

Taking this class has been a profound experience to me. Honestly, I did not expect to learn much or enjoy it so much. The first project we did was the mask project, and that was the first aspect of this class that made me appreciate it more than the other college courses I've taken in the past. This class has not only made me think about myself but about my connection to God. Reading Guyon has made me sit down for the first time in my life and try to connect with God. The book has given me guidance on how to try to get closer to God. I never really had a clear path set before me, when I was younger I had no idea what my life was going to be like, so seeing small seeds like acceptance into this school and subsequently taking this course has started to show me how God would like to use me.

Starting with the emotional portion of my spiritual growth plan, I would like to finally win the fight I have against lust and desire. I have a girlfriend that I have been with for 5 years, after this semester, and we are happy and even talking about marriage. The problem I struggle with is with temptation and lust for other women, at times. I have never cheated on her but I fear that one day I may go astray unless I can resolve my issues. I would like to pray for my feelings to subside before I ask her to be my wife. I would also like to work on my own self-confidence just so that I can be the best role model for my future children, when the time comes. I understand that much of this takes time but I believe that with continuous prayer I will be able to overcome the demons holding me back.

Socially, I would like to learn to more effectively communicate with others, be less awkward, and be more outgoing. Once again, this is just so I can be a better person for my future children. To do this, I plan on speaking to all kinds of individuals, something I would normally never do. By putting myself into conversations with others, I will learn and hone the skills needed to become more confident to talk to strangers, all while becoming more outgoing.

Intellectually, as stated in class, I am on my way to nursing school and it is something I am excited about but am also concerned about. I am not sure if I will continue with Nyack or if I will be blessed enough to get into the accelerated program at my alma mater. It will be

incredibly intensive but I will be in the field and working a lot sooner than with any other program. If I continue with Nyack this process will take me another 3 to 4 years but if I get into the accelerated program this plan will only be needed for the next 15 months. I pray every day that I can get into the program. For someone who feels as if they are already behind it would be a fantastic opportunity for me to finally feel like I'm caught up with my peers. I plan on studying and continue trying to excel in any way I can so I can finally reach the goals I have set for myself. Once I'm done with nursing school I plan on going back to become a nurse practitioner or a nursing professor so I can give back to the field in some way.

The spiritual portion of my growth is going to be the most important to me. I would like to continue to mediate and try to focus on the lord so that I can have a better relationship with God. I would like to read the bible from front to back so I can learn more about Jesus as well. If going to Nyack is the path that the lord wants me to follow, I shall go down it with no complaint. If the lord allows me to go to the school I would prefer to return to, I will have to take my spiritual growth into my own hands by studying on my own. I have already started telling myself that I will put all my problems into God's hands and try to communicate with him more. I have no idea what the future has in store for me in regards to my spiritual growth. Many years back while I was driving, I had a strong force that told me one I will become a pastor or a messenger for God. Once I was accepted to Nyack, I began to question, "maybe it is my destiny to become a pastor." I may become a pastor one day but for now building a personal relationship with God is definitely a step in the right direction.

To help me in my path, most of the way I will have to hold myself accountable. Other than people who will support me are my girlfriend, mother, and sister. I know they will periodically push me to make sure that I'm on track. Through every step I will look towards God for direction and fully trust in what he has planned for me, even if it is not what I want at the time, I will trust that it is in my best interest because he can see further than me.