



Christian Spirituality for Global Ministry in the 21st Century: GPS for the Journey
WM 645.6
Spring Module, Ambrose, May 11-15, 2009

Instructor: Richard P. Gilbertson, Th.M, DMin (cand.)

Class Times: Monday- Friday, 9:00 am - 4:00pm

Daily Schedule: 9:00 am-10:30 am; break ; 11:00-12:30 am; LUNCH; 1:30-2:30; break; 2:45-4:00

Classroom: 2210

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Christian Spirituality for Global Ministry in the 21st century: GPS for the Journey seeks to help participants prepare for the unprecedented opportunities and challenges of serving God outside of Canada. This course builds on the presupposition that the inner life journey is the key to navigating the complex outer world journey of serving God. It seeks to help the participant to delve into and apply Christian spirituality of the Great Commandment to their everyday lives and ministry. Our time together is designed to provide both foundational principles as well as practices for a lifetime of faithful and fruitful service.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

COGNITIVE

1. To understand the nature of the demands of inter-cultural ministry.
2. To develop a spirituality based on the Great Commandments which will enable the student to respond to the rigors and demands of inter-cultural service.
3. To investigate the scriptures in order to develop a foundation for spiritual theology and the dynamics of spiritual formation.
4. To appreciate the role of spiritual disciplines in a believer's journey and develop guidelines for their effective use in sustaining a Great Commandment spirituality.

PRAXIS

1. To experience various types of spiritual disciplines.
2. To develop a working plan for spiritual formation in the next 6 months that will enable the student to live out the Great Commandments.
3. To provide the student with experience on how to connect spiritual life practices with the demands of inter-cultural ministry.

AFFECTIVE

1. To develop a new appreciation for the love of the Triune God and a corresponding response of greater love towards God.
2. To embrace all relationships (upward, outward, inward) through “listening”, “love”, and “wrestling”.

III. TEXTBOOKS *(please ensure that you have at Calhoun's book for the first day of class)*

Calhoun, Adele Ahlberg Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices that Transform Us
Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2005.

Edwards, Dwight A Fresh Look at Supernatural Living Colorado Springs, CO: Waterbrook Press, 2001.

Seamands, Stephen Ministry in the Image of God- The Trinitarian Shape of Christian Service
Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2005.

IV. COURSE OUTLINE

See Appendix 1

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

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| 1. Pre and Post course questionnaire- | 5% |
| 2. Evening assignments during module | 5% |
| 3. Journal | 10% |
| 4. Reading and Book Reviews | 40% |
| 5. <i>Project</i> : “My Personal Strategy for Spiritual Growth this Coming Year” | 20% |
| 6. Integration paper: Intercultural challenges and GC spirituality | 20% |

1. Pre and Post course questionnaire 5%

2. Evening assignments during module 5% See Appendix 2

3. Journal-keeping 10%

Due date: **JUNE 26, 2009**

Journal-keeping can serve as a tool for honest reflection about everyday issues, help cultivate the discipline of prayer and attentiveness to Christ, and promote a deeper integration of Christian faith and daily life. You will keep a journal of your reflections and responses to the content of this course as well as your experience with God over these next 6

weeks. You are encouraged to view your journal entries as prayers – written with the constant awareness of God’s presence as you write.

Guidelines for journal-keeping:

- During the module you are responsible to reflect on the content and experience of each day in class. Please complete the daily reflection sheet. Submit the 4 pages on Friday.
- After the module you are responsible to maintain a daily journal of your journey with God until June 25 (you certainly can keep going afterwards if you want to ☺)
- I encourage you to keep a journal in whatever form that’s helpful for your reflection i.e. type in computer, write by hand on paper, jot things down in point form, generate mental maps, or written prayers, etc. There’s no word limit.
- Select a few journal entries and write a brief 3 page reflection as to the main points of your reflection. Confidential to the grader.

4. Reading and Book Review. 40% (20% + 20%) Due date: JUNE 26, 2009

#1. A **review/response paper (4 pages)** on Edwards, Revolution within: A fresh look at supernatural living. Organize your report according to the points discussed below.

