

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

PTHI 503 SPIRITUAL FORMATION OF THE MINISTER

John R. Lillis, Ph.D.

Independent Studies Program

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An investigation into the meaning of biblical Christianity and its relationship to faith and practice within contemporary cultural contexts. Special attention is given to the corporate dimensions of spirituality and spiritual formation as defined in the New Testament. Those historical and cultural factors which have led to the privatization of Christianity are analyzed and discussed. A paradigm of spiritual growth and maturity which focuses on the assembly rather than the individual is developed.

COURSE PURPOSE

The primary overarching competency to be achieved in graduate theological education is the development of spirituality in each student. Seminary graduates should be persons of faith. The primary allegiance of their lives should be to Christ as He is revealed in Scripture. The Christian life is a personal response to the personal activity of God in His redemptive self-disclosure. This means that one's loyalty to Christ affects the full range of one's values and decisions. Loyalty to Christ in a personal relationship is set within the framework of the community of the redeemed. The common allegiance of this community is to its head, Christ, who ministers His grace for the spiritual development of His people through the interdependent functions of His body by means of Word and Spirit.

Faith should be lived out in every facet of life. Spirituality is the description of the quality of the believer's life whereby the new disposition is expressed in spontaneous reconstruction of God's preceptive will. It includes the character traits that result from the swift and sure use of one's will to will God's will. Spirituality is that quality in the believer which causes him or her to have a greater desire for and joy in prayer, Bible study, worship, and Christian service than a desire for and joy in wealth, power, sex, fame, or success.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Understand the basic, biblical concept of spirituality as contrasted to contemporary ideas.
2. Understand the basic mystic teachings of Christian spirituality which have developed through the history of the church.
3. Recognize the influences of mystical spirituality in contemporary ideas relating to spiritual formation.
4. Understand the basic theological foundations of evangelical spirituality as these have

developed through the history of the church.

5. Develop a functional definition of spiritual formation.
6. Recognize the impact of psychology on contemporary culture and spiritual formation.
7. Understand the biblical concepts of spiritual maturity, spiritual growth, and love.
8. Appreciate the corporate and community aspects of spiritual formation.
9. Apply basic biblical concepts to the process of spiritual formation within his/her own life.
10. Distinguish between the main traditions of spiritual formation.
11. Appreciate the need for the spiritual disciplines in the development of spirituality.
12. Understand the role of theological education in the spiritual formation of ministry students.
13. Recognize the need for a personal value set that reflects loyalty and commitment to Christ over the enticements of the world, flesh, and devil.

TEXTBOOKS

A. Required Reading

Alexander, Donald L. *Christian Spirituality: Five Views of Sanctification*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988.

Johnson, S. *Christian Spiritual Formation in the Church and Classroom*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1989.

Willard, Dallas. *The Spirit of the Disciplines*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1988.

B. Recommended Reading

Historical Backgrounds

Dieter, M. et al. *Five Views on Sanctification*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987.

Jones, C. et al. *The Study of Spirituality*. New York: Oxford, 1986

Magill, F. and McGreal, I. *Christian Spirituality: The Essential Guide to the Most Influential Spiritual Writings of the Christian Tradition*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1988.

Mysticism/Contemplative Spirituality

Corduan, W. *Mysticism: An Evangelical Option?* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1991.

McGinn, Bernard. *The Foundations of Mysticism*. New York: Crossroad, 1992.

Merton, T. *The Ascent to Truth*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1951.

Tuttle, R. *Mysticism in the Wesleyan Tradition*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.

Philosophy, Psychology, and Sociology

Banks, R. *Paul's Idea of Community*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980.

Hagberg, J. and Guelich, R. *The Critical Journey: Stages in the Life of Faith*. Dallas: Word, 1989.

McFadyen, A. *The Call To Personhood: A Christian Theory of the Individual in Social Relations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990.

Spiritual Disciplines

Bonhoeffer, D. *The Way to Freedom*. New York: Harper & Row, 1966.

Foster, R. *Celebration of Discipline*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1978.

Willard, D. *The Spirit of the Disciplines*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1988.

General Works

Bonhoeffer, D. *Life Together*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1954.

_____. *The Cost of Discipleship*. New York: MacMillan, 1934.

Steele, L. *On the Way: A Practical Theology of Christian Formation*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1980.

BASIC OUTLINE

1. Spirituality: What is It? (1)
2. Spirituality: What is It? (2)
3. Spirituality and Maturity
4. A Paradigm for Spiritual Formation (1)
5. A Paradigm for Spiritual Formation (2)
6. Church: Context for Spiritual Formation (1)
7. Church: Context for Spiritual Formation (2)
8. Church: Context for Spiritual Formation (3)
9. Church: Context for Spiritual Formation (4)
10. Church: Context for Spiritual Formation (5)
11. Contemporary Factors: Psycho-Culture (1)
12. Contemporary Factors: Psycho-Culture (2)
13. Historical Factors: Mystical Spirituality (1)
14. Historical Factors: Mystical Spirituality (2)
15. Historical Factors: Mystical Spirituality (3)
16. Historical Factors: Mystical Spirituality (4)
17. Spiritual Disciplines

18. Corporate Disciplines (1)
19. Corporate Disciplines (2)
20. Corporate Disciplines (3)
21. Corporate Disciplines (4)
22. Corporate Disciplines (5)
23. Corporate Disciplines (6)
24. Corporate Disciplines (7)

COURSE LECTURER

John R. Lillis Ph.D., Bethel Seminary - CA

Dr. John Lillis is Dean and Executive Officer at Bethel Seminary, San Diego, California. Dr. Lillis served as director of the Asian Baptist Theological Seminary, and then for eleven years at Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids, Michigan, most recently as Provost and Executive Vice President. During that time he also taught Christian education and spiritual formation at Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary. His education credentials are:

University of Kentucky, B.S.

Air Force Institute of Technology – Dayton, Ohio, M.S.

Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary, MDiv.

Michigan State University, Ph.D.

METHODOLOGY

The Independent Studies Program provides the opportunity to study selected subjects at a distance without attending classes. Individuals taking an independent studies course use:

- a set of required textbooks,
- a lecture series on cassette tapes,
- a study guide and a set of specific course assignments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

TURN ALL ASSIGNMENTS IN AT THE SAME TIME

1. Reading Reports (30% - 10% each)

- a. Read the text by Alexander, *Christian Spirituality*, according to the schedule given in the Programmed Guide later in this syllabus. Write a five-to-eight page report comparing and contrasting the five views according to the following criteria:
 - i. Discuss those aspects of each view which you feel set it apart from the other four views and make it unique. Explain the significance of the

aspect within the view it represents and discuss fully why this aspect makes the view unique from the others.

- ii. In a final section of the paper, discuss which, if any, of the five views have common features with respect to the actual issue of spiritual formation. (You are not interested here in the obvious commonality of theology underlying all of that which calls itself evangelical.) Describe the common feature(s) and discuss their significance within the related views.
- b. Read the text by Willard, *The Spirit of the Disciplines*, according to the schedule given in the Programmed Guide later in this syllabus. Prepare a five-to-eight page written report in which you evaluate this book. Organize your report according to the points discussed below.
- i. Discuss the concept of "life" and its significance with respect to spiritual formation as presented by Willard. How has his presentation of this concept affected your own thinking concerning spiritual formation?
 - ii. Describe the role that spiritual disciplines should play in the development of spirituality. Analyze Willard's approach in terms of its relative emphasis on the individual versus the corporate aspects of spiritual formation.
 - iii. Explain where Willard "fits" in terms of the five views presented in Alexander's book. Defend your choice.
- c. Read the book by Johnson, *Christian Spiritual Formation*, according to the schedule given in the Programmed Guide later in this syllabus. Prepare a written report describing and evaluating this book using the Reading Report Format provided below. The report should be six-to-eight pages in length.
- d. *Format for Reading Reports*

i. *Bibliographic Data.*

The format for **ALL** papers should reject the *Turabian* style from *A Manual for Writers*, Kate L. Turabian, 6th Edition utilizing footnotes.

ii. *Purpose of the Author.*

Why was the book or article written? Often the writer specifically gives his purpose for writing. In other cases you will have to infer his or her purpose.

iii. *Highlights.*

What two to five propositions, questions or conclusions best represent what the book or article is about? (For an article or chapter of a book this

section can be brief.)

iv. *Critical Commentary.*

From your viewpoint what could or should be said about strengths and weaknesses of the material? What questions are well answered? What new questions are raised?

v. *Notable Quotations.*

One or two for an article; five to ten for a book. Select things you may want to directly quote in a paper that you might write later.

2. Reflection Papers (15% - 5% each)

During this course, you will write three "Insight/Reflection" papers. These papers should be one-to-two pages in length. The intention of this assignment is to provide you with the opportunity to reflect on a particular aspect of the course which has been meaningful to you or to share an interesting insight which you have gained to that point in the course. Focus on how the insight applies in a specific way to your particular situation. This is not to be a summary of material presented in class or which you have read. Rather, this should reflect some original and creative thought on your part based upon what has been discussed in the lectures or upon what you have read. As such it is not a research paper, but an opportunity for creative application of the material.

3. Study Guide Questions

At the back of the Study Guide there are review questions corresponding to each recorded lecture. You may prepare written answers to these questions and submit them for feedback prior to writing any of the evaluation instruments listed below. The feedback will not involve a grade factor.

4. Midterm Exam (15%)

Complete the first examination after you have finished Lecture 9. The examination will cover only the material covered in the recorded lectures. During the writing of the examination you are not allowed to refer to notes, texts, or other supplementary material. You may refer to and use the Bible during the exam.

5. Final Exam (20%)

Complete the second examination after you have finished Lecture 17. The examination will cover only the material covered in the recorded lectures. During the writing of the examination you are not allowed to refer to notes, texts, or other supplementary material. You may refer to and use the Bible during the exam.

6. 1 Corinthians 13 Application (15%)

Using any five of the characteristics developed in Lectures 18-24, write a paper explaining what specific programs, steps, etc., that you would initiate to help develop the positive aspects of the characteristics you have chosen in a given ministry context. At the beginning of the project briefly describe the ministry context to which you are making application. The paper should focus on specific and concrete suggestions for implementation and should not simply be a restatement of the material in the Lectures (although it should be consistent with this material). The paper should be ten to twelve pages in length.

INTERACTIVITY ASSIGNMENT (5%)

To fulfill the interactivity assignment for your course, do the following:

1. Register with the online forum at www.ITScourses.org to receive your user name and password.
2. Post an original answer to each interactivity question for your course (2 questions – 75 word minimum each).
3. Reply to one answer given to each question (75 word minimum).
4. Submit to AGTS a document containing:
 - a. The questions of the forum,
 - b. Your original answers to the questions,
 - c. Your replies to other students' answers, and
 - d. The students' answers to which you replied.

NOTE: Since the questions often synthesize the course, you should complete this assignment at the end of your course work.

TURN ALL ASSIGNMENTS IN AT THE SAME TIME

COURSE GRADING

Interactivity Assignment:	5%
Reading Reports (3)	30% (10% each)
Reflection Paper (3)	15% (5% each)
Midterm	15%
Final	20%
1 Corinthians 13 Application	15%

GRADING PROCEDURE

TURN ALL ASSIGNMENTS IN AT THE SAME TIME

All course requirements are to be sent to:

AGTS
Office of Continuing Education
1435 N Glenstone
Springfield, MO 65802

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- a'Kempis, Thomas. *The Imitation of Christ*. Westwood, NJ: Fleming H. Revell, 1963.
- Abbott, Maureen, and Joseph M. Doyle. *With Love Beyond All Telling : A Biblical Approach to Adult Spiritual Formation*. New York: Paulist Press, 1991.
- Ackerman, John. *Spiritual Awakening : A Guide to Spiritual Life in Congregations*. Bethesda, MD: Alban Institute, 1994.
- Alexander, Scott W. *Everyday Spiritual Practice : Simple Pathways for Enriching Your Life*. Boston, Mass.: Skinner House Books, 1999.
- Allen, Diogenes. *Spiritual Theology : The Theology of Yesterday for Spiritual Help Today*. Cambridge, Mass.: Cowley Publications, 1997.
- Amirthan, Samuel, Robin J. Pryor, and World Council of Churches. Programme on Theological Education. *Resources for Spiritual Formation in Theological Education : The Invitation to the Feast of Life*. Geneva: World Council of Churches Programme on Theological Education.
- Anders, Max E. *Spiritual Growth: In 12 Lessons*. Nashville: T. Nelson, 1997.
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- Augustine, Saint. *The Confessions of Saint Augustine*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1977.
- Barry, William A. *Spiritual Direction and the Encounter with God : A Theological Inquiry*. New York: Paulist Press, 1992.
- Boa, Kenneth. *That I May Know God: Pathways to Spiritual Formation*. Sisters, Or.: Multnomah Publishers, 1998.
- Beihl, Bobb. *Mentoring*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1996.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship*. Riverside, NJ: Macmillan, 1967.
- Bounds, E.M. *Power Through Prayer*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1972.

- Brother Lawrence [Nicholas Herman]. *The Practice of the Presence of God*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1975.
- Caldwell, John. *Intimacy with God: Christian Disciplines for Spiritual Growth*. Joplin, MO: College Press, 1992.
- Carfagna, Rosemarie. *Divine Designs: Exercises for Spiritual Growth*. Kansas City, MO: Sheed & Ward, 1996.
- Cetuk, Virginia Samuel. *What to Expect in Seminar: Theological Education as Spiritual Formation*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998.
- Clinton, J. Robert. *The Making of a Leader*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1988.
- Colborne, Timothy John. *Renewal and Temperament Spiritual Formation in the Context of Personality Type*. microform., 1997.
- Connor, John S. *The Spirit of Personal Fulfillment*. 1st ed. New York: Vantage Press, 1993.
- Crawford, Dan R. *Discipleshape : Twelve Weeks to Spiritual Fitness*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1998.
- Deere, Jack. *Surprised by the Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993.
- Drury, Keith W. *Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1991.
- Dunnam, Maxie D. *Alive in Christ: The Dynamic Process of Spiritual Formation*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1982.
- du Plessis, David. *Simple and Profound*. Orleans, MA: Paraclete Press, 1986.
- Edwards, Tilden. *Spiritual Friend*. New York: Paulist Press, 1980.
- Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline*. Rev. ed. New York: Harper & Row, 1988.
- _____. *Streams of Living Water: Celebrating the Great Traditions of Christian Faith*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1998.
- Foster, Richard J. and J.B. Smith, eds. *Devotional Classics: Selected Readings for Individuals and Groups*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1993.
- Fulton, Charles B. *Relections on the Run : 100 Meditations on Faith, Growth, & Commitment*. Wheaton, Ill.: H. Shaw, 1994.

- Gangel, Kenneth O., and Jim Wilhoit. *The Christian Educator's Handbook on Spiritual Formation*. Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1994.
- Graham, Maureen. *Women of Power and Presence : The Spiritual Formation of Four Quaker Women Ministers*. Wallingford, PA: Pendle Hill Publications, 1990.
- Grant, Lisa. *Branch Groups: Spiritual Formation for Youth*. Nashville, Tenn.: Discipleship Resources, 1989.
- Green, Michael and R. Paul Stevens. *New Testament Spirituality*. Guildford, Surrey: Eagle, 1994.
- Groff, Kent Ira. *Active Spirituality: A Guide for Seekers and Ministers*. Bethesda, Md.: Alban Institute, 1993.
- Grubbs, Dwight L. *Beginning : Spiritual Formation for Leaders*. 1st ed. Lima, Ohio: Fairway Press, 1994.
- Hall, Dudley. *A Treasure Worth the Effort*. Euless, Tex.: Successful Christian Living Ministries, 1996.
- Hamilton, Neill Q. *Maturing in the Christian Life: A Pastor's Guide*. Philadelphia: Geneva Press, 1984.
- Harper, Steve. *Embrace the Spirit* Spiritual Formation Series. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1987.
- Hinson, E. Glenn. *Spiritual Preparation for Christian Leadership*. Nashville, Tenn.: Upper Room Books, 1999.
- Hollyday, Joyce. *Then Shall Your Light Rise: Spiritual Formation and Social Witness*. Nashville: Upper Room Books, 1997.
- Hybels, Bill. *Too Busy Not to Pray*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988.
- Johnson, Susanne. *Christian Spiritual Formation in the Church and Classroom*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989.
- Jones, C.; Wainwright, G.; and Yarnold, E. (eds.). *The Study of Spirituality*. Cambridge: Oxford University Press, 1986.
- Keenan, Paul. *Stages of the Soul*. Lincolnwood, IL: Contemporary Books, 2000.
- Kherdian, David. *On a Spaceship with Beelzebub: By a Grandson of Gurdjieff*. 1st Inner Traditions ed. Rochester, Vt.: Inner Traditions, 1998.

