

RENOVARÉ Canada

A Vision for Spiritual Formation in Canada

CERTIFICATE IN SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND LEADERSHIP

SPIRITUAL THEOLOGY Living Doctrine



Instructor: Richard Hovey (MA, MATH)
Spring 2018

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Workshop: April 12-15, 2018

Students are asked to arrive at Queen's House (Saskatoon, SK) on Thursday evening for a time of introductions, settling in and an opening devotion time together. Instruction will start on the Friday morning at 9:00am. We will end our time together with lunch on Sunday.

Course Description

Our doctrines formulated from Scripture are truths to live by – transformative truths which call believers to live faithfully in response. This course looks at the practical side of Christian doctrine and how it plays out in day to day life.

Objectives

- To enable the student to cognitively recognize and comprehend the basics of Christian theology as developed from Scripture through Church History and see how these truths translate into practical living.
- To encourage students in the application of Christian beliefs to their own behavior – living their lives as a response to the truths of God as revealed in Scripture.
- To enrich the students' awareness of God in the activities of day to day life.

Course Texts (for full bibliography info see last page)

Spiritual Theology: a systematic study of the Christian life by Simon Chan

Celebration of Discipline: the path to spiritual growth by Richard Foster

Streams of Living Water by Richard Foster

Know the Truth by Bruce Milne OR ***Foundations of Christian Faith*** by Karl Rahner

The Brazos Introduction to Christian Spirituality by Evan Howard.

The Spirit of the Disciplines: understanding how God changes lives by Dallas Willard

Assignments

Prior to the Workshop

1. Write a review of Simon Chan's *Spiritual Theology*, noting strengths and weaknesses you notice in the book; also highlight how this book impacted your own spiritual life. (1000 words).
2. After reading through Foster's *Streams of Living Water*, write a reflective paper indicating which "stream" you most comfortably find yourself in and ways in which you could incorporate some of the other "streams" into your life. In writing, also include a brief overview of the six streams Foster covers in the book. (1000 words).

Post-Workshop

3. Using *The Brazos Introduction to Christian Spirituality* (Howard) as an initial source, write a reflective paper on the process of spiritual formation, engaging with aspects from both Scripture and church history/tradition. (1500 words).

Course Outline

- Introduction and Opening Devotional Thought (Thursday Evening)
- Creator: Understanding God in Three Persons (Friday Morning)
- Created: Humanity and the Plan of God (Friday Afternoon)
- Personal Retreat/Quiet Time (Friday Evening)
- Conversion: Reacting to God (Saturday Morning)
- Personal Time (Saturday Afternoon)
- Church: The Community of God (Saturday Evening)
- Closing Session & Chapel (Sunday Morning)

Devotional Readings

Another element of the *Certificate in Spiritual Formation* is having an active devotional life which finds expression in community. Students will be encouraged to continue working through "The Apprentice Series" by James Bryan Smith. There are three books in this series: *The Good and Beautiful God*, *The Good and Beautiful Life*, and *The Good and Beautiful Community*. At this point in time, students should be into the second book – *The Good and Beautiful Life*. Students are encouraged to continue working through this series, meeting regularly with a small group to discuss and encourage one another in the material. Following is the outline that was given for this material:

- *The Good and Beautiful God* – October/November/December
- *The Good and Beautiful Life* – January/February/March
- *The Good and Beautiful Community* – April/May/June

Participant are also encouraged to continue working through "A Year with God: living the spiritual disciplines" devotional guide edited by Richard Foster and Julia Roller.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Course Texts

Chan, Simon. *Spiritual Theology: a systematic study of the Christian life*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1998.

Foster, Richard. *Celebration of Discipline: the path to spiritual growth*. New York, NY: HarperOne, 1998.

_____. *Streams of Living Water: Essential Practices from the Six Great Traditions of Christian Faith*. New York, NY: HarperOne, 1998.

Howard, Evan B. *The Brazos Introduction to Christian Spirituality*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2008.

Milne, Bruce. *Know the Truth: a handbook of Christian belief*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009.

Rahner, Karl. *Foundations of Christian Faith: An Introduction to the Idea of Christianity*. New York, NY: Crossroad, 1978.

Willard, Dallas. *The Spirit of the Disciplines: understanding how God changes lives*. New York, NY: HarperOne, 1990.

Additional Resources

Collins, Kenneth J., ed. *Exploring Christian Spirituality: an ecumenical reader*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2000.

Downey, Michael. *The New Dictionary of Catholic Spirituality*. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1993.

Lovelace, Richard F. *Dynamics of Spiritual Life: an evangelical theology of renewal*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1979.

Packer, J. I. *Seeing God in the Dark: unraveling the mysteries of holy living*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1998.

Scorgie, Glen G., ed. *Dictionary of Christian Spirituality*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.

Sittser, Gerald L. *Water from a Deep Well: Christian spirituality from early martyrs to modern missionaries*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2007.

Tyson, John R., ed. *Invitation to Christian Spirituality: an ecumenical anthology*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 1999.

