

BC101 Foundations of the Spiritual Life

Grace Biblical Seminary

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Dates/Times: October 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020

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Course Credit: Two Semester Hours

Presents the twelve essential truths for effective discipleship and growth in Christ-likeness.

Discipleship Truths: Gratitude and joy as the Christian motivation, our worth to God, the roles of the Trinity, walking by faith, our Identity in Christ, Dealing with the Flesh, Walking by the Spirit, Dealing with sin, Prayer, and Service.

Foundations is a discipleship process that leads the student to live within the life of the Trinity so as to experience God as an Abba Father, Jesus as our Identity before God, and the Holy Spirit as our Helper. The theological and practical dynamics of evangelical spirituality will be examined to provide a solid foundation for rich fellowship with the Triune God and for living out of the Great Commandment. The nature of spiritual maturity will be examined (including a biblically-balanced model of priorities) and practical experiences for nurturing that maturity will be provided.

Course Goals:

1. The student will be able to define and defend a biblically and theologically sound model of Christian maturity with the responsibilities we have to God, ourselves, and others.
2. The student will develop the ability to minister to his or her own heart.
3. The student will gain critical understanding in order to evaluate models of spirituality.
4. The student will understand the relationship between spiritual change and his or her acceptance with God
5. The expected outcomes are deeply experiential and relational. These outcomes are such to mark the participant for the rest of her or his life.
 - To deeply experience God as a nurturing, affectionate Father
 - To respond to His affection and love with love
 - To revel in our Identification with Christ and His Identification with us
 - To recognize who we are is more important to the Father than what we do
 - To understand and experience the Holy Spirit's ministries

Resources:

Becoming What God Intended Workbook, for growth in Christlikeness

Knowing the Heart of the Father, understanding the Father's Role within the Trinity

Video Lectures

BWGI Video Lectures and Zoom Discussions

10 weeks

Watch the Videos in the appropriate week, do not work ahead.

- 1) Week One
 - a. Acceptance and Gratitude - 3 hours
 - i. Motivation – full-orbed spiritual motivation,
 - ii. Affection and compassion
- 2) Week Two
 - a. Acceptance and Worth – 3 hours
 - i. Price and value
 - ii. Satan’s hatred of humans, no value on human life
 - b. Q and A Zoom meeting to be scheduled
- 3) Week Three
 - a. Acceptance and God the Father – 3 hours
 - i. Use of Theos and Pater in New Testament, exact figures
 - ii. Servant of Yahweh and Yahweh in Isaiah, personal conversations (John 17 one sided)
- 4) Week Four
 - a. Acceptance and God the Son – 3 hours
 - i. Going deeper into Hebrews
 - ii. Use of Son
- 5) Week Five
 - a. Acceptance and God the Spirit – 2 hours
 - i. Deity of the Spirit
 - ii. The valid [because he is divine] intermediate agent of Father and Son
 - iii. Q and A Zoom meeting to be scheduled
 - b. Acceptance and Faith – 2 hours
 - i. The criticality of exercising faith
 1. Adam’s faith in self and Satan
 2. Christ’s faith and our faith
 - ii. Benefits of faith
- 6) Week Six
 - a. Acceptance and Identity – 2 hours
 - i. Union with Christ is salvation
 - ii. Redemption, Reconciliation and Atonement (satisfaction)
 - b. Acceptance and Moods and the flesh – 2 hours
 - c. Satan and his wiles
- 7) Week Seven
 - a. Acceptance and Walking by Spirit 2 hours
 - i. Passivity of Christian (we are recipients)
 - ii. Continual activity of Holy Spirit
 - iii. Q and A Zoom meeting to be scheduled
 - b. Acceptance and Prayer 2 hours
 - c. Terms for prayer

- 8) Week Eight
 - a. Acceptance and Sin 2 hours
 - b. Trespasses and sin
- 9) Week Nine
 - a. Acceptance and Service 3 hours
 - i. Eschatology and the believer
 - ii. The hope of the Rapture
 - iii. The Church and Israel
 - b. Q and A Zoom meeting to be scheduled
- 10) Week Ten
 - a. Knowing the Heart of the Father 4 Hours
 - i. Discovering God as an encouraging Father (2 Corinthians 1) 1 hour
 - ii. Image of the Father and Son and not the Spirit 1 hour
 - iii. A Paternal Theology – not a kingly theology 1 hour
 - iv. A Hidden Father – 1 hour
 - b. Q and A Zoom Meeting to be scheduled

Written Assignments:

Due Week of December 13-18

- 1) Do a chapter a week in the Becoming What God Intended Workbook. Answer all the questions and do the exercises in the back of the book.
- 2) Read Knowing the Heart of the Father.
 - a. Do a five page reflection paper on the topic of the Trinity and its meaning in your life before you took the course and as you were taking the course. To be done at end of course material.
 - b. Select either Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, or Colossians, and with one of those books select and list the ministries of the Father, Son, and the Spirit. Write a one sentence description of each ministry referred to in each verse of the book.
Example:
 - i. Galatians 1:1
 1. Paul's ministry was through Christ and God the Father
 2. God raised Christ from the dead
 - ii. Galatians 1:3
 1. Grace and peace from God
 2. Grace and peace from Christ
 - iii. Galatians 1:4
 1. Son gave himself for our sins
 2. So he could rescue us from evil age
 3. That was the Father's will
 - c. After you have done the book write a one to two page summary as to how each member of the Trinity's ministries relate to the other two.

Grading:

Viewing all lectures. 15%

Participating in on-line discussions 15%

BWGI Workbook answers 20%

Knowing the Heart of the Father paper. 20%

Research paper on Galatians, or Ephesians, or Philippians, or Colossians 30%