



The Orlando Institute

Equipping Leaders to Disciple the Nations

Spiritual Formation
THL 500

The Orlando Institute
Dr. Steve Clinton

SYLLABUS

- I. Objectives: by the end of this class you will be able to
1. gain a broad concept of the elements and the process of spiritual growth
 2. relate key scriptural passages to each stage of growth
 3. understand and appreciate where you are in your spiritual growth
 4. experience at least one intensive cycle of spiritual growth

The present situation comes to us on the events of the past which have been used of God and humanity to shape our present. Spiritually and academically we stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us. Numbers says, "They shall receive their inheritance according to the name of the tribes of their fathers." Inheritance, a heritage, a future comes through connections. We stand in a tradition of spiritual connections.

But God is not limited by human wills or the freedom He has given to us, therefore the future is open for Him to act, and for us to act. He intends humans to be the actors through whom He will draw the world to Himself. What choices have we made and what are their effects on lives, spirits and cultures? What will be the direction of human desires in the next generation? Under the guidance of the Spirit of God, what choices should we make for the future?

II. Class sessions

- The Essence of Spiritual Life (notes pages 1-5)
- Spiritual Growth Hierarchies (notes pages 6-10)
- Spiritual Disciplines and Spiritual Exercises (notes pages 11-18)
- Stages of Spiritual Growth (notes pages 19-21)
- Theology of Spiritual Growth (notes page 22-23)

- III. Textbook: Before August 10th read two of the following, or propose some other reading to the instructor. You will be giving a book report on the **main lesson** of the books to the class on the first or second night (ten minutes):

- Curtis, B & Eldredge, J. The Sacred Romance. 1997.*
- Evans, Tony. Life Essentials. 2003.
- Foster, Richard. Streams of Living Water. 2001.
- Grenz, Stanley. Created for Community. 1996.
- Larsen, David. Biblical Spirituality. 2001.
- Lawrenz, Mel. Patterns. 2003.
- Lawrenz, Mel. The Dynamics of Spiritual Formation. 2000.*
- Leonard, Bill. Ed. Becoming Christian. 1990.

Pettit, Paul. Foundations of Spiritual Formation. 2008.
Pinnock, Clark. The Flame of Love. 1996.*
Rolheiser, Ronald. The Holy Longing. 1999.
Stafford, Tim. Knowing the Face of God. 1996.
Willard, Dallas. Hearing God. 1999.*
Willard, Dallas. Renovations of the Heart. 2002.

IV. Classic Readings - 20th Century Background books (for further research)

Barnhouse, D. The Invisible War.*
Benner. Psychotherapy and the Spiritual Quest.
Clinton, S. A Theology of Spiritual Life.
Grenz, S. Restoring the Center.
Foster, R. Celebration of Discipline.*
Hinson. The Contemplative View.
John Paul. Sources of Renewal.
Martin, R. Drawing Closer.
Packer. J.I. Quest for Godliness.
Pardington. The Crisis of the Deeper Life.
Ramm, B. The Evangelical Heritage.
Richards, L. A Practical Theology of Spirituality. *
Rouner. R. On Community.
Smith. A Spiritual Formation Workbook.
Smith. Conducting a Spiritual Audit.
Trueblood, E. The Company of the Committed.*
Webber. Evangelicals on the Canterbury Trail.
Youngchild. Spiritual Formation.
Ware, Bruce. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: Relationship, Roles, and Relevance.
* top in its field

V. Assignments

You will need to join an online class forum at www.mygcx.org/theorlandoinstituteforum to complete these assignments. After you join, go to the message board

1. Meet with one of the students from the class four times. When you meet you will share and listen to the spiritual needs and hopes of one another (30 min.); pray for one another (15 min.); you will say and hear the verses assigned for the class of the day you meet (15 min.). You will report to the instructor, via email, that you have completed the assignment.

Memorize the following verses and be ready to say them on the day assigned.

Colossians 1:15-17 (Sunday)
Colossians 2:9-10 (Monday)
I John 1:3-7 (Tuesday)
John 17:20-23 (Wednesday)
The Apostles' Creed (Thursday)

2. Choose one topic of spiritual life and write an 8-12 page research paper (with citations and

references) using three or more sources from the reading list or other approved books. 1) choose and post your topic (40 words or less) at the gcx site by August 22 and 2) reply to at least two other students proposals. I will interact with you online and 3) give approval for the topic as you and I agree to it. Paper due August 29th; 4) post the paper to the Resource Center>Student Papers>Spiritual Formation Class>**Cleveland 2009** at the gcx site.

