

## **7- 10 Pillars Of Christ Series-The State Of The Dead & Spiritualism**

Bible Sermon Study Notes: Pastor Sean Davis

### **Did Paul warn of a time in which individuals would not want to hear the doctrines of Christ?**

2 Timothy 4:1-4

### **What am I guilty of when I reject the doctrines Of Jesus? Hebrews 6:1-6**

### **How did God make man?**

Genesis 2:7

7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Body + Breath = Living Soul(being)

Job 33:4

4 The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.

### **Why do we have friends, and loved ones dying? What is the cause?**

Genesis 2:17

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Genesis 3:6

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Romans 5:12

12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Ezekiel 18:4 Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

### **Where did God say man would return when he dies?**

Genesis 3:19

19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Ecclesiastes 3:20 All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.

Job 34:15

15 All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust.

Ecclesiastes 12:7

7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

Spirit(HEBREW)rûach=Breath

Psalms 146:3-4

3 Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help.

4 His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.

**Do the dead have any remembrance of anything? Can they visit their friends and loved ones?**

Ecclesiastes 9:5-6

5 For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.

6 Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.

Job 7:9-10

9 As the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away: so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more.

10 He shall return no more to his house, neither shall his place know him any more.

Psalm 115:17 The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence.

Psalms 6:5

5 For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?

Isaiah 38:18-19

18 For the grave cannot praise thee, death can not celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth.

19 The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day: the father to the children shall make known thy truth.

**How did Christ teach about death & what lesson did He practically demonstrate to reveal that there is hope of seeing our loved ones again?** Luke 8:41-42, 49-56

Spirit(GREEK) pneuma=Breath

John 11:1-17, 21-27,32-35, 39-44

John 5:24-25

24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

John 5:28-29

28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

**Are souls immortal?**

1 Timothy 6:15 Which in his times he shall shew, *who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

1 Timothy 6:16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom *be* honour and power everlasting. Amen.

**What only hope do we have even though we live in a world of sin, sickness and death? When will man be granted immortality & who will have it?**

1 Corinthians 15:51-55

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

The Context Of Certain passage is VERY important- 2 Corinthians 5:1-8

Philippians 3:20-21

20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

We will not have our corruptible bodies but we will have immortal/glorious bodies.

**What does the bible say about the occult, sorcery, witchcraft?**

Leviticus 19:31

31 Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 20:6-7

6 And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people.

7 Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 20:27

27 A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them.

Deuteronomy 18:10-12

10 There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch,

11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.

12 For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.

Wizard(Hebrew)

yidde'ônîy(yid-deh-o-nee')

From H3045; properly a *knowing* one; specifically a *conjurer*; (by implication) a *ghost*: - wizard.

Wizard- a person who practices magic; magician or sorcerer. A conjurer or juggler.

Juggler-

a person who performs [juggling](#) feats, as with balls or knives.

a person who deceives by trickery; trickster.

a person who fraudulently manipulates facts or figures

Juggling- To manipulate in order to deceive: To use trickery, to practice deception

Manipulate: to falsify (a bill, accounts, etc) for one's own advantage

### **Who was the very first “juggler”?**

Isaiah 14:12-14

12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

### **War In Heaven?**

Revelation 12:7-9

7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

### **How did Satan get sympathizers to join him?**

Revelation 12:3-4

3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

Stars= Angels

Revelation 1:20

20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

### **What does the tail that brought down 1/3 of the angels represent?**

Isaiah 9:15

15 The ancient and honourable, he is the head; and the prophet that teacheth lies, he is the tail.

**Tail = Lies**

**Satan was able to persuade 1/3 of the angels of heaven to join him in his rebellion with LIES. He falsified information about God's character for his own**

**advantage which was “to be like the Most High”.**

**Do literal Jugglers use magic in their performances? Do jugglers just toss balls in the air or do they do more in their acts?**

In Europe, juggling was an acceptable diversion until the [decline of the Roman Empire](#), after which the activity fell into disgrace. Throughout the [Middle Ages](#), most histories were written by religious clerics who frowned upon the type of performers who juggled, called [gleemen](#), accusing them of base morals or even practicing [witchcraft](#). Jugglers in this era would only perform in [marketplaces](#), streets, fairs, or drinking houses. They would perform short, humorous and bawdy acts and pass a hat or bag among the audience for tips. Some kings' and noblemen's [bards](#), [fools](#), or [jesters](#) would have been able to juggle or perform [acrobatics](#), though their main skills would have been oral ([poetry](#), [music](#), [comedy](#) and [storytelling](#)).

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juggling>

“Up through the Roman era, it seems that people held jugglers in high esteem. Shortly thereafter, jugglers fell on hard times. People began to think of jugglers as immoral con artists. **Written accounts lumped jugglers in with magicians and witches, citing them as corrupt manipulators.**

In the medieval period, jugglers returned to popularity in literature and art. Artists drew jugglers throwing an unlikely number of torches or knives. **Jugglers were also singers and magicians -- to be a juggler was to be a well-rounded entertainer**, and most made their living traveling from one small town to another. The council of Nuremburg, Germany employed a juggler not only as an entertainer, but also a teacher. Juggling had shed its ignominious reputation.”<http://entertainment.howstuffworks.com/juggling11.htm>

French juggler Lindzee Poi is a wizard who basically turns a set of juggling rings into a mind warping finger dance. Poi is so fluid that your mind really thinks the rings are moving on their own. I love it when my brain can't process what's in front of it.

### **Magic Parties for Children**

Juggling John will provide a magical experience at your children's party. From little red balls that multiply in your guests' hands to disappearing ribbons, from mystifying card tricks to magical escapology and fire eating with a bit of dangerous juggling thrown in, Juggling John's magic show for children will leave them and you amazed, chuckling and truly entertained.

Juggling John works as a children's magician, entertainer and juggler all over the place. He is quite used to corporate clients jetting him off to exotic locations to stay in lovely hotels. He is willing to travel almost anywhere if expenses can be paid(!) However, the following are areas that he works in from his home base in Oxford without charging extra for travel, etc:

[http://www.jugglingjohn.com/childrens\\_magician.asp](http://www.jugglingjohn.com/childrens_magician.asp)

### **Imagine a place where...**

Kids discover their unique inner Magic through learning magic tricks.

Campers are surrounded by people both young and old who recognize and embrace that uniqueness.

A shy little girl learns to express herself through the actions of a puppet. Both the timid and adventuresome discover that they can master things they never dreamt they could do, like making cards appear out of thin air, balancing on stilts and riding a unicycle.

Children get to engage in robust physical activity and games without ever worrying if someone will pick them to be on a team.

Every day is filled with fun, laughter and lots of surprises.

Everyone makes friends and learns to care for each other, because nothing else makes sense.

**...that is Fantastic Magic Camp**, where, after nearly a quarter century, we continue to work Magic with kids!

<http://magiccamp.com/>

#### Deuteronomy 18:10-11

10 There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch,

11 Or a charmer, or **a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.**

#### Familiar Spirits(Hebrew)'ôb(obe)

**ghost, spirit of a dead one, practice of necromancy, necromancer, one who evokes the dead**

From the same as H1 (apparently through the idea of *prattling* a father's name); properly a *mumble*, that is, a water *skin* (from its hollow sound); hence **a necromancer (ventriloquist**, as from a jar): - bottle, familiar spirit.

#### Ventriloquism-

**Ventriloquism**, or **ventriloquy**, is an act of stagecraft in which a person (a **ventriloquist**) changes his or her voice so that it appears that the voice is coming from elsewhere, usually a puppeteered "dummy". The act of ventriloquism is **ventriloquizing**, and the ability to do so is commonly called in English the ability to "throw" one's voice.

Originally, ventriloquism was a religious practice. The name comes from the Latin for *to speak from the stomach*, i.e. *venter* (belly) and *loqui* (speak). The Greeks called this gastromancy (Greek : εγγαστριμυθία). The noises produced by the stomach were thought to be the voices of the unliving, who took up residence in the stomach of the ventriloquist. The ventriloquist would then interpret the sounds, as they were thought to be able to speak to the dead, as well as foretell the future. One of the earliest recorded group of prophets to utilise this technique was the Pythia , the priestess at the temple of Apollo in Delphi , who acted as the conduit for the Delphic Oracle.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ventriloquism>

**Who was the first ventriloquist and what lie did he through his “puppet” declare to Eve?**

Genesis 3:1-6

1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?  
 2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:  
 3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.  
 4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:  
 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.  
 6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

**If when a person dies they go back to dust then what are these spirit manifestations that I see?**

2 Corinthians 11:13 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

2 Corinthians 11:15 Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Revelation 16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs *come* out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

Revelation 16:14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, *which* go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

**What is the definition of Spiritualism?**

1. The belief or doctrine that the spirits of the dead, surviving after the mortal life, can and do communicate with the living, especially through a person (a medium) particularly susceptible to their influence.
2. The doctrines and practices associated with this belief

**Has Spiritualism taking another form and had it invaded the church? Has it taking a "christian" form?**

“The doctrine of natural, as distinguished from Christian, immortality ... crept into the Church, by a BACK DOOR. ... **When arguments are offered for the purely natural immortality of the soul, they are rarely, if ever, derived from Scripture. ... The natural immortality of the soul is a doctrine wholly unknown to the Holy Scriptures**, and standing on no higher plane than that of ... **PHILOSOPHICAL OPINION** ... of philosophical speculations **DISGUISED as truths of Divine Revelation.**”

— William E. Gladstone, four-time Prime Minister of Great Britain and a theologian in his own

**right, wrote in Studies Subsidiary to the Works of Bishop Butler, pp. 195-198.**

The doctrine of natural immortality, first borrowed from the pagan philosophy, and in the darkness of the great apostasy incorporated into the Christian faith, has supplanted the truth, so plainly taught in Scripture, that "the dead know not anything." Multitudes have come to believe that it is spirits of the dead who are the "ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation." {GC 551.1}

#### Matthew 24:23-24

23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

It is true that spiritualism is now changing its form and, veiling some of its more objectionable features, is assuming a Christian guise. But its utterances from the platform and the press have been before the public for many years, and in these its real character stands revealed. These teachings cannot be denied or hidden. {GC 557.2}

Even in its present form, so far from being more worthy of toleration than formerly, it is really a more dangerous, because a more subtle, deception. While it formerly denounced Christ and the Bible, it now professes to accept both. But the Bible is interpreted in a manner that is pleasing to the unrenewed heart, while its solemn and vital truths are made of no effect. Love is dwelt upon as the chief attribute of God, but it is degraded to a weak sentimentalism, making little distinction between good and evil. God's justice, His denunciations of sin, the requirements of His holy law, are all kept out of sight. The people are taught to regard the Decalogue as a dead letter. Pleasing, bewitching fables captivate the senses and lead men to reject the Bible as the foundation of their faith. Christ is as verily denied as before; but Satan has so blinded the eyes of the people that the deception is not discerned. {GC 558.1}

#### Ever heard of Spiritual Formation?

**Spiritual formation** is an intentional Christian practice much like that of [Eastern Mysticism](#), which claims as its goal the development of religious maturity that leads to Christian devoutness which has its roots in the ancient practices found in those of [Catholic religious orders](#), [Ascetics](#) and [others](#). One engages in spiritual formation through:

- Ancient Christian religious activities ([prayer](#), the study of [scripture](#), [fasting](#), simplicity, [solitude](#), [confession](#), [worship](#), etc.)
- Spiritual Theology that includes historical and contemporary practices
- Christian Spirituality

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spiritual\\_formation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spiritual_formation)

Spiritual Formation is claimed to provide wonderful new ways for our people to draw close to God and seek higher spirituality; it has, as its foundation, the ancient mystical and pantheistic teachings of Hinduism and Buddhism.

**Mysticism** is popularly known as becoming one with God or the Absolute, but may refer to any kind of [ecstasy](#) or [altered state of consciousness](#) which is given a religious or spiritual meaning. [\[web 1\]](#) It may

also refer to the attainment of insight in ultimate or hidden truths, and to human transformation supported by various practices and experiences.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mysticism>

**Spiritualism** is used in English to mean either;

•1) (*Religion*) – the belief that people can and do communicate with dead people and the practices and doctrines of people with this belief.

