

OUR APOSTOLIC FAITH

A Course in Apostolic Doctrine for Level 2 Students

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Course Structure

- In this course, a brief survey of the events in Church history that led to the birth of the Apostolic Faith is given.
- At the end of the historical survey, an attempt is made to answer four important questions every Christian believer of the Apostolic Faith must ask his or her pastor:
 1. Who are we?
 2. Where do we come from?
 3. Where are we now?
 4. Where are we going from here?

The Origin of the Apostolic Faith

Church History is normally segmented into three periods;

1. Roman Empire Period : This period is characterized by persecutions, Martyrs of Church Fathers and the Christianization of the Roman Empire.

2. Medieval Period: was responsible for the growth and power of the papacy, the inquisition, monasticism, Mohammedanism and Islamic crusades.

3. Modern Period: This was the period of the Protestant Reformation, exponential growth of the Protestant Church, a worldwide circulation of the Open Bible, freedom of civil governments from church and priestly control, World-Wide Missions, Social Reforms, Christian brotherhood and the ecumenical church.

For the purposes of this survey, we shall concentrate on the **Modern Period** in which the Azusa Street Revival played a major role in shaping the Apostolic Faith as we know it today.

The Azusa Street Revival

- In 1901, a Holy Spirit Revival broke forth among Bethel Bible Students in Kansas City. Like an activated particles of the atom, it began to spread throughout Kansas, into Missouri, then to Texas, and finally Los Angeles, California.
- On April 9, 1906, William J. Seymour, a black holiness preacher was invited to an old stable at **312 Azusa Street, Los Angeles**, where the first persons in that city received the Holy Spirit according to the pattern of the day of Pentecost. The revival lasted for about three years and shook the whole world like an earthquake .

- The Azusa Street Revival gave birth to such churches as The Apostolic Faith Mission, Pentecostal Mission, Apostolic Faith Assembly, Full Gospel Assembly or Mission, Assemblies of God, Pentecostal Assemblies of the World etc., Great followers of the apostolic faith and doctrine such as Charles Finney, D.L Moody and R.A Torrey had great influence on both sides of the Atlantic because of their association with various Pentecostal movements coming out of the Azusa Street Revival.
- Thus from a simple building at Azusa Street, an international movement was born from whence it spread throughout the whole earth entering into every nation under heaven, penetrating India, China, Africa, and the isles of the sea.
- It is very instructive to note that even though man had no use for this old dilapidated building, God had chosen it as a place of birth of a spiritual revolution to fulfill His commission; “Go ye into the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15-20, Acts 1:4-11).

The APOSTOLIC DENOMINATION

- Who are we?

- A very conservative group of believers who adhere strictly to the teachings of the apostles as recorded in the Bible.
- Believed in a centrally controlled church with one headquarters; citing Apostle Peter and the Jerusalem Apostles as their model.
- Believe prophecy should give specific direction to the church; through prophecy men were chosen to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Elders and deacons were likewise called by prophecy
- the Apostolics were very keen on missionary work from the beginning and therefore sent a quite number of missionaries into Africa and Asia.
- These missionaries were largely responsible for the spread of Apostolic Faith in West Africa. In fact, the Apostolic denomination flourished overseas far more than it did in the US and UK; Christian researchers have posited that there are more Apostolic Assemblies in Africa than there are in the United Kingdom.

The Fundamental Tenets of the Apostolic Doctrine :

The Bible- The Bible is the inspired Word of God, giving a true history of the creation of heaven, earth, and humanity and containing a correct prophecy of the ages to come regarding heaven, earth, and the destiny of humanity. Moreover, there is no salvation outside of what is taught in its pages.

God - There is only one God (Deuteronomy 6:4). He is the creator of heaven and earth, and of all living beings. He has revealed Himself to humanity as the Father (Creator), in the son (Savior), and as the Holy Ghost (indwelling Spirit).

Sin - Sin is the transgression of the law, or commandments of God (I John 3:4). The guilt of sin has fallen upon all humanity from Adam until now (Romans 3:23). The wages of sin is eternal death (Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:14) to all those who refuse to accept salvation as set forth in the Word of God.

Salvation - Salvation consists of deliverance from all sin and unrighteousness through the blood of Jesus Christ. The New Testament experience of salvation consists of repentance from sin, water baptism in the name of Jesus for the remission of sins, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost (Acts 2:36-41)

Water Baptism - Water baptism is an essential part of New Testament salvation and not merely a symbolic ritual. It is part of entering into the kingdom of God and therefore, it is not merely a part of local church membership. (See John 3:5; Galatians 3:27).

Mode of Baptism - Water baptism is to be administered only by immersion. (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12)(Mark 1:10) (Acts 8:38-39). Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection are applied to our lives when we experience New Testament salvation (See Acts 2:38; Romans 6:1-7; 8:2).

Formula for Baptism

The name in which baptism is administered is vitally important, and this name is Jesus(Acts 8:16; Gentiles--Acts 19:5). In fact, Jesus is the only name given for our salvation. (Acts 4:12).