3. Meet with another person (not in the class) at least once per week for three weeks. Discuss one aspect of spiritual growth of interest to the person. Write a 'spiritual development meeting summary' including: 1) your expectations before the meetings (one to two pages), 2) summary of activities you did with the person (two-three pages), 3) scripture used during meetings (one page), 4) insights achieved by you (two to three pages), 5) commitments for your future actions as a spiritual director (one to five pages).

Due Sept. 17; 1) post the full summary to me via the Resource Center>Student Papers>Spiritual Formaitn Class>**Cleveland 2009** and 2) go the Message Board>Discussion Forum and begin a Discussion with a paragraph summarizing points 4 and 5 above. Please respond to at least two other students' Forum Discussion summaries.

VI. Grades

Class participation	25%
Verses & Group participation	25
Research Paper	25
Spiritual Director report	<u>25</u>
	100%

VII. Bibliography

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Scripture to memorize for Spiritual Formation

Colossians 1:15-17

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Colossians 2:9-10

For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority.

I John 1:3-7

what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete. This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

John 17:20-23

I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, *are* in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

THE APOSTLES' CREED (The Old Roman form - ca AD 340-400)

I believe in **God the Father**, maker of heaven and earth,
and in **Jesus Christ**, His only son, Our Lord.

Who was born of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was crucified under Pontius Pilate and was buried.

He was raised from the dead the third day and

Ascended into heaven where He sits at the right hand of the Father,
from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

and in **the Holy Spirit**,

the holy Church,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and life everlasting.

Doorways to Faith

- I. What God desires from all of us is an attitude of abiding heart that seeks Him. The Bible calls this attitude of heart 'faith.'

Greek word - pistis or pisteuo
translated faith or belief (Jn. 1:12; Acts 16:31)
not mere intellectual knowledge (James 2:19)
good English word - trust

Overarching theme of scripture

Hab. 2:4 live by faith
Rom. 1:17 live by faith
Heb. 11:2 gain God's approval by faith
Rom. 14:23 not of faith, sin

- II. Typical doorways into a life of faith

1. *Positional Truth* (living in your new nature)
 - a. Colossians 3:1-10 You have died, been raised and seated with Christ, put on the new self.
 - b. Books:
 - Handbook to Happiness (Charles Solomon)
 - Principles of Position (Miles Sandford)
2. *Spirit Filled* (living in the power of the Holy Spirit)
 - a. Ephesians 5:18 Be filled with the Holy Spirit
I John 5:14-15
Rom. 8: 1-6
 - b. Books
 - How to be Filled with the Spirit (Bill Bright)
 - Spirit Controlled Temperament (Tim LeHaye)
3. *Grace* (living in a response to God's free gift)
 - a. Ephesians 2:8-10
Rom. 3:19-31
Galatians
 - b. Books
 - Free for the Taking (Joseph Cooke)
 - The Liberation of Planet Earth (Hal Lindsey)
4. *Brokenness* (dying to self)
 - a. scripture
 - Psalm 51:7 a broken and contrite heart
 - II Cor. 4:7-18
 - Rom. 4:7-18
 - John 12:24-25

b. Books

The Release of the Spirit (Watchman Nee)
Calvary Road (Roy Hession)

5. *Christ Life* (the exchanged life)

a. scripture

Gal. 2:20

Col. 1:26-29

b. books

The Saving Life of Christ (Major Ian Thomas)

6. *Yielded/Dedicated* (Christ as Lord)

a. scripture

Rom. 12:1-2

Psalm 1:1-3

Psalm 119:11

b. books

Be the Leader You Were Meant to Be (Leroy Eims)

Basic Youth Conflicts (Bill Gothard)

III. Common misunderstandings

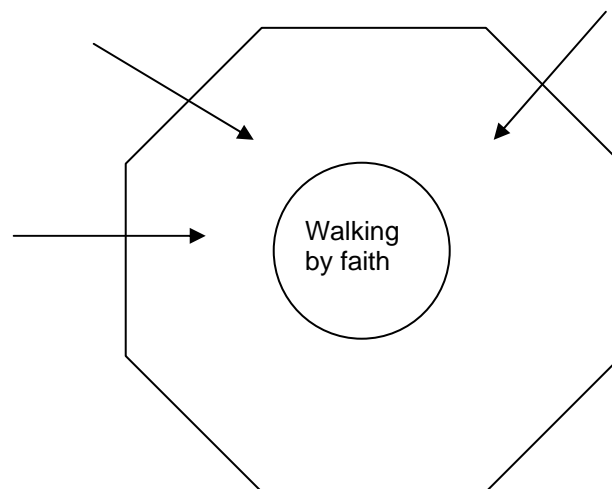
a. legalism

b. self-acceptance

c. license

d. superiority attitude

IV. Both the Word and the Spirit are necessary



Wakefield, Gordon. (1983). A Dictionary of Christian Spirituality. Philadelphia: Westminster. Top 140