*Main article: [Spiritualism](#)*

•2) (*Philosophy*) – In a [philosophical doctrine](#) or religious beliefs emphasising that [spirits](#) and [souls](#) exist or that all reality is spiritual, not material.

•3) (*Metaphysics*) – various doctrines maintaining that the ultimate reality is spirit or mind.[11]

*Main article: [Metaphysics](#)*

•4) (*Ethics*) – the view that spiritual concerns are more important than this-worldly concerns (a kind of [idealism](#) or [asceticism](#) that is opposed to [secularism](#)).

*Main article: [Ethics](#)*

•5) (*Epistemology*) – another term for [mysticism](#).

*Main article: [mysticism](#)*

•6) (*Art*) – "Abstract Spiritualism", a term coined by Gerard Tempest, friend of the renowned surrealist [Giorgio de Chirico](#) in the 1950s to describe his "landscapes of the mind's eye." A recurring theme begun in 1953 and continuing throughout the 1990s.[12]

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spiritualism\\_\(beliefs\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spiritualism_(beliefs))

Spiritual Formation involves Contemplative & Centering Prayer

**This “contemplative/mystical” prayer, refers to a method of prayer that leads to a level of consciousness where thoughts have ceased and the individual enters a state of mind called the “Silence,” where many believe they experience the presence of God. Attaining this “Contemplative” state, is facilitated by what is called “Centering Prayer;” one of various methods or techniques of focusing or “centering” the mind, leading eventually to an altered state. Once mastered, this centering method submerges the disciple to a level of consciousness that is on par with the trance of hypnosis. It is where they experience “utter repose,” and are blessed with a new understanding of themselves and their relationship to the rest of the universe. This altered state of mind is called by many names; the Silence, the Quiet Place, and the Stillness, are a few used by Spiritual Formation enthusiasts. It is here, in this “Mystical Silence,” where all mental activity ceases; a place in the mind where there are no images or awareness of the flow of thoughts, that one has the most profound and life-changing experiences; including a sense of God’s presence, as they have never experienced before. It is here, where the devotee comes to understand his unity and “oneness,” with all created things and all other people and becomes acutely aware of their new mission in life, having much greater insight into how God leads them in everything they do. It is also in this “Mystical Silence,” that some hear what they believe is Jesus, as He speaks with them personally.**

<http://www.lighthouse Trailsresearch.com/contemplativespirituality.htm>

**Laurie Cabot, a witch, wrote:** “The science of Witchcraft is based on our ability to enter an altered state of consciousness we call ‘alpha,’ where the brain waves register seven to fourteen cycles per second. . . .this is a state of consciousness associated with relaxation, meditation, and dreaming. . . .In **alpha** the MIND OPENS UP TO NONORDINARY FORMS OF COMMUNICATION, such as TELEPATHY, CLAIRVOYANCE, AND PRECOGNITION.

Here we may also experience **out-of-body** sensations and psychokinesis, or **RECEIVE MYSTICAL, VISIONARY INFORMATION** that does NOT come through the five senses. In **alpha** the rational filters that process ordinary reality are weakened or removed, and the **mind is receptive to nonordinary realities.**”

[Laurie Cabot with Tom Cowan, *Power of the Witch: The Earth, the Moon, and the Magical Path to Enlightenment* (NY, NY: Delacorte Press, 1989), p. 173].

“The effects of spiritual formation practices on the mind are remarkably similar to that of hypnotism or attendance at a spiritualist seance.”

Vance Ferrell, *The Dangers of Spiritual Formation*

“From time to time God has raised up a parachurch movement to reemphasize a neglected purpose of the church: . . . [This is] the Discipleship, Spiritual Formation Movement. A reemphasis on developing believers to full maturity has been the focus . . . of authors such as . . . Richard Foster and Dallas Willard, who have underscored the importance of building up Christians and establishing personal spiritual disciplines. . . . [This] movement has a valid message for the church. . . . [It] has given the body a wake-up call.”—Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Church*, p. 126.