- Kulp, Ann Z. *Spirit Windows : A Handbook of Spiritual Growth Resources for Leaders*. 1st ed. Louisville, Ky.: Bridge Resources, 1998.
- Kurtz, Barb Nardi. *The Heart's Journey: Christian Spiritual Formation in the Life of a Small Group*. Nashville, TN: Discipleship Resources, 2001.
- Land, Steven J. *Pentecostal Spirituality: A Passion for the Kingdom*. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1993.
- Lawrenz, Mel. *The Dynamics of Spiritual Formation*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000.
- Leonard, Bill. *Becoming Christian: Dimensions of Spiritual Formation*. 1st ed. Louisville, Ky.: Westminster/J. Knox Press, 1990.
- Linn, Dennis, Sheila Fabricant Linn, and Matthew Linn. *Sleeping with Bread : Holding What Gives You Life*. New York: Paulist Press, 1995.
- Lovelace, Richard F. *Dynamics of Spiritual Life: An Evangelical Theology of Renewal*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1978.
- Matthaei, Sondra Higgins. *Making Disciples: Faith Formation in the Wesleyan Tradition*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000.
- Maxwell, John. *The Success Journey*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1993.
- McElvaney, William K. *Winds of Grace, Ways of Faith: Expanding the Horizons of Christian Spirituality*. 1st ed. Louisville, Ky.: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1991.
- Miller, Herb. *Connecting with God: 14 Ways Churches Can Help People Grow Spiritually*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1994.
- Miller, Wendy. *Invitation to Presence: A Guide to Spiritual Disciplines Pathways in Spiritual Growth*. Nashville: Upper Room Books, 1995.
- Mulholland, M. Robert. *Invitation to a Journey: A Road Map for Spiritual Formation*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1993.
- Munger, Robert Boyd, and Robert C. Larson. *Leading from the Heart : Lifetime Reflections on Spiritual Development*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1995.
- Nee, Watchman. *The Normal Christian Life*. Fort Washington, PA: Christian Literature, n.d.
- Nouwen, Henri J. M. *In the Name of Jesus*. New York: Crossroad Publishing Company, 1989.
- O'Connell, Timothy E. *Making Disciples: A Handbook of Christian Moral Formation*. New York: Crossroad Pub., 1998.

- O'Hare, Padraic. *The Way of Faithfulness: Contemplation and Formation in the Church*. 1st ed Valley Forge, PA: Trinity Press International, 1993.
- Packer, James I. *Knowing God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1973.
- Palau, Luis. *Healthy Habits for Spiritual Growth: 52 Principles for Personal Change*. Grand Rapids, MI: Discovery House Publishers, 1994.
- Peace, Richard. *Contemplative Bible Reading: Experiencing God through Scripture : A Spiritual Formation Study Guide*. Colorado Springs, Colo.: Navpress, 1998.
- _____. *Meditative Prayer: Entering God's Presence* Spiritual Formation Study Guide. Colorado Springs, Colo.: Navpress, 1998.
- _____. *Spiritual Journaling: Recording Your Journey toward God : A Spiritual Formation Study Guide*. Colorado Springs, Colo.: NavPress, 1998.
- Peacock, Larry J. *Heart and Soul: A Guide for Spiritual Formation in the Local Church*. Nashville, TN: Upper Room, 1992.
- Petersen, Jim. *Lifestyle Discipleship: The Challenge of Following Jesus in Today's World*. Colorado Springs, Colo.: NavPress, 1993.
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- Rea, Jana, and Richard J. Foster. *A Spiritual Formation Journal: A Renovar* Resource for Spiritual Renewal*. 1st ed. New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 1996.
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- Shawchuck, Norman and Roger Heuser. *Leading the Congregation: Caring for Yourself While Serving Others*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993.
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- Spiritual Formation and Family Life Studies in Formative Spirituality*, V. 2, No. 3. Pittsburgh, PA: Journal of Ongoing Formation, 1981.
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- Sweet, Leonard I. *Eleven Genetic Gateways to Spiritual Awakening*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1998.
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- Tozer, A.W. *The Pursuit of God*. Harrisburg, PA: Christian Publications, 1948.
- Wagner, E. Glenn. *The Heart of a Godly Man: Practical Disciplines for a Man's Spiritual Life*. Chicago, Ill.: Moody Press, 1997.
- Watkins, William D. *The Busy Christian's Guide to the Deeper Life: Twelve Weeks to Enjoying God More*. Ann Arbor, Mich.: Servant Publications, 1996.
- Watson, JoAnn Ford. *Sister to Sister : A Spiritual Formation Resource for Women : Based on the Women of Scripture*. 1st ed. New York: Vantage Press, 1998.
- Werning, Waldo J., and Ruth C. Werning. *Spiritual Fitness Exercise Guidebook*. 1st ed. Lima, Ohio: Fairway Press, 1997.
- White, John. *Excellence in Leadership: Reaching Goals with Prayer, Courage and Determination*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1986.

Willard, Dallas. *The Spirit of the Disciplines*. New York: Harper & Row, 1988.

SPECIFIC DATA

Please refer to the catalog for specific data regarding all Independent Studies Program (ISP) policies. All questions regarding ISP courses should be referred to the Office of Continuing Education at the contact information below:

AGTS

Office of Continuing Education

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http://www.agts.edu/continuing_education/index.html

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