecostal Theology: A Theology of Encounter*. London: T&T Clark, 2008, 265-293.

4. Evaluate the extent to which theistic evolution is compatible with Elim’s Foundational Truths (or with the core beliefs of another Pentecostal denomination).

Although theistic evolution or evolutionary creationism is accepted by many Christian denominations, it continues to be a contentious concept for a number of Pentecostals. Those who reject theistic evolution do so often on theological and biblical grounds. Indeed, the aim of this question is for you to evaluate the extent to which theistic evolution is compatible with core Pentecostal theological beliefs, as represented in Elim’s or another Pentecostal denomination’s statement of faith. To do this well you need to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of theistic evolution and its potential implications for wider Christian doctrine. For example, how does theistic evolution fit with Elim’s doctrine of creation and theological anthropology?

Recommended reading

- Alexander, Denis. *Creation or Evolution: Do We Have to Choose?*. 2nd ed. Oxford: Monarch Books, 2014.
- Badger, Steve, and Mike Tenneson. “Does the Spirit Create through Evolutionary Processes?” In *Science and the Spirit: A Pentecostal Engagement with the Sciences*, edited by James K. A. Smith and Amos Yong, 92-116. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2010.
- Frestadius, Simo. *Pentecostal Rationality: Epistemology and Theological Hermeneutics in the Foursquare Tradition*. London: T&T Clark, 2020.
- King, Gerald W. “Evolving Paradigms: Creationism as Pentecostal Variation on a Fundamentalist Theme.” In *The Spirit Renews the Face of the Earth*, edited by Amos Yong, 93-114. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2009.
- [Our Beliefs \(elim.org.uk\)](http://elim.org.uk)

5. Discuss Pentecostal theological views on speaking in tongues, and briefly assess some of the main psychological, sociological and/or linguistic studies on tongues speech. Informed by this discussion/assessment, offer some suggestions for current Pentecostal practice and theology of speaking in tongues.

When modern Pentecostalism emerged at the beginning of the 20th century ‘speaking in tongues’ was one of its defining distinctives. However, despite the importance of tongues for the movement, Pentecostals have had different views on the nature and purpose of tongues. For example, are tongues a real human language or a ‘spiritual’ one? Is it a super/supra

natural gift or a natural one? What is its purpose and should all Christians speak in tongues? As well as discussing Pentecostal views on tongues, the question also asks you to assess some of the main psychological, sociological and/or linguistic studies on tongues. You do not have to explore tongues in light of all three disciplines (i.e. psychology, sociology, and linguistics), but you can choose to focus on one or two of them. After having discussed Pentecostal theological views and assessed studies from other disciplines on tongues, you should finally offer some suggestions for current Pentecostal practice and theology of speaking in tongues.

Recommended reading

- Cartledge, Mark J., ed. *Speaking in Tongues: Multi-Disciplinary Perspectives*. Milton Keynes: Paternosters Press, 2006.
- Holm, Randall, Matthew Wolf, and James K. A. Smith. "New Frontiers in Tongues Research: A Symposium." *Journal of Pentecostal Theology* 20, no. 1 (2011): 122-154.
- Ware, Frederick L. "Can Religious Experience Be Reduced to Brain Activity? The Place and Significance of Pentecostal Narrative." In *Science and the Spirit: A Pentecostal Engagement with the Sciences*, edited by James K. A. Smith and Amos Yong, 117-132. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2010.

6. Shane Clifton has claimed that ‘in the face of the contemporary global ecological crisis, the failure [of Pentecostals] to incorporate an environmental theology essentially entails the rejection of the claim that Pentecostals preach a “full gospel.”² Evaluate this statement and propose a constructive way forward.

The full gospel in both its fourfold and fivefold forms has been a central motif of Pentecostal theology. However, a number of Pentecostal scholars (including Shane Clifton) have argued that the concept of Jesus as Saviour, Healer, Baptiser in the Holy Spirit, and soon coming King has too often been understood individualistically. This has not only resulted in treating social justice as a secondary issue, but has also led to the neglect of the environment by Pentecostals. The aim of this question is for you to evaluate Clifton’s statement in light of wider Pentecostal scholarship, and then propose a constructive way forward for Pentecostal theology and practice in relation to the environment.

Recommended reading

- [*Australasian Pentecostal Studies* 22:1 \(2021\)](#) – Special journal issue on Pentecostalism and the environment, edited by Jacqueline N. Grey.
- Clifton, Shane. "Preaching the ‘Full Gospel’ in the Context of Global Environmental Crises." In *The Spirit Renews the Face of the Earth*, edited by Amos Yong, 117-134. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2009.

² Shane Clifton, "Preaching the ‘Full Gospel’ in the Context of Global Environmental Crises," in *The Spirit Renews the Face of the Earth: Pentecostal Forays in Science and Theology of Creation*, ed. Amos Yong (Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2009), 126.