Ruth Haley Barton, former Associate Director of Spiritual Formation at Willow Creek Community Church, wrote this:

“A few years ago, I began to recognize an inner chaos in my soul. . . . No matter how much I prayed, read the Bible, and listened to good teaching, I could not calm the internal roar created by questions with no answers. “I sought out a spiritual director, someone well versed in the ways of the soul. . . . Eventually this wise woman said to me . . . ‘What you need is stillness and silence so that the sediment can settle and the water can become clear.’ . . . I decided to accept this invitation to move beyond my addiction to words.”—Ruth H. Barton, “Beyond Words: Experience God’s Presence in Silence and Solitude.”

Richard Foster (a Catholic priest and prominent leader in the Catholic/Protestant spiritual formation movement who, wrote this:

“By now enough water has gone under the Christian Spiritual Formation bridge that we can give some assessment of where we have come and what yet needs to be done. When I first began writing in the

field in the late 70s and early 80s the term "Spiritual Formation" was hardly known, except for highly specialized references in relation to the Catholic orders. Today it is a rare person who has not heard the term. Seminary courses in Spiritual Formation proliferate like baby rabbits. Huge numbers are seeking to become certified as Spiritual Directors to answer the cry of multiplied thousands for spiritual direction. And more." Spiritual Formation, A Pastoral Letter By Richard Foster

#### Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

-The LTSS Faculty, "Spirituality and Spiritual Formation"

A major emphasis at Southern Seminary is intentional spiritual formation. The seminary is dedicated to providing members of its campus community the resources and guidance needed to grow into a prayerful life capable of sustaining an active ministry.

#### Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Master of Arts in Spiritual Formation Degree Program

Help others become better disciples by shepherding and encouraging them in the discernment of the Spirit. Through the Master of Arts in Spiritual Formation, you will be equipped to provide spiritual formation for individuals or groups through counseling, spiritual direction, teaching, church programs and worship. You'll discover deep history and traditions that inform Christian spirituality, and will deepen your understanding of the Word of God.

#### George Fox Evangelical Seminary

Masters, Spiritual Formation

#### Moody Bible Institute

Masters, Spiritual Formation

#### Fuller Theological Seminary

DMIN: SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

The Doctor of Ministry cohort in Spiritual Direction will offer a variety of different learning environments and structures that will allow the students to engage spiritual direction conceptually and practically. Each year will feature different co-teachers and will meet for a weeklong period in a retreat setting. The curriculum will focus on blending advanced helping skills with classical and evangelical approaches to spiritual direction.

## OVERVIEW

- 1.Spiritual direction training that blends theory and praxis.
- 2.Incorporating spiritual direction clinical skills (applied counseling and people helping)
- 3.Concentrating on classical models of spiritual direction with particular emphasis on Ignatian theory and practice, and on evangelical contributions to Christian spiritual formation with particular emphasis on the thought of Dallas Willard.
- 4.Providing the highest possible Christology while valuing ecumenical dialogue
- 5.Developing a substantial Christian Theology of spirituality and spiritual formation.

Note: In simplest terms, the Spiritual Director follows the “Holy Spirit” in promoting spiritual formation.

### Willow Creek Association

“The practice [of spiritual formation at] Saturday morning meetings provides a rhythm of worship, teaching on a particular spiritual discipline and time to experience or “practice” that discipline. This practice time allows participants to get a fuller understanding of how to incorporate the discipline into their daily lives.”—Spiritual Formation at Willow Creek.

### Churches apart of the Willow Creek Association

Presbyterian Churches  
Seventh-day Adventist Churches  
Non-Demonational Churches  
Baptist Churches  
United Methodist  
And More

[ww.willowcreek.com/membership](http://ww.willowcreek.com/membership)

### **“Jesus Calling”**

**This book by Sarah Young is extremely popular and has made inroads to Adventism.**

**Sarah Young describes the method in which she receives messages from this presence that she calls “Jesus.” These methods are identical to the way spirits are channeled by spirit mediums. Young also draws from other authors who are mystical in nature and uses the language of spiritual formation.**

Still Waters Retreat

### Delcy Kuhlman

Mrs. Kuhlman's 25 years of mothering her own and other people's children contributed insights concerning unmet needs for pastoral services to help people surmount everyday stresses. Accordingly she earned a Master of Divinity degree at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and continued for five units of clinical pastoral education.

