

**Introduction to Spiritual Formation
BT 102
Horizon College and Seminary
Course Syllabus**

(3) Credit Hours
September 14-18, 2009
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Course Description

An introduction to the study of biblical spiritual formation focusing on what God says about who we are in Christ, the nature of our spiritual transformation in Him, and a preliminary examination of some of the classic spiritual disciplines. This course is intended as a prerequisite for BT112.

Textbooks

- (1.) *The Bible*. The student is to use his/her own personal study/devotional Bible, preferably in either literal or dynamic equivalent translation.
- (2.) Donald S. Whitney. *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1991.
- (3.) A spiritual classic (not previously read) and mutually agreed upon between the student and the professor.

Course Objectives

THINKING OBJECTIVES

1. To identify and examine the components of the biblical doctrine of being in Christ
2. To list the various elements related to the exchanged life
3. To identify the key factors of the new life in Christ
4. To examine the biblical basis for the transformation that takes place through the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer
5. To identify the aspects of image/likeness which relate to spiritual transformation
6. To identify the major areas of classic spiritual disciplines
7. To understand the relationship between body, soul, and spirit in process of spiritual formation

VALUE OBJECTIVES

1. To esteem more highly those in the previous generations in the church who have paved the ways for us related to spiritual formation
2. To appreciate those elements of spirituality which have come from parts of the church other than our own
3. To see the value in writing and maintaining a spiritual journal
4. To appreciate the relationship between conversion, sanctification and baptism in the Holy Spirit, related to spirituality
5. To perceive the value in spiritual formation related to Christian warfare
6. To properly esteem the function of gifts, callings, and offices related to spirituality, both individually and corporately
7. To value to heritage of Pentecostalism in spirituality

LIVING AND SERVING OBJECTIVES

1. To seek to live Christian lives in conformity to the Word, and empowered by the Spirit
2. To continue to develop a prayer life consistent with the content of this course
3. To apply the lesson learned from the various Christian classics in contemporary settings
4. To seek corporate function and expression of spiritual formation within one's own local church, college, our outreach setting
5. To learn to highly regard other offices, giftings, and placements in the body of Christ, both locally and universally
6. To examine one's own life related to spiritual short-comings as the primary focus
7. To seek the edification of Christ's diverse body through applying the principles of spiritual formation

Course Requirements

1. Bible Reading

Each student shall read and be accountable for selected portions of scripture in conjunction with the topics which will be discussed on the daily schedule. These chapters/verses will be given usually the previous day.

Percentage of grade:

10%

Due dates:

daily

2. Textbook reading

Each student shall read and account for his/her reading of the entire text of Donald S. Whitney's *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* before the last day of the modular. It is highly recommended both for work load and previous exposure that the student read as much of the text as possible before class.

Percentage of grade:

15%

Due date:

last day of class

3. Additional reading: spiritual classic

Each student shall also read a spiritual classic, of at least 150 pages in length. Should the book be of significant interest to the student but exceed the page requirements, then the student is allowed to select representative sections of the book to stay within the page parameters. (or, of course read the whole book as optional)

Percentage of grade: 15%
Due date: October 2

4. Critique of textbook

After completely reading the textbook, each student shall write a five (5) page critique of the same, with the following parameters. Three (3) pages of the critique shall be a condensed summary or précis, one page (1) shall be an evaluation of perceived strengths and weaknesses, and one page (1) shall be a personal impact reflection relating to how the book has affected his/her Christian life.

Percentage of grade: 20%
Due date: October 2

5. Evaluation of spiritual classic

Each student shall write a three (3) page evaluation of the classic of his/her choice, which should include summary of contents, assessment, and some personal reflection.

Percentage of grade: 15%
Due date: October 2

6. Final Exam

Each student shall write a final examination for the course after the completion of the modular. A review session will be conducted by the professor on the last day of class.

Percentage of grade: 25%
Due date: September 18

COURSE OUTLINE AND LECTURE TOPICS

See attached handout for the week's schedule

Bibliography

The following is an illustrative and indicative list, and not by any means exhaustive, but rather intended to provide the student with a select number of titles that are readily available, and that are applicable for an introductory course of this nature, and to encourage them to further study.

Bennett, Dennis. *The Holy Spirit and You*. Plainfield, NJ: Logos, 1971.

Benson, Bob, and Michael Benson. *Disciplines for the Inner Life*. Hendersonville, TN: Deeper Life Press, 2000.

Boa, Kenneth. *Conformed to His Image: Biblical and Practical Approaches to Spiritual Formation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.

Brother Lawrence. *Practicing the Presence of God*. Garden City, NY: Image Books, 1977.

Crabb, Larry. *Finding God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1993.

Christianson, Larry. *The Christian Family*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany, 1974.

Delffs, Dudley. *The Prayer Centered Life: Living in Conversation with the Fathers*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1997.

Eims, Leroy. *The Lost Art of Disciple Making*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1978.

Erb, Peter, ed. *The Pietists: Selected Writings*. New York, NY: Paulist Press, 1983.

Fortune, Don and Katie. *Discover Your God Given Gifts*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1987.

Foster, Richard J. *Streams of Living Water*. San Francisco, CA: Harper San Francisco, 1998.

_____, and James Bryan Smith. *Devotional Classics*. San Francisco, CA: Harper San Francisco, 1993.

Harrington, Joel F. *A Cloud of Witnesses: Readings in the History of Western Christianity*. Boston, MA, and New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001.

Hull, Bill. *Choose the Life: Exploring a Faith that Embraces Discipleship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2004.

- Imbach, Jeff. *The River Within: Loving God, Living Passionately*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1998.
- Jones, Timothy. *Mentor and Friend: Building Friendships that Point to God*. Oxford, UK: Lion Publishing, 1991.
- Macy, Howard. *Rhythms of the Inner Life: Yearning for Closeness with God*. Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming Revell, 1988.
- Meier, Paul and Frank Minirth. *What They Did Not Teach You in Seminary*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1993.
- Mumford, Bob. *The King and You*. Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming Revell, 1969.
- Murray, Andrew. *The Ministry of Intercessory Prayer*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany Publishers, 1981.
- Nee, Watchman. *The Normal Christian Life*. London, UK: Victory Press, 1961.
- Newton, Gary. *Growing Towards Spiritual Maturity*. Wheaton, IL: Evangelical Training Association, 1999.
- Peterson, Eugene, *Subversive Spirituality*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1997.
- _____. *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.
- Prince, Derek. *Changing History Through Prayer and Fasting*. Orlando, FL: Derek Prince Publications, 1973.
- _____. *Faith to Live By*. Orlando, FL: Derek Prince Publications, 1984.
- Schaeffer, Francis. *True Spirituality*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1971.
- Sauer, Erich. *In the Arena of Faith: A Call to the Consecrated Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1982.
- Sider, Ronald. *Good News and Good Works: A Theology for the Whole Gospel*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1999.
- Simpson, Charles. *The Covenant and the Kingdom*. Tonbridge, Kent, UK: Sovereign Word, Ltd., 1995.
- Tozer, A.W. *The Knowledge of the Holy*. San Francisco, CA: Harper and Row, 1963.

Wakefield, Gordon, ed. *The Westminster Dictionary of Christian Spirituality*. Philadelphia, PA: The Westminster Press, 1983.

Whitney, Donald S. *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1991.