

NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
DIVISION OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

DISC 5171
SPIRITUAL FORMATION 2
Spring 2015 --Wednesdays 12-1PM
Dr. Michael D. Sharp
Professor of Worship Studies
(504) 816-8022
msharp@nobts.edu

Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Core Value Focus

This course underscores the seminary's core value of spiritual vitality. Additionally, this core value is the focus for the current academic year. As a part of this seminary-wide focus, students will be challenged to think about how they can contribute to the work of God's Kingdom through their part in fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

Spiritual and Character Development

Course Description

This course is the second of two semester-long, pass-fail experiences in a faculty-mentored group. The group will meet an hour weekly for accountability, mentoring, discussion, and spiritual formation in the company of others. It will include specific assignments from a variety of Christian devotional practices. This course is designed to be taken the semester immediately following DISC5170.

Student Learning Outcomes

The foremost expected outcome of this course is that students will deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ. As a result of this learning and growing experience, participants should:

1. Comprehend the following concepts:
 - The marks of a disciple as something beyond the point of salvation.
 - Effective methods of becoming a disciple and making disciples.
 - The relationship between spiritual maturity and spiritual disciplines.
 - Christian devotional practices or disciplines.

2. Have a positive response to the following concepts:
 - A life-long intentional devotional discipline for lifelong spiritual growth and benefit to the kingdom of God
 - A meaningful and maturing relationship with God.

- Christian community in a small group setting.
 - A personal commitment to basic devotional practices.
 - A personal commitment to covenant marriage and personal holiness.
3. Be able to, with the help of resources, accomplish the following tasks:
- Develop a plan for personal discipleship and assist others to develop a personal discipleship plan.
 - Practice appropriate disciplines of the Christian faith.
 - Lead small discipleship groups.
4. Have an appropriate perception as how to lead small discipleship groups.

Textbooks

Celebration of Discipline, Richard Foster (San Francisco: Harper Collins, 1998)

Individually-selected resources (select one of the following):

Blackaby, Henry T. *Hearing God's Voice*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2002.

Blackaby, Henry T. and Melvin D. Blackaby. *Experiencing God Together*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2002.

Bridges, Jerry. *The Pursuit of Holiness*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2003.

Chadwick, Harold J. *E.M. Bounds: The Classic Collection on Prayer*. Gainesville, FL: Bridge-Logos Publishers, 2001.

Floyd, Ronnie W. *The Power of Prayer and Fasting*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2010.

Foster, Richard. *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*. New York: Harper Collins, 1992.

Frizzell, Gregory R. *Returning to Holiness*. Memphis, TN: Master Design Ministries, 2000.

Hunt, T. W. *The Doctrine of Prayer*. Nashville: Lifeway Press, 1986.

Hybels, Bill. *Descending into Greatness*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1993.

Ortberg, John. *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

_____. *The Life You've Always Wanted*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

Peterson, Eugene H. *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*. Downer's Grove: IVP, 2000.

Tozer, A.W. *The Pursuit of God*. Camp Hill, PA: Wing Spread Publishers, 2006.

Whitney, Donald S. *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*, Revised and Updated. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2014.

Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life in God*. New York: HarperCollins, 1991.

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

Course Requirements

1. Each student will choose one each of the Inward Disciplines, the Outward Disciplines, and the Corporate Disciplines as outlined in *Celebration of Discipline*. During the semester, the student will focus on a personalized study and practice of these selected disciplines in three five-week periods. The student will then prepare a proposal (plan) for each of the three segments. The plan should include (1) specific resources pertaining to the spiritual discipline focus (2) personal goals for the five-week period (should include reading goals and action goals). Out of the resources utilized for the plan, students will

provide a handout (reading materials, video, audio, etc.) related to their selected disciplines for classmates. Note: In addition to current resources, students are encouraged to include materials from the repertory of devotional classics as resources. Each student will have opportunities to share insights on their selected focus-disciplines during assigned class sessions.

2. Each student will read a book selection on spiritual growth from the list provided and write a reflection paper (1200-1500 words) outlining ideas that impacted the student. Due date: Apr 8
3. The tools of journaling will continue to be used as a means toward fostering personal spiritual growth. Periodic reports will be required indicating the student's progress in this goal.
4. Through fostering an environment of open sharing, participants will be invited to share personal spiritual growth experiences with the group as well as pray with and for one another on a continuing basis.
5. At the conclusion of the course, students will write an integration paper on the topic of continuing a life of personal spiritual formation, bringing together the resources of the course into a reflective written assignment. Included in the paper will be the creation of a one-year plan which encompasses the incorporation of the spiritual disciplines into the student's life. This paper will be due at the time of the last class. Aspects which may be included in the paper:
 - 1) Impact from reading and interacting with the spiritual disciplines encountered in *Celebration of Discipline* as well as a particularly focused attention on the inward, outward, and corporate disciplines.
 - 2) Impact from reading the individually-selected text, specifically any ideas gleaned that have potential for helping you fulfill your calling in ministry.
 - 3) To what extent journaling as a spiritual discipline tool has encouraged you in the spiritual formation journey.
 - 4) How meeting weekly with a group of fellow ministers has shaped your view of spiritual formation.

