

COURSE SYLLABUS

Foundations of Spiritual Formation I: The Work of the Spirit

Course Lecturer: Richard E. Averbeck, PhD

Course Description

Welcome to *Foundations of Spiritual Formation I: The Work of the Spirit*, an online graduate-level course designed to help you grow in intimacy with God and to mature in your spiritual life and relationships.

Spiritual formation is a topic of discussion in many circles. We all long for intimacy with God, but how is spiritual growth and maturity developed? What are the dynamics in which God most often works in the hearts of believers to make them like His Son, Jesus Christ? In this course, Dr. Richard Averbeck addresses these and other questions in order to lay a biblical foundation for proper Christian thought and behavior. In this course, he identifies and describes specific practices that can be applied immediately to your walk of faith.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of your study, you should be able to do the following:

- Understand the biblical foundations for spiritual formation.
- Summarize what the Bible teaches on the work of the Holy Spirit through both Old and New Testaments.
- Identify specific spiritual practices that will encourage your intimacy with God.
- Analyze your own life in light of biblical teachings on spiritual formation in order to identify areas in which you need to grow.
- Recognize the eternal value of spiritual growth for yourself and those you teach.
- Apply the truths and principles found in the Old Testament to Christian life and ministry.

Course Lecturer



Richard E. Averbeck, PhD

Education:

- Annenberg Research Institute at the University of Pennsylvania, PhD
- Grace Theological Seminary, MDiv and MA
- Calvary Bible College, BA

Teaching Career:

- Professor of Old Testament and Semitic Languages, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
- Dallas Theological Seminary (1990-1994)
- Chairman of the Old Testament Department, Grace Theological Seminary (1980-1990)
- Visiting lecturer at the Lutheran School of Theology in Copenhagen and Århus, Denmark
- Preached and taught in China, across Germany, and West Africa
- Expertise in Old Testament Law, Near Eastern Studies, and Semitic languages

Other Career Highlights:

- Member of the Evangelical Theological Society, the Institute for Biblical Research, the American Oriental Society, and the Society of Biblical Literature
- Director of the Spiritual Formation Forum
- Licensed therapist in Wisconsin, having studied under his friend and colleague, the world renowned counselor and Christian psychologist, Dr. Larry Crabb

Publications:

- Numerous articles for *The Future of Biblical Archaeology*, *The Journal of the American Oriental Society*, *The Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care*, and *The Journal of Psychology and Christianity*
- Extensive contributions to *The New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis* and *The Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch*
- Entries for *The Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology; Faith Tradition, and History*; and *Cracking Old Testament Codes*
- Chief editor and major contributor to *Life and Culture in Ancient Near East*

Recommended Reading

Though not required, you may choose to read the textbook shown below to supplement your learning.

Bridges, Jerry. *The Practice of Godliness*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1996.

Textbooks can be ordered through your local bookstore, various online bookstores, or through your preferred eReader when available.

Course Methods

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

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

1. Viewing the following for each lesson:

- **Lesson Objectives:** Objectives describe the learning outcomes you should achieve by the end of the lesson.
 - **Reading:** Suggested readings that will supplement your learning.
 - **Lectures:** 45-minute lessons that can be viewed as many times as needed.
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.