Spiritual Formation

Henderson Training Institute

Spring 2018
Spiritual Formation – Course Syllabus
Spring 2018

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Class meeting: Wednesdays from 6:15 – 7:30 p.m. in the Worship Center.

Course description.
This course is designed to give students an introduction to the dynamics involved in the spiritual formation of the Christian. Christians are spiritually formed and renewed as we increasingly understand and experience the gospel. The personal renewal takes place gradually over time as the believer learns to walk in faith, repentance, and obedience, and appropriate the grace that God has provided in His gospel.

Course objectives.
Knowing:
• Understand and articulate an understanding of the gospel as it relates to the daily, ongoing life of a believer.
• Understand and articulate theological terms central to the gospel.
• Understand the biblical imperative for holiness and spiritual growth.
• Understand various spiritual disciplines a Christian can use to grow toward maturity in Christ.

Being:
• To know God more through the gospel.
• To increasingly enjoy God.
• To identify areas of your life that need repentance and reconciliation.
• Learn how to preach the gospel to yourself daily to experience the freedom it offers daily.
• Practice common spiritual disciplines that God uses to grow your affections for Him (Bible reading, meditation, prayer, journaling, fasting, humility, etc.).
• Be used by the Lord as an agent of spiritual growth and renewal in the lives of others.

Doing:
• Identify how your understanding of the gospel impacts your ministry at HHBC or the church you attend.
• Identify opportunities to speak the gospel to Christians and non-Christians alike.
Course text.

Recommended reading.


Please bring a modern translation of the Bible to class (ESV, NASB, etc.).

Optional Assignments.
There are no grades given out in this course. However, we would enjoy interacting with you in writing. Also, interacting with the class material at a level to write an essay promotes a higher value of learning, so we encourage you to take the time to complete the suggested assignments below. Plus, we love to read! Please submit the optional assignments on or before the dates suggested on the class schedule below.

**Essay #1:** 2 pages; begin the essay by defining “Spiritual Formation.” Describe your need to be spiritually formed and describe how you would apply any of the first five lesson topics to your spiritual development.

**Essay #2:** 2 pages; write a summary and application essay on any of the course topics covered prior to the due date of this essay. (Course topics and due dates are listed on the course schedule below.)

**Final Essay:** 3 pages or more; Overview and Application essay on any one of the following three topics: (1) Gospel Graces series, (2) Any topic brought up in the Q & A time with application from class lessons, (3) Review of the text book.

Please submit all essays via electronic mail to the instructors’ email addresses at the top of page one of the syllabus. All essays should be typed in 12-point font, double spacing, one-inch margins.

*Please Note:* The reading schedule listed below is an aid to keep the reading on track for finishing the book within the timeframe of the semester. There will not be a direct review of the text book during the class sessions.
Course Schedule
The following is the intended course schedule. This schedule is open to alteration throughout the semester as deemed necessary by the instructors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 7</td>
<td>What is Spiritual Formation?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 14</td>
<td>The Heart of the Problem</td>
<td>Whitney Ch. 1-2</td>
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<td>Feb 21</td>
<td>Holiness</td>
<td>Whitney Ch. 3-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 28</td>
<td>Gospel Transformation I</td>
<td>Whitney Ch. 5-6</td>
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<td>March 7</td>
<td>Gospel Promises Q &amp; A (half the session)</td>
<td>Reading Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>Gospel Transformation</td>
<td>Whitney Ch. 6-7</td>
<td>Essay #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 21</td>
<td><em><strong>NO CLASS SPRING BREAK</strong></em></td>
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<td>March 28</td>
<td>Gospel Graces (Part I) The Church</td>
<td>Whitney Ch. 8-9</td>
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<td>April 4</td>
<td>Gospel Graces (Part II) Suffering and Service</td>
<td>Whitney Ch. 10-11</td>
<td>Essay #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>Gospel Graces (Part III) Spiritual Disciplines</td>
<td>Whitney Ch. 12-13</td>
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<td>April 18</td>
<td>Spiritually-Formed Life Q &amp; A (half the session)</td>
<td>Reading Review</td>
<td>Final Essay</td>
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