Length: approximately 1200 words

Due date: Friday, May 8, 2015

Course Evaluation

The course is offered on a pass/fail basis as follows:

Spiritual discipline plans (3)	25%
Reflection paper on individually-selected book	15 %
Journal reflections	15%
Class participation	15 %
Discussion session leadership	15 %
Final integration paper	15%

Semester Schedule (Spring 2015):

Date	Agenda	Assignments	Discussion Leader/s
Jan 21	Syllabus overview/Prayer	Choose focus-discipline from <i>Inward Disciplines</i>	Professor
Jan 28		<i>Inward Discipline</i> proposal due/begin implementation	
Feb 4			
Feb 11			
Feb 18		Journal report	
Feb 25		<i>Outward Discipline</i> proposal due/begin implementation	
Mar 4			
Mar 11			
Mar 18		Journal report	
Mar 25	Spring Break, No Class		
Apr 1		<i>Corporate Discipline</i> proposal due/begin implementation	
Apr 8		Reflection paper on individual book due	
Apr 15			
Apr 22		Journal report	
Apr 29			
May 6	Last day of class/Lunch provided by professor		
May 8	Final Exams	Final integration paper due May 8	

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bruce, A.B. *The Training of the Twelve*. Kregel, 1971.
- Brueggeman, Walter. *Interpretation and Obedience: From Faithful reading to Faithful Living*. Fortress, 1991.
- Coleman, Robert E. *The Master Plan of Discipleship*. Revell, 1987.
- _____. *The Great Commission Lifestyle*. Revell, 1992.
- Coppedge, Allan. *The Biblical Principles of Discipleship*. Zondervan, 1989.
- Cosgrove, Francis M., Jr. *Essential in Discipleship*. Roper Press, 1985.
- _____. *Essentials of New Life*. NavPress, 1978.
- Cully, Iris V. *Education for Spiritual Growth*. Harper & Row, 1984.
- Day, R. Alan. *Lordship: What Does It Mean?* Broadman, 1993.
- Dunnam, Maxie. *Alive in Christ: The Dynamic Process of Spiritual Formation*. Abingdon, 1982.
- Edgemon, Roy T. *DiscipleAll*. Convention, 1990.
- Eims, LeRoy. *Disciples in Action*. NavPress, 1981.
- Fletcher, Jesse C. *Practical Discipleship*. Broadman, 1980.
- Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline*. Harper & Row, 1998.
- _____. *The Challenge of the Disciplined Life*. Harper & Row, 1985.
- _____, ed. *Devotional Classics: Selected Readings for Individuals and Groups*. Harper San Francisco, 1993.
- _____. *Freedom of Simplicity*. Harper Mass Market, 1998.
- Greenway, Roger S., ed. *Discipling the City*. Baker, 1992
- Hall, R. Clyde. *Handbook for Youth Discipleship*. Broadman, 1988.
- Hanks, Jr. and William A. Shell, eds. *Discipleship: Great Insights from the Most Experienced Disciple Makers*. Zondervan, 1981.
- Henrichsen, Walter A. *Disciples Are Made - Not Born*. Victor, 1988.

Horton, Michael. Christ the Lord. Baker, 1992.

Hughes, R. Kent. Disciplines of a Godly Man. Crossway Books, 1991.

Hull, Bill. Jesus Christ Disciplemaker. NavPress, 1984.

_____. The Disciple Making Church. Revell, 1990.

_____. The Disciple Making Pastor. Revell, 1988.

Kincaid, Ron. A Celebration of Disciplemaking. SP Publications, 1990.

McClung, Floyd. Basic Discipleship. InterVarsity, 1990.

Powell, Paul W. Beyond Conversion. Broadman, 1977.

_____. Dynamic Discipleship. Broadman, 1984.

Thiele, W. Edward. Fruitful Discipleship. Insight, 1994.

Whitney, Donald S. Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life. NavPress, 1991.

Wilkins, Michael J. Following the Master. Zondervan, 1992.

Wirt, Sherwood Eliot. The Inner Life of the Believer. Here's Life Publishers, 1989.