With this preparation and the endorsement of the Adventist chaplaincy ministries office, she assumed the responsibilities of staff chaplain for the Memorial Hospital of South Bend, Indiana.

Mrs. Kuhlman... resigned from that position because she and her husband [felt] called to establish a spiritual retreat facility. It will be located on 70 acres near the seminary at Andrews University in order to allow easy access to ministers, students, and others wishing to enrich their spiritual development.”

Come and spend some time in quiet retreat – a chance to be away from your usual surroundings and its many distractions while having food and shelter all taken care of for you. Or you may prefer more focus through spiritual direction. If a long-term group setting is what you prefer to explore spiritual disciplines, consider joining a formation group.

### Spiritual Companionship

What is Spiritual Companionship?

“Spiritual Companionship”, otherwise known as spiritual direction, guidance or mentoring, is a prayerful listening process between two or more people and God for the Holy Spirit’s direction in the life of an individual. The director facilitates this process by helping the one seeking direction (directee) become more attune to the presence and movements of God in the person’s life. This is done by companionship the person in his spiritual journey. The focus is not so much about solutions, as it is to discern how God may be present within both the struggle and joys of life.

<http://www.stillwaters.org/formation/direction/>

It has been revealed that Oakwood University & Andrews University teaches spiritual formation!

### Professor at Andrews Seminary

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### Current Research or Professional Activities:

Dr. Dybdahl is an adjunct professor for the Doctor of Ministry program. He teaches the Spiritual and Theological Foundations for Ministry module, a major component of all DMin projects.

The following Lighthouse Trails research reveals that Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan is promoting contemplative spirituality (i.e., spiritual formation) through a new concentration in their Doctor of Ministry degree program. An October 2009 Andrews newsletter, put out by Kenley D. Hall (Andrews DMin Project Coach) explains that “Discipleship & Spiritual Formation” and “Youth and Young Adult Ministry” will begin in February 2010 (see brochure).

According to the syllabus of one of the courses in the Andrews spiritual formation program, contemplative mystic proponents will be used to teach students this coming February. In CHMN 705 Theological and Historical Perspectives on Spiritual Growth, professor Jon Dybdahl is using a number

of contemplative authors to “Demonstrate a continuing maturity in Christian formation, personal growth and ministry.” This maturity in Christian formation is typical language by contemplatives, who teach that true maturity can only come through spending time in contemplative silence. Richard Foster has been a pioneer in laying out this “maturity” doctrine. So it is not surprising that Dybdahl is turning to Foster for guidance.

### Spiritual Formation is nothing new in the Adventist Church

John Jenson, pastor of the 150-member South Bay Adventist Church in Torrance, California, says, “There’s a need for spiritual formation with the [Adventist] Church because we have been so doctrinally oriented that people might be able to quote some or all of the 27 fundamental beliefs [of the church], and may have neglected having daily devotions that day or week or month.” He explains that there’s an overload of knowledge and information, but how to translate that into meaningful instruction and “marching orders” for daily living is key.

Jenson says that without spiritual formation, a person would be “spiritually uncivilized.” It “is the process by which they can go from being a spiritual infant to spiritual maturity ... developing the potential that God’s put within you.”

The Adventist world church created the International Board of Ministerial and Theological Education (IBMTE) in September 2001, designed to provide overall guidance and standards to the professional training of pastors, evangelists, theologians, teachers, chaplains and other denominational employees involved in ministerial and religious formation, or spiritual formation, in each of the church’s 13 regions around the world.

“The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and **that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization.** Were this reformation to take place, what would result? The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed.”

