



PERSONAL SPIRITUAL LIFE

**COURSE
6**

**COURSE MANUAL
No. 6**

(From p. 8 in Manual #6)

Course 6

PERSONAL SPIRITUAL LIFE

Syllabus

Course Description:

This course is designed to teach pastors and church leaders the basic concepts and principles of the spiritual life so that they can personally grow to spiritual maturity and live a life that is pleasing to God.

Course Goals:

- (1) To instruct pastors and church leaders in the basic principles and truths related to the spiritual life.
- (2) To lead pastors and church leaders to understand their position in Jesus Christ and the essential resources God has provided through the Word and the Holy Spirit.
- (3) To train pastors and church leaders to successfully participate in the process of growth to spiritual maturity by practical application and obedience.
- (4) To suggest to pastors and church leaders what the believer should know and do in regard to the basic areas of the spiritual life.

The pastor or church leader should be personally growing in relationship to Christ and in relationships with others.

(From pp. 12–13 in Manual #6)

Course Outline

Personal Spiritual Life

- I. Principles of Spiritual Life** (pp. 15–26)
- A. Introduction p. 15
 - B. Definition and nature of spiritual life p. 15
 - C. False concepts of spiritual life p. 17
 - D. Relationship to salvation p. 18
 - E. Results of salvation p. 20
 - F. Role of the Holy Spirit in the spiritual life p. 22
 - G. Main passages on the spiritual life p. 24
 - H. Real goal of the spiritual life p. 26
 - I. Key concepts of the spiritual life p. 26
- II. Practice of Spiritual Life** (pp. 27–112)
- A. Introduction p. 27
 - B. Responsibility of God p. 27
 - C. Requirements for believers p. 28
 - 1. know the truth
 - 2. accept the truth by faith
 - 3. yield to the Lordship of Jesus Christ
 - 4. act on the truth of the Bible in the power of the Holy Spirit
 - D. Realizing the spiritual life in practice (pp. 29–112)
 - What the believer should know and do in regard to:
 - 1. God the Father p. 29
 - 2. the Holy Spirit p. 31
 - 3. Jesus Christ p. 33
 - 4. the Word of God p. 36
 - 5. fellowship p. 38
 - 6. obedience p. 41
 - 7. faith p. 42
 - 8. witnessing p. 44
 - 9. prayer p. 46

10. self-esteem	p. 52
11. being a disciple	p. 54
12. renewing our minds	p. 58
13. the world and the former way of life	p. 60
14. sin	p. 62
15. temptation	p. 65
16. Satan	p. 68
17. spiritual warfare	p. 71
18. self-sufficiency	p. 72
19. God's sovereignty	p. 74
20. an eternal perspective on life	p. 75
21. suffering, afflictions, trouble and persecutions	p. 77
22. worry and anxiety	p. 79
23. contentment	p. 81
24. using time wisely	p. 82
25. making decisions about debatable matters	p. 83
26. discovering God's will	p. 86
27. law and legalism	p. 88
28. unbelievers	p. 89
29. other Christians	p. 91
30. speech	p. 94
31. authority and submission	p. 96
32. work (employment)	p. 100
33. rewards	p. 101
34. money, stewardship and giving	p. 103
35. worship and praise	p. 106
36. keeping the Lord's Day (Sunday)	p. 108
37. the future and Christ's Second Coming	p. 110

(From pp. 29–30 in Manual #6)

D. **Realizing the Spiritual Life in Practice**

In each of the following areas or relationships two aspects will be covered—

What we should know

What we should do

The believer's spiritual life:

In Regard to God the Father

a. What every believer should know:

- that God desires us to give ourselves totally to Him.
Ro. 12:1
2 Co. 8:5
- that God has given us a new spirit which is bent toward God and away from sin and which desires to please Him.
Eze. 36:26-27
- that God desires us to live a life of obedience to His Word.
Jn. 14:15
Ac. 13:22
- that God's thoughts and ways are different and higher than man's.
Isa. 55:8-9
Lev. 18:1-5
- that God is at work in us to accomplish His will and His practical work of sanctification.
Php. 2:12-13
1 Th. 5:23-24
- that God desires us to glorify Him with our lives, pursue His goals and accomplish His purposes.
Mt. 5:14-16
Ac. 13:36
- that God as our Father loves, protects, provides and cares for us as His children.
Ps. 145:13-20
1 Jn. 3:1
1 Pe. 5:7
Mt. 6:25-26
- that God brings His discipline (corrective training) into our lives so we can share in His holiness.
Heb. 12:5-11

- that God will ultimately glorify us and conform us to the image of Christ.

Ro. 8:29-30

Php. 3:20-21

- that God is sovereignly in control and causes everything in the believer's life to be used for good (His glory and our benefit).

Ro. 8:28

Gen. 50:20

Mt. 7:9-11

God's provision for our spiritual lives is abundant and complete.

b. What the believer should do:
[in regard to God the Father]

- submit humbly to God and recognize His sovereignty.

1 Pe. 5:5-6

- commit to obey God's Word and seek His will as a way of life.

Ps. 40:6-8

- keep God's kingdom and His righteousness the first priority of life in practical ways.

Mt. 6:33

- make himself available to be used by God.

Ac. 22:10

- strive daily to know God more fully and understand His will and ways more perfectly.

Jer. 9:23-24

Eph. 1:17

Col. 1:9

The believer must recognize God as God in reality.

Assignment: In what ways is God like an earthly father? How is He different?

(From p. 11 in Manual #6)

Suggestions For Teaching Course 6

PERSONAL SPIRITUAL LIFE

Pages: 112 **Hours required:** 40 **Class sessions:** 25

Pace and schedule: about 5 1/2 pages per 2 hour class session, adjusted for natural divisions in the material. As class progresses the teacher may feel the need to add 15-30 minutes to each class session.

Hints and approach

- Course 6 may be the most important portion of the **BTCP/BTCL** curriculum. In existing programs it has been the portion which impacted the students the most. In all likelihood, most of the students have never been taught these principles in an orderly fashion. Keep in mind the “newness” of the material to many.
- There are probably more scripture references in this portion than in any other manual. The teacher will have to decide which references to use in class because it will not be possible to interact with all of them.
- The teacher may want to provide some opportunities for students to relate their own spiritual experience after salvation to create a frame of reference or background against which to teach.
- The practical section beginning on p. 27 will generate lively discussion and perhaps some points of disagreements. The teacher should be prepared for challenging questions.
- The use of penetrating questions is a very good way to introduce most of these practical areas.
- Practical application and personal daily Christian living must be the focus.