Baptism of the Holy Ghost - The baptism of the Holy Ghost is the birth of the Spirit (John 3:5). This spiritual baptism is necessary to put someone into the kingdom of God (God's church, the bride of Christ) and is evidenced by speaking in other tongues (other languages) as the Spirit of God give utterance.

Tongues - Speaking in other tongues as the Spirit of God gives utterance is the manifestation God has given as the definite, indisputable, supernatural witness or sign of the baptism of the Holy Ghost (Acts 2:4; 10:46; 19:6).

Holiness - After we are saved from sin, we are commanded, "Go, and sin no more" (John 8:11). We are commanded to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world (Titus 2:12) and warned that without holiness no one shall see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14). We must present ourselves as holy unto God (Romans 12:1), cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit (II Corinthians 7:1), and separate ourselves from all worldliness (James 4:4).

Divine Healing

God has made Himself known through the ages by miraculous healings and has made special provisions in the age of grace to heal all who will come to Him in faith and obedience. Divine healing was purchased for us by the blood of Jesus Christ, especially by His stripes (Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 8:16-17; I Peter 2:24).

Where have we come from?:

- The Prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 51:1 said “Consider the rock from which you were hewn; look to the quarry from which you were dug.”
- Jesus is **the rock** from whom we have been hewn and with the passage of time, we will also become a part of that quarry from which others will be dug.
- This is the same quarry from which Christians in the days of Tertullian (A.D. 207), Chrysostom (4th Century), Christians of the 13th century, the early Quakers, Wesley, Whitefield and Irving were dug.

Where are we

- Peter was given the keys, The New testament church began on the Day of Pentecost Acts 2:1-
- Paul and Barnabas continued to spread the gospel and plant churches. Acts 13:12. 15. 24-25, 38-39, 43-47 Acts 14:7, 21-23.
- This was closely followed by the Roman Empire Period of persecutions, Martyrs of Church Fathers and the Christianization of the Roman Empire and the Medieval Period of growth and power of the papacy, the inquisition, monasticism, Mohammedanism and Islamic crusades.
- Then the Modern Period of the Protestant Reformation, exponential growth of the Protestant Church, a worldwide circulation of the Open Bible, World-Wide Missions, Social Reforms, of the which the Azusa Street Revival played a major role in shaping the Apostolic Faith as we know it today.
- Presently, the Lord is still adding to the Church and souls are being saved each Sunday by grace in our churches. For the Apostolic Faith believer, the greatest miracle is a changed life. Apostolicism frowns on saints moving from church to Church looking for miracles. **The Lord is therefore still working miracles for us and among us.**

- Ordained men and women of God are still teaching the Word of truth without compromising to the saving of souls throughout the world.
- The Bible therefore in Jude 3, admonishes us “Let us earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints”. Like an athlete who strives to victory, every apostolic believer must earnestly contend to keep the Faith; the sound doctrine which was approved, authorized and handed over to us by the apostles (John 17:20 , Act 2:42).
- We have to continue obeying the Great commission as recorded in the Holy Scriptures Matthew 28:19:20, ; Mark 16:15-20; Luke 24:45-49; and other scriptures John 17:23;Acts 1:8 Acts:2:4, Acts 2: 37-42; Acts 13:1-3.
- We need to speak the same thing and let there be no divisions among us, but be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment(I Corinthians 1:10)
- Let us endeavor to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.
Ephesian 4:3
- These are the things we must continue to do until the eschatological rapture when he comes to take us to be with him.

Where are we Going?:

- In the very last words that Jesus said in the book of Matthew, He said, “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:20b, NIV).
- In John 14:2-3, Jesus promised his church; He is gone to prepare a place for us and he is coming back again to take us unto himself in heaven. We are therefore **heaven-bound**; we should be working towards his second coming and the rapture. As pastors, our main duty is to prepare the saints for heaven.

POSTSCRIPT

This presentation is in fulfillment of the charge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to us in the Great Commission as recorded in the scriptures(Matthew 28:19:20).

It has also been the vision of the IAUGT President, Dr. Gloria J. Foward and IAUGT Vice President and Satellite School Director, Dr. S. Johnson that faculty of Satellite Schools such as the Covenant Apostolic University of Ghana be brought into the mainstream of IAUGT academic activities. As such, any credit this presentation may have is a testimony to their relentless spirit of mainstreaming the work of co-workers in the Lord's vineyard throughout the world into the activities of IAUGT. I am very much indebted to them for their encouragement and support. However any omissions, mistakes or shortcomings in this presentation are entirely mine.

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Associate Lecturers of the IAUGT Faculty posed for a group picture after a IAUGT International Missions Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, USA

They include IAUGT President, Dr. Gloria J. Foward, IAUGT Vice President and Satellite School Director, Dr. S. Johnson, Dr. Frank McAvor (with a hand up) President the Covenant Apostolic University of Ghana, Bishop Adams Kumashie, Dean of Students Covenant Apostolic University, Dr. Manful, Paris, France, Bishop Kouasi Kan, Associate Lecturer of Covenant Apostolic University, Abidjan Cote D'Ivoire, West Africa, Dr. Mommoh, Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa