

CARIBBEAN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Educating and training ministerial leadership



MIN112 Spiritual Formation

Mission Statement

CST is committed to connect, serve, and train for Pentecostal ministry, leadership, and missions throughout the world.

Professor

Course Description

The premise of *Spiritual Formation* is that Christian leadership must lead first from Christ-like character and spirituality before skill. Spiritual formation comes from cooperating with the Holy Spirit, particularly through intentional spiritual habits or disciplines that improve a closer relationship with Christ, help develop character, as well as healthy responses to God's direction and power. The course covers four areas that promote spiritual formation: *practicing spiritual disciplines* (prayer, Bible study, fellowship), *comprehending core biblical truths* (God, man, sin, salvation), *cultivating Christ-like character and lifestyle* (fruit of the Spirit, love, justice, witness), and *engaging the church and the world* (relationships, serving and giving). The course concludes with a look at how a spiritual leader can help new Christians and other believers to similarly grow in Christ.

Course Objectives

At the conclusion of this course the student shall:

- 1. Explain spiritual formation and its necessity as the foundation for leadership*
- 2. Identify and practice habits that deepen spiritual and moral formation*
- 3. Use Scripture memorization as a means of increasing content for prayer, meditation, and change*
- 4. Illustrate comprehension of biblical and practical foundations for spiritual formation through written responses*
- 5. To participate in the discipline of prayer through a daily Prayer Journal*
- 6. To integrate accountability and encouragement toward spiritual formation through small group experiences*
- 7. Demonstrate greater commitment to spiritual and moral formation*

Course Textbooks

1. Ogden, Greg. *Discipleship Essentials: A Guide to Building Your Life in Christ (Expanded Edition)*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2007. The text is interactive, including study questions, readings, and Scripture verses to memorize.
2. *The Bible*. Preferably New International Version (NIV).

Course Requirements

The course is designed for you to be interactive in the textbook/workbook, in the Bible, with fellow students, with the teacher, and in the dialogue of prayer.

1. Rationale for course procedures

- A. Memorization exercises provide content for prayer, meditation, and change.
- B. Written textbook responses provide evidence of understanding of biblical and practical foundations for spiritual formation.
- C. The *Prayer Journal* assists ongoing participation in the life-long discipline of prayer.
- D. Small group experiences provide accountability and encouragement toward spiritual formation.
- E. Course lectures and discussions are intended to be catalysts for spiritual growth as well as intellectual understanding.

2. Outside class

- A. Reading and written work in *Discipleship Essentials* as assigned for each class period.
- B. Keep a daily *Prayer Journal* (see format at end of syllabus) at least five days each week. Choose a Bible verse or passage for each day, meditate on it, pray about what you read, and write a short summary of what you felt God said *in your heart* and then what you said/prayed to God *from your heart* about what He said to you.

Note: In the section, *What God said to me*, do NOT write down all the truths or doctrines in the passage you read. Write what struck your mind and heart – be very personal. You are writing down something of your journey with Him. This is not just an intellectual or doctrine exercise.

- C. At the beginning of the mid-term and final exams, you will hand in your *Discipleship Essentials* textbook with the completed written homework and your *Prayer Journal* for the teacher to check if you have done the homework and written as assigned in your *Prayer Journal*.
- D. Other reading or written work may be assigned by the teacher.

3. In class (except reviews/exams): each period (50 minutes) generally has the following parts:

- A. Quiz (written or oral) on memory verses assigned for that day. Or you may say the memorized verses to the other students in your small group if the teacher chooses.
- B. Small group interaction (about 15 minutes) in groups of no more than three where each of you will:

- 1) read a short portion from the written work assigned for that day
- 2) share a short personal request for growth relating to a *Prayer Journal* item
- 3) pray short prayers for each other's requests.

C. Teaching or discussion.

4. *Exams*: mid-term and final.

Course Outline

This outline is based on 28 class periods of 50 minutes and can be adapted. The homework in *Discipleship Essentials* (DE) includes reading, written work, and Scripture memorizing.

Class	Subject	Pages in DE	Memorize
1	Course Introduction (Syllabus, assignments, structure, how to do a <i>Prayer Journal</i> , etc.)		
<i>Part One: Growing Up in Christ</i>			
2	Making Disciples	DE 5-23	Matt. 28:18-20
3	Being a Disciple	DE 24-31	Luke 9:23-24
4	Quiet Time	DE 32-38	Psalms 1:1-3
5	Bible Study	DE 39-45	2 Tim. 3:16-17
6	Prayer and Worship	DE 46-62	Matt. 6:9-13; Rev. 4:11
<i>Part Two: Understanding the Message of Christ</i>			
7	The Three-Person God	DE 63-71	Deut. 6:4; 2 Cor. 13:14
8	Made in God's Image	DE 72-80	Gen. 1:26-27
9	Sin	DE 81-87	Rom. 3:23; Rom. 6:23
10	Grace and Redemption	DE 88-103	Rom. 5:8; Isa. 53:4-6
11	Justification	DE 104-111	Eph. 2:8-10
12	Adoption	DE 112-118	Rom. 8:15-16
13	Mid-term Review		
14	Mid-term Exam	Turn in work from DE and Prayer Journal	
<i>Part Three: Becoming Like Christ</i>			
15	Filled with the Spirit	DE 119-128	Eph. 5:18-20
16	Fruit of the Spirit	DE 129-137	Gal. 5:22-23
17	Trust	DE 138-146	Prov. 3:5-6
18	Love	DE 147-155	John 13:34-35
19	Justice	DE 156-163	Isa. 58:6-7
20	Witness	DE 164-172	Acts 1:8
<i>Part Four: Serving Christ</i>			
21	The Church	DE 173-185	1 Cor. 12:12-13
22	Ministry Gifts	DE 186-196	1 Cor. 12:7
23	Spiritual Warfare	DE 197-205	Eph. 6:14-18
24	Walking in Obedience	DE-206-213	Eph. 4:22-24
25	Passing It On	DE 214-220	2 Tim. 2:2
26	Money	De 221-229	Matt. 6:24
27	Review for Final Exam		
28	Final Exam	Turn in work from DE and Prayer Journal	

Course Evaluation (Other percentages can be determined by the teacher if there is a project.)

Mid-term Exam	35%
Final Exam	35%
Written work (textbook)	15%
<i>Prayer Journal</i>	<u>15%</u>
	100%

Bibliography

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Hull, Bill. 2006. *The Complete Book of Discipleship: On Being and Making Followers of Christ*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress.

MacDonald, Gordon. 2007. *Ordering Your Private World*. Nashville, TN: Nelson.

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Warren, Rick. 2002. *The Purpose Driven Life: What On Earth am I Here For?* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Willard, Dallas. 1988. *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives*. New York, NY: HarperCollins.

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How to Look at This Course

Spiritual Formation seeks to encourage spiritual growth, reflection and insight through this study, with the result of you being deepened and stretched spiritually. *All the course readings, assignments, lectures, and discussions are to help you to do what you want to do anyway – learn to walk and live in the Spirit.*

WORD FOR THE TEACHER: SPIRITUAL FORMATION MIN 122

Caribbean School of Theology

Welcome to this class!

You have an incredible opportunity to shape the spiritual formation of these emerging leaders for the Church. This principles of this course have been taught many times in different formats to church members, Bible school students, and leaders in many countries, including some in Africa.

One thing has been constant – *emphasizing the practical* development of the habits of prayer, Bible study, accountable relationships, and witnessing (engaging the world). Many pastors have wished someone had taught them these principles and required the accountability that this course does in daily prayer and Bible study as well as Scriptural memorization.

This training in habits of spiritual formation should be happening in the churches. But it is evident that it rarely happens. You have an opportunity to break the pattern with these students. Your students can be the a generation of leaders and pastors who teach and model habits of spiritual formation – pastors you trained.

Practical Suggestions

You have been given a usable option for the textbook, assignments, and class format. The reasons for the course structure is in the syllabus on page 2. But the most important part of the course is in your hands in three ways:

1. Be an example in daily prayer and Bible study.

You can help this by doing the *Prayer Journal* along with your students.

2. Continually emphasize the need to integrate habits of spiritual formation into their lives.

Teaching of the Bible, theology, and practical skills is in vain if church leaders are weak in character and spirituality.

3. Give your own teaching and experiences.

In addition to the textbook, in each class give from your study and personal experience. Develop practical exams that you think will measure the students' progress. *But the real measurement is in how well they will continue to passionately seek to be formed into Christ's image through daily prayer and Bible study!*

For each class period, you have several options as to how you use the teaching segment. Because of the time used for writing memory verses and small group time, it is useful to plan about 25-30 minutes for your teaching or discussions.

Look at the textbook content for each period and think of what material and experience you have in those themes or areas. You can follow the sequence of the book for class lectures and discussions or you may develop your own sequence of teaching in line with the content and purpose of the course – as I have done.

Here is a sample of how one CST professor uses the teaching time when he teaches the course:
-Class introduction: 1 period. Syllabus, assignments, class structure, how to do a Prayer Journal.

-Foundations by Jesus: 2 periods. Matt. 5-7 – contrast between inner heart and external religious behavior. A contrasting overview of these chapters (not overly detailed).

-Priorities: 2 periods. Know God (upward), Love One Another (inward), Love the Lost (outward). Material comes from OT (how Israel was organized), John 17, and Acts 2.

-Holding on to God: 1 period. Use the 5 fingers of the hand beginning with the thumb to illustrate how we hold on to God through 5 habits: forgiveness (air), prayer (water), Bible study (food), church relationships (love), and witnessing (exercise/our work).

-Repentance and Forgiveness: 2 periods

-Prayer: 3 periods. Jesus' teaching on prayer in Matt 6 as a model followed by other teachings on prayer. Ends with how to have a daily quiet time in prayer and the Word.

-Bible study: 3 periods – a look at the power of the Word, Ps 119, and practical helps for daily Bible study.

-Fellowship/Relationships: 3 periods. Priority, nature, and power of accountable relationships.

-Witnessing/Engaging the World: 3 periods. Purpose and nature of relationally connecting with lost people.

-Giving (tithing, principles): 1 period.

-Fasting: 1 period. Purpose and practical application.

-Developing others in spiritual formation: 1 period (there are other courses on evangelism and discipleship)

You can do this! Thanks for investing in these leaders – they will bring a great harvest!