

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

PTH 544 The Spiritual Formation of the Minister

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Fall Semester 2001

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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

OBJECTIVES

Each participant should demonstrate through the academic, relational, and spiritual requirements of this course that he or she has satisfactorily met the following objectives:

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 general awareness of the historic body of spiritual literature with detailed knowledge of at least one of the great spiritual masters.
4. A sound grasp of the classic Christian disciplines.
5. 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 sense of responsibility for as well as dependence upon the larger body of Christ.
4. Sensitivity to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in personal life and ministry.
5. Desire to identify and maximize one's personal spiritual gifts in ministry.

Skills

1. Development of small group participation and leadership skills.
2. Utilization of empirical personality 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.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

- Boa, Kenneth. *Conformed to His Image: Biblical and Practical Approaches to Spiritual Formation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001
- Foster, Richard J. and J. B. Smith, eds. *Devotional Classics: Selected Readings for Individuals and Groups*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1993.
- Ortburg, John. *The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.
- Tan, Siang-Yang and Douglas Gregg. *Disciplines of the Holy Spirit: How to Connect to the Spirit's Power and Presence*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.

BASIC OUTLINE

Introduction

- I. Biblical and Theological Roots of Spiritual Formation
- II. Psychological and Theological Integration
- III. Christian Disciplines and Worldview
- IV. Spiritual Gifts in Personal Life and Ministry

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

1. Reading Requirements. A minimum of 1,000 pages of reading is required including the required texts and all other research readings with submission of a detailed reading report attesting completion on **Thursday, December 6**. Additional readings in primary classic sources will favorably impact the participation grade. Incomplete reading reports will adversely affect that grade.
2. Personality Inventory. The Taylor Johnson Temperament Analysis and the Christian Life Profile are required for each participant should be on file at the beginning of the semester. A five-page essay interpreting and evaluating these profiles in terms of the participant's personal spiritual formation is due on **Thursday, November 1**.
3. Term Paper. One 10-page term paper is required setting forth an exposition and critique of the spirituality of one of the spiritual masters in Foster's and Smith's anthology, *Devotional Classics*. Research and bibliography should include the major writings attributed to that author as well significant commentaries on his or her thought. The due date is **Thursday, October 4**.

4. Personal Journal. A personal spiritual journal must be kept from **September 4** through **December 6**. It should be a daily record in readable form of your own personal spiritual journey through these months. Demonstrate understanding and integration of the spiritual formation processes in your personal spiritual journey and you interact with Scripture, course readings, encounters with people, prayer needs, answers to prayer, etc. This will be a private document read only by the professor. Grade will be based on quality and thoroughness. **Due date: December 11.**

5. Examination. One examination in two parts will be administered during final examination week on **Tuesday, December 11: Part 1** will be an objective examination on the thought of the various spiritual writers in Foster and Smith. Notes should be developed from the readings, research, and devotionals of the semester in preparation for that exam. **Part 2** will be an essay on the topic, "The Nature of Spiritual Growth," that will integrate and explicate your study and reflection over the course of the semester.

6. Devotional. As many members of the class as possible will be assigned to lead a devotional at the beginning of class. The devotional should be based upon the most unique and significant contributions of the spiritual master whom the student is researching.

7. Participation: Ready involvement will be expected in internal class spiritual disciplines as well as periodically scheduled extra-class functions as prayer meetings, group meetings, etc. One such meeting will be held at the professor's home on **Friday, September 28, 7:00 p.m.** for which attendance is mandatory.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Personality Analysis Paper	- 20%
Term Paper	- 20%
Personal Journal	- 20%
Examination	- 20%
Participation	- 20%

Grades will be averaged using the following scale: F=1; D-=2; D=3; D+=4; C-=5; C=6; C+=7; B-=8; B=9; B+=10; A-=11; A=12. Late papers may be penalized at the rate of one movement within the letter grade per calendar day.