- a. A summary of the thesis of the book and its relationship to the theme of the Great Commandments. (2 marks);
- b. An identification of the critical issues raised by the book with respect to what it means to be a “new covenant” believer. (8 marks);
- c. A reflection and application on the theological / experimental value of the book as it relates to your own journey of spiritual formation. How does the content of this book apply to your concept of: (8 marks)
 - i. What is God like?
 - ii. Who God is forming, conforming, transforming you to be?
 - iii. The Spirit’s role and your role in the transformation process.
 - iv. The concepts of “listen”, “love”, and “wrestle” which are talked about in the course.
- d. A critical reflection on the strengths/weaknesses of the book (2 marks)

#2 A **review/response paper (4 pages)** on Seamands, Ministry in the Image of God: The Trinitarian Shape of Christian Service. Organize your report according to the points discussed below.

- a. Discuss how the author’s discussion on the nature of the Trinity has effected your own “image of God”. (5 marks)
- b. Identify each of the key aspects of a theology of the Trinity mentioned in the book and discuss how each of these will transform your perception and practice of vocational ministry. (10 marks).
- c. Discuss the role of spiritual disciplines/exercises in cultivating a Trinitarian image of God. (5 marks)

5. Project: “My Personal Strategy for Spiritual Growth this Coming Year” 20%Due date: **JUNE 26, 2009**

Write a **5 page paper**, explaining what you gained from this course and outlining your goals and strategies for continuing this spiritual growth over the next 6 months. To refine these goals use the “Spiritual Growth Planner” found in Appendix 1 of Spiritual Disciplines Handbook. Where do you want to be?; how are you going to get there; when, where and how will you put into practice specific strategies for attaining your goals? How will you measure your progress, and to whom will you be accountable?

6. Integration paper: Intercultural challenges and GC spirituality 20% Due date: **JUNE 26, 2009**

During class we explored the nature of some of the challenges International workers experience in life and ministry. We have also explored what a Great Commandment spirituality entails. Write a **5 page** integration paper in which you reflect on how a GC spirituality relates to these challenges. Choose 2-3 issues and present a strategy of how you would personally respond to each using spiritual exercises, etc. to cultivate God’s strength and maintain perspective.

VI. GRADING SCHEDULE

The available letter grades and percentages for course grades are as follows.

A+	96% and above	(GPA – 4.0)	C+	68 - 71%	(GPA – 2.3)
A	91 - 95%	(GPA – 4.0)	C	63 - 67%	(GPA – 2.0)
A-	86 - 90%	(GPA – 3.7)	C-	60 - 62%	(GPA – 1.7)
B+	82 - 85%	(GPA – 3.3)	D+	56 - 59%	(GPA – 1.3)
B	75 - 81%	(GPA – 3.0)	D	50 - 55%	(GPA – 1.0)
B-	72 - 74%	(GPA – 2.7)	F	Below 50%	

VII. IMPORTANT NOTES

- Unless specified otherwise, assignments should be submitted via email as an attachment in a Microsoft Word Document no later than 11:59 pm MST on the due date.
- The title page of **ALL** assignments should include the course name and number, the professor’s name, the student’s name, student ID number and mailbox number. This is imperative!
- All assignments must be completed in order to be eligible to pass the course. Any student who is absent for more than 1 day will not be eligible to receive passing credit for the course.
- Late assignments will lose 5% per day to a maximum of 15%, after which discussion with the professor is required.
- Participation and success in this course requires that students are actively engaged by carefully reading the required material and attentively attending each class. If you are having trouble with any of the assignments or the course material, it is your responsibility to ask questions in class or contact the instructor by email.

- Intellectual honesty is very important. Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offence and may result in expulsion from the university.
- It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies of Ambrose Seminary as are stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar and Catalogue. Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu

APPENDIX 1: COURSE OUTLINE (subject to change)

SESSION 1: COURSE INTRODUCTION

1. Getting to know you and getting to know me
2. Sailing and Orienteering - Disorientation, fixed points, & taking our bearings
3. Syllabus + evening assignments
4. **ACTIVITY** - Great Commandment Questionnaire

SESSION 2: THE DEUT. 6 STORY - AN INTRODUCTION TO THE JOURNEY

1. GC - “North star”; destination and means of journeying through this life
2. Main themes in GC:
 - a. The Triune God who calls us into relationship
 - b. What a relationship with the Triune God looks like:
 - i. The primacy of his glory
 - ii. Our invitation to love him and the dimensions of our being involved in transformation
 - iii. Our invitation to listen/pay attention
 - iv. What our journey through life will entail - “wrestle”
3. The GC prayer

SESSION 3: THE CHALLENGES OF GLOBAL MINISTRY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

1. ReMAP 1&2 studies on missionary attrition
2. The cross-cultural journey - what typically happens in the beginning years
3. Multi level battles - mind, heart, soul, strength
4. Help! Can someone survive these challenges? **Case study**, Worthkeeping, p.136-138
“Development in the spiritual life of a single missionary”