“The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. **A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced.** The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement. **The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power,** which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.” {1 Selected Messages Pg. 204}

“**Today there are coming into educational institutions and into the churches everywhere spiritualistic teachings that undermine faith in God and in His word.** The theory that God is an essence pervading all nature is received by many who profess to believe the Scriptures; but, however beautifully clothed, this theory is a most dangerous deception. It misrepresents God and is a dishonor to His greatness and majesty. And it surely tends not only to mislead, but to debase men. Darkness is its element, sensuality its sphere. The result of accepting it is separation from God. And to fallen human nature this means ruin.” {MH 428.2}

Our condition through sin is unnatural, and the power that restores us must be supernatural, else it has no value. There is but one power that can break the hold of evil from the hearts of men, and that is the power of God in Jesus Christ. Only through the blood of the Crucified One is there cleansing from sin. His grace alone can enable us to resist and subdue the tendencies of our fallen nature. **The spiritualistic theories concerning God make His grace of no effect. If God is an essence pervading all nature, then He dwells in all men; and in order to attain holiness, man has only to develop the power within him.** {MH 428.3}

These theories, followed to their logical conclusion, sweep away the whole Christian economy. They do away with the necessity for the atonement and make man his own savior. These theories regarding God make His word of no effect, and those who accept them are in great danger of being led finally to look upon the whole Bible as a fiction. **They may regard virtue as better than vice; but, having shut out God from His rightful position of sovereignty, they place their dependence upon human power,** which, without God, is worthless. {MH 428.4}

Satan beguiles men now as he beguiled Eve in Eden by flattery, by kindling a desire to obtain forbidden knowledge, by exciting ambition for self-exaltation. It was cherishing these evils that caused his fall, and through them he aims to compass the ruin of men. "Ye shall be as gods," he declares, "knowing good and evil." Genesis 3:5. Spiritualism teaches "that man is the creature of progression; that it is his destiny from his birth to progress, even to eternity, toward the Godhead." And again: "Each mind will judge itself and not another." "The judgment will be right, because it is the judgment of self. . . The throne is within you." Said a spiritualistic teacher, as the "spiritual consciousness" awoke within him: "My fellow men, all were unfallen demigods." And another declares: "Any just and perfect being is Christ." {GC 554.1}

Thus, in place of the righteousness and perfection of the infinite God, the true object of adoration; in place of the perfect righteousness of His law, the true standard of human attainment, Satan has substituted the sinful, erring nature of man himself as the only object of adoration, the only rule of judgment, or standard of character. This is progress, not upward, but downward. {GC 554.2}

"I saw the rapidity with which this delusion [spiritualism] was spreading. A train of cars was shown me, going with the speed of lightning. The angel bade me look carefully. I fixed my eyes upon the train. It seemed that the whole world was on board. . . Then he showed me the conductor, who appeared like a fair, stately person, whom all the passengers looked up to and revered. I was perplexed and asked my attending angel who it was. He said, 'It is Satan. He is the conductor, in the form of an angel of light. He has taken the world captive. . . And they are all going with lightning speed to perdition.'"—Early Writings, 88.

Biblical Meditation involves conscious thought about Scripture, as we prayerful read it and apply its principles to our life. Biblical meditation is having our minds actively engaged in contemplating God's Word.

The peace experienced in Christian meditation is not found by looking "within" or imagining that we are becoming gods. Rather, peace comes by humbly, obediently looking to the Creator God of the Bible. When we thoughtfully consider God's truth in our minds, the Holy Spirit works to change our hearts and leads us into fuller knowledge and obedience. "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to

all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”—Joshua 1:8.

**What system is Satan using to keep people in a deceived state of mind & to have control over their minds?**

**What will happen if I play with or get involved in Spiritualism?**

Galatians 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

Galatians 5:20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

Galatians 5:21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Live séance recorded in Scripture![1 Samuel 28:3-20] Saul was lost as a result of his disobedience and consulting a witch to conjur up “Samuel” from the dead, but it was a demonic spirit impersonating Samuel.

**How am I to test everything?**

Isaiah 8:19 And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?

Isaiah 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, *it is* because *there is* no light in them.

“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Isaiah 8:20. The people of God are directed to the Scriptures as their safeguard against the influence of false teachers and the delusive power of spirits of darkness. Satan employs every possible device to prevent men from obtaining a knowledge of the Bible; for its plain utterances reveal his deceptions. At every revival of God's work the prince of evil is aroused to more intense activity; he is now putting forth his utmost efforts for a final struggle against Christ and His followers. The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested.” {Great Controversy Pg. 593.1}