Participation will be determined on the basis of class and event attendance, completion of assigned readings, class and group interaction, and constructive leadership within the class and its activities.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- a' Kempis, Thomas. *The Imitation of Christ*. Westwood, NJ: Fleming H. Revell, 1963.
BV/4821/.K42
- Augustine, Saint. *The Confessions of Saint Augustine*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1977.
AC/1/.G72/vol. 18
- Benner, David G. and Peter C. Hill. *Baker Encyclopedia of Psychology & Counseling*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1999. BF/31/B25
- Bloesch, Donald G. *The Crisis of Piety*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1968. BV/4501.2/.B56
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship*. Riverside, NJ: Macmillan, 1967.
- Bounds, E. M. *Power Through Prayer*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1972.
- Brother Lawrence [Nicholas Herman]. *The Practice of the Presence of God*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1975. BX/2349/.H42
- Cousins, Ewert (ed.). *World Spirituality: An Encyclopedic History of the Religious Quest*. 25 vols. New York: Crossroad Publishing Company, 1985-.
- Cully, Iris V. *Education for Spiritual Growth*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1984.
BV/4501.2/.C85
- Deere, Jack. *Surprised by the Power of the Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993.
- Downey, Michael (ed.). *The New Dictionary of Catholic Spirituality*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1993. REF BX/2350.65/.N49
- du Plessis, David. *Simple & Profound*. Orleans, MA: Paraclete Press, 1986. BR/1644/.D864x
- Edwards, Jonathan. *Religious Affections*. Ed. John E. Smith. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1959.
- Farley, Benjamin W. *In Praise of Virtue: An Exploration of the Biblical Virtues in a Christian Context*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995. BS/680/.V56/F37
- Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline*. Revised edition. New York: Harper & Row, 1988.
BV/4501.2/.F655
- _____. *Streams of Living Water: Celebrating the Great Traditions of Christian Faith*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1998.
- Greig, Gary S. and Kevin N. Springer. *The Kingdom and the Power: Are Healing and the Spiritual Gifts Meant for the Church Today?* Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1993.
- Hamilton, Neill Q. *Maturing in the Christian Life: A Pastor's Guide*. Philadelphia: Geneva Press, 1984. BV/4501.2/.H293
- Hanson, Bradley C. (ed.). *Modern Christian Spirituality: Methodological and Historical Essays*. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1990. BV/4490/.M62.
- Holmes, Urban T. *A History of Christian Spirituality*. Minneapolis: Seabury Press, 1980.
- Holt, Bradley P. *Thirsty for God: A Brief History of Christian Spirituality*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1993.
- Hood, Ralph W., Jr. (ed.). *Handbook of Religious Experience*. Birmingham, AL: Religious Education Press, 1995.
- Houston, James. *The Transforming Friendship*. Batavia, IL: Lion Publishing Corporation, 1989.

- Jones, C.; Wainwright, G.; and Yarnold, E. (eds.). *The Study of Spirituality*. Cambridge: Oxford University Press, 1986.
- Joy, Donald M. *The Holy Spirit and You*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1965. BV/4501.2/.J68
- Land, Steven J. *Pentecostal Spirituality: A Passion for the Kingdom*. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1993. BR/1644/.L36
- Larson, Bruce. *The Relational Revolution*. Waco, TX: Word, 1976. BV/4501.2/.L329
- Lewis, C. S. *Surprised by Joy*. New York: Harcourt, Brace, and World, 1956. BV/4935/.L43/A3
- Lim, David. *Spiritual Gifts: A Fresh Look*. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1991.
- Lovelace, Richard F. *Dynamics of Spiritual Life: An Evangelical Theology of Renewal*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1978. BV/3773/.L63
- _____. *Renewal as a Way of Life*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 1985. BV/4501.2/.L67
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- Murray, Andrew. *With Christ in the School of Prayer*. Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell, 1953.
- Nee, Watchman. *The Normal Christian Life*. Fort Washington, PA: Christian Literature, n.d.
- Packer, James I. *Knowing God*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1973.
- Tozer, A. W. *The Pursuit of God*. Harrisburg, PA: Christian Publications, 1948.
- Sanderson, John W. *The Fruit of the Spirit*. Reprinted. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1985.
- Shawchuck, Norman and Roger Heuser. *Leading the Congregation: Caring for Yourself While Serving Others*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993.
- Willard, Dallas. *The Spirit of the Disciplines*. New York: Harper & Row, 1988.

For research on each of the spiritual masters, see the bibliographies at the end of each chapter in Foster and Smith, Devotional Classics.

For Taylor-Johnson Temperament Analysis

- Taylor, Robert M. et al. *Taylor-Johnson Temperament Analysis Manual*. Los Angeles: Psychological Publications, Inc., 1977. REF/BF/698.5/.T39x
- Wright, H. Norman. *Biblical Applications for the Taylor-Johnson Temperament Analysis*. Santa Ana, CA: Christian Marriage Enrichment, 1975. BF/698.8/.T35/W7x.
- _____. *Counseling and Testing--Practical Applications: Counseling with the Taylor-Johnson Temperament Analysis*. Santa Ana, CA: Christian Marriage Enrichment, 1988. BF698.8/.T35/W71x.

SPECIFIC DATA: Prepared by Edgar R. Lee, August 29, 2001.