

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Southeastern College Branch Campus
1000 Longfellow Blvd.
Lakeland, FL
October 20-24, 2003

PTHB 544 THE SPIRITUAL FORMATION OF THE MINISTER

Mike L. Rakes, D.Min

FALL 2003

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the spiritual dynamics in the growth and service of the Pentecostal minister with emphasis upon the role of the Holy Spirit and personal practice of the disciplines of Christian life.

OBJECTIVES

The student should demonstrate through the academic, relational, and spiritual requirements of this course that he or she has satisfactorily met the objectives of each of the following domains:

Knowledge

1. A biblical theology of spiritual formation including character development and sanctification, and personal relatedness to the larger body of Christ.
2. A biblical theology of the role of the Holy Spirit in Christian life and ministry giftings.
3. A sound grasp of the classic Christian disciplines.
4. An awareness of the unique Pentecostal-charismatic dimensions of Christian spirituality.

Attitudes

1. A healthy self-critical perspective toward one's personal life and ministry.
2. Openness to the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit and constructive criticism from fellow members of the body of Christ.
3. A greater sensitivity to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in personal life and ministry.
4. Desire to identify and maximize one's personal spiritual gifts in ministry.

Skills

1. Development of ability to direct others into greater personal growth through Christian Spirituality.
2. Utilization of inner life inventories as tools of personal growth.
3. Leadership of group devotionals and spiritual exercises in a timely and professional manner.
4. Development of research and expositional skills with reference to classic Christian spirituality.

5. Application of personal learning in spirituality to varied corporate settings and responsibilities with a view to future ministry to the culture and the greater body of Christ.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

a' Kempis, Thomas. *The Imitation of Christ*. Ave Maria Press: Notre Dame, 1996.

Lim, David. *Spiritual Gifts: A Fresh Look*. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1991.

McGrath, Alister E. *Christian Spirituality*. Blackwell Publishers: Malden, MA, 1999.

Nouwen, Henri J. M. *In the Name of Jesus*. Crossroad, 1998.

Rakes, Mike. *The Character Fitness Assessment*. The Character Company: Orlando, 2000.

Rakes, Mike. *The Way Within*. The Character Company: Lakeland, 2002.

(Dr. Rake's books can be purchase through the Southeastern College Bookstore).

BASIC OUTLINE

1. Theological and Psychological Integration
 - ❖ Biblical Foundation
 - ❖ History of Christian Spirituality
 - ❖ Language of Inner Life Detachment
 - ❖ Fruits and Gifts of Spirit
 - ❖ Stages of Development
2. Christian Disciplines and Worldview
 - ❖ Types of Prayer
 - ❖ Purpose of Prayer
 - ❖ Hidden-ness of God
 - ❖ Abiding Language
3. Intimacy Quotient (Hunger and Thirst)
 - ❖ Awareness
 - ❖ Purpose / Gifts
 - ❖ Desire
4. Ideal Spiritual State (Obedience and Action)

- ❖ Responsibility
- ❖ Remembering
- ❖ Relationship
- ❖ Resiliency - Persistence

5. Habits of Christian Spirituality (Character Development)

- ❖ Fifteen Vital Functions of Christian Spirituality
- ❖ Humility as Foundation of Christian Spirituality
- ❖ Directing Others
- ❖ Servant Leadership

METHODOLOGY

This course will employ lectures, personality inventories, written reports, guided discussions, student testimonies and presentations, and group practice of many of the Christian disciplines in classroom and non-classroom settings. While the course will have a strong cognitive component, it is intended also to be a group experiment in Christian growth.

REQUIREMENTS

A. Pre-Session

1. Reading Requirements. A minimum of 300 pages from the required textbook list. All other research and readings will require the submission of a detailed reading report attesting completion of the assigned readings by January 24, 2004. Incomplete reading reports will adversely affect the grade.

B. Session

1. Punctual Class Attendance.
2. Personality Inventory and Evaluation. A personality inventory examining one's personal character is required for each student and administered in the course of the class. One's personal themes will be discovered and the Term Paper topic may be selected from these inner life discoveries.

C. Post-Session

1. A minimum of 1,500 pages including the pre-session reading is required. Please complete the reading report attached to the syllabus.

Term Paper or a Final Project.

2. One 12-15 page term paper is required setting forth a careful biblical, theological, and practical study of one of the classic spiritual disciplines discussed in class. The topic of the paper or final project must be approved during the week of class by the professor. **DUE DATE: January 24, 2004.**

Personal Project in Christian Spirituality

3. Introduction: Develop some kind of growth plan to draw closer to God more intentionally. Try something that is “new to you” seeking a deeper intimacy with God. These plans should incorporate a sensitivity regarding your particular personal circumstances. Individuals for centuries have sought to grow closer to God through the practice of certain disciplines. Select some type of personal plan that would allow for creativity and the nurturing of your own soul every day. Try to include fasting (saying no), various types of prayer (saying yes), Scriptural meditation and or some type of reading (could be your texts for this class) that might speak to you right now. Work with the Holy Spirit to carry out your 6 to 8 week plan for personal growth. Write down the plan you desire to follow and then follow it strictly.
DUE DATE: January 24, 2004.
4. It is assumed that each course participant possesses competent writing skills. Your work will be carefully evaluated for clarity, logic, simplicity, grammar, punctuation, spelling, sentence structure, etc.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Reading	33%
Term Paper	33%
Personal Project in Christian Spirituality	33%

All coursework is due by January 24, 2004.

NOTE: Work received after the post-session due date specified in the syllabus will result in a change of grade fee (\$15.00) being charged, even when an extension has been granted by the instructor.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- _____. Victory Over the Darkness. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1990.
- Autry, James A. Life & Work. New York: William Morrow and Company, Inc., 1994.
- Barclay, William. Flesh and Spirit. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1962.
- Benson, Bob and Michael W. Benson. Disciplines for the Inner Life. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1985.
- Biehl, Bobb. Mentoring. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1996.
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- Exley, Richard. Perils of Power. Tulsa: Honor Books, 1988.

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- Gire, Ken. Windows of the Soul. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996.
- Glaspey, Terry W. Pathway to the Heart of God. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1998.
- Guinness, Os. Fit Bodies Fat Minds. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1994.
- Hamma, Robert M. Along Your Desert Journey. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1996.
- Hansel, Tim. When I Relax I Feel Guilty. Colorado Springs: Chariot Victor Publishing, 1979.
- _____. You Gotta Keep Dancin'. Elgin, IL: David C. Cook Publishing Co., 1985.
- Harvey, Andrew. The Essential Mystics. Edison, NJ: Castle Books, 1996.
- Harvey, Andrew and Anne Baring. The Mystic Vision. San Francisco: Harper, 1995.
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SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Mike Rakes, February 2002, revised September 22, 2003.

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Reading Report

This is to certify that I have read the following number of pages from the textbooks noted below:

<u>Textbook</u>	<u># of pages read</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
Total Pages Read	_____

Name

Date