

## COURSE SYLLABUS

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# The Christian Life: An Evangelical Spiritual Theology

Course Lecturer: Gordon T. Smith, PhD  
President of reSource Leadership International

## Course Description

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With the contemporary interest in spirituality, it is imperative that the Church establish a comprehensive theology of Christian spirituality that can inform the life and witness of Christian believers. This course presents such a theology of spirituality: a theology that is biblical, practical, and contemporary, accounting for and enabling spiritual formation and nurture in a post-modern, pluralistic, materialistic society. In addition, the course provides a theological foundation for a life of prayer that will empower and sustain the believer in life and ministry.

## Course Objectives

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Upon completion of the course, you should be able to:

- Have a thorough understanding of the biblical and historical foundations of Christian spirituality.
- Appreciate the diversity of theological traditions in Christian spirituality—particularly the Reformed, Wesleyan and Roman Catholic—but in particular understand the stream that has shaped your own experience (that is, your own denominational heritage).
- Understand the theology of spirituality adequately such that you are able to develop a practical model of spiritual formation within congregational life.
- Develop a model of spiritual life and discipline that has theological consistency but also practical application to one's own life and witness.

## Course Lecturer

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*Gordon T. Smith, PhD*

**Education:**

- Loyola School of Theology, the Ateneo de Manila University, PhD
- Canadian Theological Seminary, MDiv

### **Teaching Career:**

- Academic Vice President, Regent College
- Dean, Regent College
- Associate Professor of Spiritual Theology, Regent College
- Researched key studies in Christian living, including the Lord's Supper, Christian Spirituality, and Christian Community
- Theology instructor, Canadian Theological Seminary
- Theology instructor, Alliance Biblical Seminary in the Philippines

### **Other Career Highlights:**

- President of reSource Leadership International
- Pastor in Canada and the Philippines
- Member, the Canadian Evangelical Theological Association, the American Academy of Religion, and the Overseas Council Network, an international leadership training consortium

### **Publications:**

- Numerous publications, including *A Holy Meal: The Lord's Supper in the Life of the Church*, *The Voice of Jesus: Discernment, Prayer and the Witness of the Spirit*, *Beginning Well: Christian Conversion and Authentic Transformation*, *Listening to God in Times of Choice*, and *Courage and Calling*

## **Recommended Reading**

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Though not required, you may choose to read the textbook shown below to supplement your learning. Lovelace, Richard. *Dynamics of Spiritual Life: An Evangelical Theology of Renewal*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1979.

Textbooks can be ordered through our online store at CUGN.org, through your local bookstore, or through your preferred eReader when available.

## **Course Methods**

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The lecture content for each lesson is provided in two easy-to-use formats: audio and PDF text (if available). Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.

## **Course Assessment and Requirements**

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To earn a Certificate of Completion, you must complete the course requirements. Course requirements include:

1. Listening to all 24 audio lectures.
2. Completing a final self-assessment form in which you will reflect on the content in the course and evaluate your life in light of what you have learned. The specifics of this assessment are provided in the course materials.

Course requirements noted in this syllabus will be validated before a Certificate of Completion is awarded to any student.