

**Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
SOUTHEASTERN COLLEGE BRANCH CAMPUS
1000 Longfellow Blvd.
Lakeland, FL
October 14-18, 2002**

PTHB 544 THE SPIRITUAL FORMATION OF THE PENTECOSTAL MINISTER

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FALL 2002

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.

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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.

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.

Miller, Keith J. *The Secret Life of the Soul*. Broadman & Holman: Nashville, 1997.

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

Rutland, Mark. *God of the Valleys*. Servant Publications: Ann Arbor, 2000.

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

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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 1,500 pages of reading is required including the required texts and all other research readings with submission of a detailed reading report attesting completion on the first day of class. Incomplete reading reports will adversely affect the grade. Record your reading on the journal page included with this syllabus and record the themes that spoke most directly to you.

2. Personal Project in Christian Spirituality. (See Details Below) A personal spiritual journal must be kept from **August 1** through **September 30**. It should be a daily record in readable form of your own personal spiritual journey through these months. Record insights from your readings of Scripture, textbooks and related assignments, encounters with people,

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prayer needs, answers to prayer, sermonic insights, personal struggles, etc. Grade will be based on quality and thoroughness. **DUE DATE: First Day of Class**

Personal Project in Christian Spirituality

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.

Reflect on your experience and be prepared to share with the class the top ten truths you learned, read or discovered during this exercise. Bring one copy of a 2 –4 page paper discussing those major lessons or discoveries with you to class on the first day.

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

Term Paper or a Final Project.

- a. One 10-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.

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- b. The final project could be an expansion of the preliminary work done before attending the class. The final project could take the form of a series of four presentations, sermons or study guides for an individual or a group. It should contain significant Biblical material along with practical, personal illustrations and applications. This project can include key words or concepts, like guidelines for praying, suffering and trials, humility, fasting or other disciplines that generate your interest. More details will be given in class.
- c. 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 and Discovery Journal	- 33%
Term Paper	- 33%
Personal Project in Christian Spirituality	- 33%

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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Benson, Bob and Michael W. Benson. Disciplines for the Inner Life. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1985.

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- Bridges, Jerry. The Pursuit of Holiness. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1978.
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Glaspey, Terry W. Pathway to the Heart of God. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1998.

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SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Mike Rakes, February 2002.