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ME 780 Spiritual Warfare in Mission and Ministry

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SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN MISSION AND MINISTRY

- I. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the place of spiritual warfare in mission and ministry. During the course topics such as the warfare perspective in scripture; the role of spiritual warfare in Christian history; warfare, worldview, and world religions; spiritual warfare in contemporary world mission; and the practice of ground level and strategic level spiritual warfare will be discussed. A wide variety of teaching methods (lectures, group discussion, videos, guest speakers, etc) will be used during class sessions.
- II. **OBJECTIVES:** By the end of this course students will have:
- A. Developed substantial biblical and theological foundations for the practice of spiritual warfare.
 - B. Reflected critically on theological issues related to the subject of spiritual warfare.
 - C. Been equipped with strategies and tools for engaging in the practice of spiritual warfare.
 - D. Been exposed to a reasonable range of literature related to spiritual warfare.
 - E. Recognized the importance of spiritual warfare in their personal lives and ministries, and in the life and mission of the church.
 - F. Grown in their love for God and their awareness of Christ's victory over evil through their study of spiritual warfare.

III. TEXTS:

Clifford Arnold, *Three Crucial Questions about Spiritual Warfare*

Gregory Boyd, *God at War*

Charles Kraft, *I Give You Authority*

George Otis, *Informed Intercession*

Neil Anderson, *The Steps to Freedom in Christ*

Marvin Wolford, *Free Indeed from Sorcery Bondage*

IV. REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Regular class attendance (at least 90%).
- B. A 4-Mat Reflection on four of the required texts due on assigned dates. To do the 4-Mat reflections (named for Bernice McCarthy's 4-Mat system) lay out your pages so that every pair of facing pages has these headings:

Left: Abstract Summary

Right: Concrete Stories/Memories
Evoked by the Item

Reflection Expressed as
Questions

Action: What I Must Do
Because of This

Here are some explanations/guidelines adapted from Dr. Donald Joy to help you get a better grasp of the four elements in the 4-Mat system.

(a) **ABSTRACT**: Simply summarize the content of the book in your own words. Include as many of the key concepts and ideas as you can. Strive to be both comprehensive and intensive. The abstract should be one singlespaced page if you are typing. If you are handwriting, your abstract should be 1 & 1/2 to 2 pages in length.

Remember that meaning making requires first that you transform the reading materials into your OWN words. Effective "note taking" is more than capturing another person's words; it requires transforming a communication into your own language and symbols. Use explicit and visible QUOTE marks to identify the author's words. All other written material not clearly cited should be your own constructions and abstracted summaries of what you read.

(b) **CONCRETE**: Describe one or two personal experiences which reading the book reminded you of. Be as specific and concrete as you can, including who, what, when, where details.

If you can connect what you are reading and hearing with what you have previously lived or observed, you will be profoundly changed by the semester. If you cannot connect the semester with past and present personal realities, you will never be able to teach or use what you are learning with any conviction and effectiveness.

(c) **REFLECTION**: What questions did reading this book raise in your mind? Simply list three or four of them. Make sure they relate directly to the MATERIAL CONTENT of the book NOT to the experience(s) you have just described in b.

(d) **ACTION**: All ministry related learning MUST lead to acts of ministry--whether through transformation of your inner person or your acquiring of useful knowledge or skills. Here describe what you simply must DO if you keep faith with what you have now discovered as a result if reading this book. Include BOTH PRESENT actions you must take and actions related to your FUTURE practice of ministry.

C. Participation in a group which will research a particular aspect of spiritual mapping in relation to the city of Wilmore.

D. A Final Project consisting of ONE of the following:

1. A 15-20 page (double-spaced typed) research paper directly related to the subject of spiritual warfare (include at least 20 sources in your bibliography).
2. Two 8-10 page book reviews (choose books from the bibliography or books that Dr. Seamands has approved). In the first half of your review (4-5 pages doublespaced typed) summarize the content and the flow of the book. In the second half of your review (4-5 pages) critically evaluate the book in terms of its strengths and weaknesses.
3. Three 5-7 page (double-spaced typed) manuscript sermons directly related to the subject of spiritual warfare. Make sure that these are “biblical sermons” (i.e. sermons which expound the chosen text) and not merely “Christian sermons” (i.e. sermons which are Christian in content but are only indirectly related to the chosen text).
4. A series of 6-8 Studies or Lessons or Training Sessions directly related to the subject of spiritual warfare. Make sure you write out in full at least three of the lessons. The others should be thoroughly outlined. You should also indicate the age level your study is aimed at.

E. Attend Workshop on Prayer and Spiritual Warfare led by Tom White (March 9, 7-10 pm. and March 10, 9 am – 4:30 pm in McKenna Chapel.

Course grade will be based on evaluation of 4-Mats (20%), group project (20%), and final project (60%).

V. COURSE OUTLINE

A. Spiritual Warfare in Scripture

What Old Testament concepts and motifs are relevant to the subject of spiritual warfare? What important developments emerge during the intertestamental period? How does Jesus’ understanding of the Kingdom of God relate to spiritual warfare? How does the New Testament understand the role of Satan and demons? What is accomplished through the work of Christ in “destroying the works of the devil” (1 Jn 3:8)? What is the role of spiritual warfare in the advancement of the church as presented in the book of Acts? How do the Pauline epistles, the General Epistles and the book of Revelation present spiritual warfare motifs? What critical theological issues are bound up with the subject of spiritual warfare as presented in scripture.

B. Spiritual Warfare in Christian History

How was spiritual warfare understood and practiced in the first five centuries? What was the role of exorcism in the ancient church? Did ancient church missionaries and leaders engage in strategic level spiritual warfare? What was the role of power encounter in Christianizing the Roman Empire? What relevant spiritual warfare themes emerge in the medieval period? The reformation period? The modern period?

C. Warfare, Worldview and World Religions

How does the biblical worldview contrast with the modern Western Worldview? Why have Westerners excluded the middle spiritual realm? How does a Christian worldview differ from animism on the one hand, and Enlightenment rationalism on the other? How should Christians view non-Christian religions in relation to spiritual warfare? What is the role of the divine in non-Christian religions (through general revelation)? What is the role of the demonic in non-Christian religions?

D. Spiritual Warfare in Contemporary World Mission

What factors account for the rise of interest in spiritual warfare in recent years particularly as it relates to world mission? What are the key events and figures in the history of the modern spiritual warfare movement? What spiritual warfare practices are those on the front lines of Christian mission engaged in?

E. Ground Level Spiritual Warfare

What is the role of the demonic in the lives of believers? Can a Christian be demonized? How does one practice deliverance ministry today? What is the role of the demonic in relation to places and objects? What is the role of worship, intercessory prayer and fasting in relation to ground level spiritual warfare?

E. Strategic Level Spiritual Warfare

Are there such things as “territorial spirits”? If so, how do Christians engage them? What differences of opinion exist within the spiritual warfare movement on how to engage territorial spirits? What is the role of worship, intercessory prayer, identificational repentance, and fasting in relation to strategic level spiritual warfare?