Aelred of Rievaulx
Affective Spirituality
African Spirituality
Anglican Spirituality
Apatheia
Asian Spirituality
Augustine
Baillie, John
Baker, Augustine
Baptist Spirituality
Baxter, Richard
Bede
Benedictine Spirituality
Benson, Richard Meux
Bernard of Clairvux
Bonaventura
Borromeo, Charles
Calvinist Spirituality
Cappadocian Fathers
Carmelite Spirituality
Caroline Divines
Carthusian Spirituality
Cartharsis
Caussade, J. P.
Celtic Spirituality
Cistercian Spirituality
Climacus, John
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Stages of Discipleship

The Bible indicates that there are multiple stages of discipleship and that there is a process of discipleship. Paul talks about those who eat milk or baby food and those who eat meat. He expects that after being a Christian for two years, laymen will be ready for meat (I Corinthians 3:1-16). John identifies three stages: children, young men, and fathers (I John 2:12-14). Peter talks about growth more as a unified process, rather than stages (I Peter 2:5). Paul also gives instructions to Timothy about appointing elders and deacons (I Timothy 3: 1-12). The lists of qualifications for these two offices overlap so greatly as to almost be synonymous: leaders are to be mature men with good reputations inside and outside the church who are progressing in social and spiritual growth. But no mention is made of stages.

While there is not any universal description of spiritual growth stages, it is clear that the apostles saw discipleship as a growth process. The key is not the activities of the stages, these vary and change depending on circumstances. The key is the depth of faith of the disciple and the readiness to follow Jesus, coupled with a maturity about relationships and ministry. Therefore, we focus on faith, personal and social maturity, and readiness to expand ministry. When a believer begins to influence others, he or she is beginning to lead by example and speech. When the believer discipled a person or leads a discipleship group, he or she moves into formal leadership. Thus leadership is also a multi-stage, developmental process, paralleling the discipleship process.

If we analyze the discipleship and leadership process, it can be set forth as a useful identifier in three stages, following Paul and John. These go beyond personal growth (cognitive, affective and behavioral) to social and spiritual maturity and to readiness for ministry. These labels are useful for some purposes of identification, but they are not exhaustive and are not fixed for all disciples. Growth to maturity (personal, spiritual, interpersonal, and ministry) looks something like this at each stage:

I. Stage One: Focus on the Basics (a disciple)

Personal: learning to build self-identity from one's position in Christ, re-evaluation

Social: learning about the body, joining a group or church

Spiritual: walking with Jesus in prayer and Bible study, walking by faith

Ministry: witnessing, apologetics, one-on-one ministry

II. Stage Two: Develop a Ministry (a discipler)

Personal: in an action (multiplication) group; being personally discipled

Social: influencing others, learning to lead a small group

Spiritual: living based on principles of the Word; deeper prayer and Bible study

Ministry: speaking, facilitating a group, learning multiplication

III. Stage Three A: Deeper Lessons of Faith (a leader/multiplier)

Personal: evaluates self for strengths and weaknesses, leads in making changes

Social: leading people in teams and discipling others

Spiritual: developing intimacy with God; lives consistently, characterized by values

Ministry: reaching a target area, teaching, management

IV. Stage Three B: Professional Leadership (missionary, teacher, evangelist, pastor)

Personal: evaluates self for strengths and weaknesses, leads in making changes

Social: can develop relationships with anyone; leads people in teams

Spiritual: developing intimacy with God; lives consistently, characterized by values

Ministry: developing other leaders

There is no essential difference between III A and III B, especially in spirituality. III A keeps on reaching target areas and raising up leaders. III B is a different calling; to think and act beyond the individual target areas to organizing resources for reaching multiple target areas and whole cities, to producing apologetics for a culture, to developing networks of like-minded people to reach a whole culture or civilization for Christ. As in I Timothy, the lesson for leaders is to focus on character and competence. Convictions have been developed and are being worked out in relationships and public ministry.

For more information see Clinton, Stephen M. (1988, 1994). *How to Become a Discipled*. Orlando: International Leadership Council.

<http://www.toi.edu/Resources/HOWBEDIS.htm>

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The main features of the community which you are likely to use (explore it all):

Message Board

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- Add replies to interact with discussion forums
- Add new discussions
- Post your materials, comments as assigned

Resource Center

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