- Frestadius, Simo, Christian Tsekpoe, and Peter Jayaraj. “‘Groaning with Creation’: Global Pentecostal Reflections on Creation Care and COP26.” *Institute for Pentecostal Theology* (blog). January 04, 2022. [Pentecostal-Reflections-on-Creation-Care-and-COP26-04-01-2022.pdf \(regents-tc.ac.uk\)](https://www.regents-tc.ac.uk/Pentecostal-Reflections-on-Creation-Care-and-COP26-04-01-2022.pdf)
- Hodson, Martin J., and Margot R. Hodson. *An Introduction to Environmental Ethics*. Grove Ethics. E184. Cambridge: Grove Books, 2017.
- Swoboda, A. J. *Tongues and Trees: Toward a Pentecostal Ecological Theology*. Blandford Forum: Deo Publishing, 2013.
- Swoboda, A. J. ed. *Blood Cries Out: Pentecostals, Ecology, and the Groans of Creation*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2014.

Deadline

Full Time Students	Monday 21/03/22
Part Time Students	Thursday 05/05/22

General Bibliography

Core Texts

- McGrath, Alister E. *Science and Religion: A New Introduction*. 3rd ed. Chichester: Wiley Blackwell, 2020.
- Smith, James K. A., and Amos Yong, ed. *Science and the Spirit: A Pentecostal Engagement with the Sciences*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2010.
- Ware, Frederick L. “Theology and science: Disciplines at the limits of Pentecostal discourse.” In *The Routledge Handbook of Pentecostal Theology*, edited by Wolfgang Vondey, 454-464. London: Routledge, 2020.
- Warrington, Keith. *Pentecostal Theology: A Theology of Encounter*. London: T&T Clark, 2008.

General Reading

- Aldred, Joe, ed. *Pentecostals and Charismatics in Britain: An Anthology*. London: SCM Press, 2019.
- Anderson, Allan Heaton. *To the Ends of the Earth: Pentecostalism and the Transformation of World Christianity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- . *An Introduction to Pentecostalism*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.
- Archer, Kenneth J. *The Gospel Revisited: Towards a Pentecostal Theology of Worship and Witness*. Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publishing, 2011.
- Black, Jonathan. *Apostolic Theology: A Trinitarian, Evangelical, Pentecostal Introduction to Christian Doctrine*. Luton: The Apostolic Church, 2016.
- Clark, Mathew S. and Henry I. Lederle. *What is Distinctive about Pentecostal Theology?* Koedoespoort: UNISA, 1989.

- Cox, Harvey. *Fire From Heaven: The Rise of Pentecostal Spirituality and the Reshaping of Religion in the Twenty-First Century*. London: Cassell, 1996.
- Dayton, Donald W. *Theological Roots of Pentecostalism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 1987.
- Frestadius, Simo. *Pentecostal Rationality: Epistemology and Theological Hermeneutics in the Foursquare Tradition*. London: T&T Clark, 2020.
- Hollenweger, Walter J. *Pentecostalism: Origins and Developments Worldwide*. Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson, 1997.
- Kay, William K. and Anne E. Dyer, ed. *European Pentecostalism*. Leiden: Brill, 2011.
- Kay, William K. *Apostolic Networks in Britain: New Ways of Being Church*. Paternoster: Milton Keynes, 2007.
- . *Pentecostalism: SCM Core Text*. London: SCM Press, 2009.
- . *Pentecostalism: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Kärkkäinen, Veli-Matti. *Christian Theology in the Pluralistic World: A Global Introduction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2019.
- Land, Steven Jack. *Pentecostal Spirituality: A Passion for the Kingdom*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1993.
- Murphy, Nancey. *A Philosophy of the Christian Religion*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2018.
- Oliverio, L. William, Jr. *Theological Hermeneutics in the Classical Pentecostal Tradition: A Typological Account*. Leiden: Brill, 2015.
- Stephenson, Christopher A. *Types of Pentecostal Theology: Method, System, Spirit*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Thomas, John C. ed. *Towards a Pentecostal Ecclesiology: The Church and the Fivefold Gospel*. Cleveland, TN: CPT Press, 2010.
- Vondey, Wolfgang. *Beyond Pentecostalism: The Crisis of Global Christianity and the Renewal of the Theological Agenda*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2010.
- . *Pentecostalism: A Guide for the Perplexed*. London: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2013.
- . *Pentecostal Theology: Living the Full Gospel*. London: T&T Clark, 2017.
- Walker, Andrew. *Restoring the Kingdom: The Radical Christianity of the House Church Movement*. Fully Revised and Expanded Edition. Guildford: Eagle, 1998.
- Walsh, Timothy B. *To Meet and Satisfy a Very Hungry People: The Origins and Fortunes of English Pentecostalism, 1907-1925*. Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2012.
- Warrington, Keith, ed. *Pentecostal Perspectives*. Carlisle: Paternoster, 1998.
- Yong, Amos. *The Spirit Poured Out on All Flesh: Pentecostalism and the Possibility of Global Theology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2005.
- , ed. *The Spirit Renews the Face of the Earth: Pentecostal Forays in Science and Theology of Creation*. Eugene, OR. Wipf and Stock, 2009.
- . *The Spirit of Creation: Modern Science and Divine Action in the Pentecostal-Charismatic Imagination*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2011.
- Yong, Amos with Jonathan A. Anderson. *Renewing Christian Theology: Systematics for a Global Christianity*. Waco: Baylor University Press, 2014.