SESSION 4: A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

1. The Great Commandment and Great Commission
2. An exegetical/theological study of the GC
 - a. Deut.
 - b. OT
 - c. Gospels
 - d. Love in NT
3. SUMMARY - The 4 cardinal points of the Great Commandment compass:
 - a. “Hear”/pay attention- implications for our rhythm of life and practices
 - b. “The Lord your God”
 - i. Yahweh
 - ii. Triune God of grace
 - c. “Love”- relationship
 - d. “O Israel”- wrestling/struggling
4. The GC prayer revisited + **Lectio Divina**

SESSION 5: INTRODUCTION TO SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES HANDBOOK- PRACTICES THAT TRANSFORM US

1. **Case study:** “Making Space in your Life for God”- Handbook p.267
2. Introduction to Handbook: Spiritual exercises, desires, relationship, & transformation

SESSION 6: THE ART AND SCIENCE OF SPIRITUAL THEOLOGY

1. Some key definitions- spiritual theology, spirituality, spiritual formation, transformation, soul care
2. Towards a spiritual theology- reading the scriptures with 7 key questions in mind.
 - a. Theology proper— Who is God?
 - b. Eschatology- What’s He up to? (Where is everything heading? What’s the point?)
 - c. Anthropology- Who are we, both as persons (humanness) and men and women (gender)?
 - d. Harmartiology- What’s gone wrong? (What gets in the way of movement towards our destiny?)
 - e. Soteriology- What has God done to remove the obstacle?
 - f. Pneumatology- How is he working now?
 - g. Ecclesiology- How do we move together in community?
3. The importance of having a working understanding of God’s purposes for us + the divine and human dimensions involved in transformation.

Breath prayer

SESSION 7: THE 4 CARDINAL POINTS OF THE GREAT COMMANDMENT COMPASS-“The LORD your GOD”

1. INTRO- Keeping focus, navigation points, GPS living
2. “The Lord your God”
 - a. Yahweh- true God
 - b. Triune God of grace
 - c. Love of God as base for all of life.
 - d. Shaping our God image during the course of our life
 - e. Spiritual disciplines/exercises related to God image (Part 1- Calhoun)

God image reflection exercise + divine office

SESSION 8: THE 4 CARDINAL POINTS OF THE GREAT COMMANDMENT COMPASS-“Hear”

1. Hear/pay attention- implications for rhythm of life and practices
 - a. The curse of accelerated living and being “wired”
 - b. **ACTIVITY- Prayer of Examen**
 - c. Spiritual disciplines of “Opening myself to God” (Part 2 Calhoun)

SESSION 9: THE 4 CARDINAL POINTS OF THE GREAT COMMANDMENT COMPASS-“O Israel”

1. The story of Jacob/Israel
2. Our multi-layered wrestling:
 - a. World system
 - b. Satan/spiritual opposition- Eph.6
 - c. Flesh-self-orientation
3. What are wrestling with God looks like in daily life
4. Transformation of our dark side
5. Spiritual disciplines/related to “wrestling” (Part 3 Calhoun)
6. **ACTIVITY- Detachment**

SESSION 10: The 4 cardinal points of the Great Commandment compass-“love”

1. “Love” - a look at life in terms of relationship
 - a. A look at love.
 - b. Dimensions in the GC: Upward, Outward, Inward
2. Cultivating the love of and love for God
 - a. The love of God
 - b. The love for God
 - c. Heart, soul, mind, strength
3. Cultivating love for neighbour
 - a. **Case study- Appendix 6**
 - b. Part 4-Calhoun
4. Cultivating healthy “self love”
 - a. Wellness according to the scriptures
 - b. Keeping well-Sabbath; self-care; slowing; unplugging

SESSION 11: PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER- GC spirituality in the midst of the intercultural journey

1. Spiritual Growth- intentionality and cooperation
 - a. **Appendix 1-Spiritual Growth Planner**
2. Seasons of the journey ahead
 - a. **Appendix 10-Seasons, Stages, and Ages of Transformation**
3. “Rule of Life”- Building intentionality into the rhythm of daily life

SESSION 12: WRAP-UP AND REVIEW OF ASSIGNMENTS ON SYLLABUS

APPENDIX 2- EVENING ASSIGNMENTS

To be distributed on the first day of class.