

COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Robert Reimer, Professor of Pastoral Theology

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### Create a Rule of Life

God has elevated my life, taking authority over my life and reshaping me into his image that I can no longer boast in whatever I accomplish. I have been so transformed by Christ that I must give him credit for everything. Currently, God has given me strength and has removed the Spirit of fear in me. I am no longer afraid of anything because of my encounter with him. I realized the transformation when I had a face-to-face encounter with him, and he told me, 'I will help you,' three times. This gave me the assurance that God assessed my life. For almost three months I have been constantly asking Jesus to show me HIS FACE. On June 24, 2022, when I was in a trance, HE showed me HIS BEAUTIFUL FACE, and ever since then, my life has never been the same. I observed that my desire to continually be in God's presence and my eagerness to praise and thank Him had grown significantly. I constantly recite "Jesus, I thank you for everything" at least 150 times each day, whenever I awake and see the beauty of the day. Through spiritual direction and guidance, I was able to see His truth and perfection, which brought about my restoration and recovery.

Learning to constantly abide in Christ has been my source of connection to God. Ever since I choose to preach this sermon in the class, I have been using this verse (John 15 :5) in my everyday life, I have being in contact with God, always commitment with him and daily Communication with Him through my prayers, Stillness and solitude because my God is a spirit I must worship Him In spirit and mind, I always declare God's presence and His promises in my life. I read the Bible, Whenever and wherever I can. In the office, Anywhere and at any time, I

listen to Christian songs. I always love to listen to K LOVE radio station at my office). My means of grace are prayer, worship, studying the Bible, partaking in Holy Communion, serving others, getting spiritual guidance. These things allow me to be open to the Holy Spirit's reshaping work in me. Every day, I enhance my spiritual life and introduce new spiritual practices.

I have reached a point in my life where I'm finally content with who I am. I have reached a place where I can develop and experience a spiritual connection to God. Through my prayers, I have become aware of how God is attempting to shape Christ in my present circumstances. He has given me the ability to see and comprehend his influence and function in my future. He has pushed me toward the gospel and formed me to fit in for the works of the kingdom. God is currently deepening my understanding of Christ and making me more steadfast in my love and obedience to him. My soul care practice has helped me to strengthen my relationship with God. God is using a soul care book to teach me how to hear him. The books I have read and the class discussions I have gained have taught me how to be still for hours in the presence of God and how to make it more about Jesus and less about me.

God is currently working on molding me by bringing me closer to him and letting me sense his presence. Through the Holy Spirit, God is right now equipping me to live a Christ-centered life. As I continue to spiritually confess my sin and assert the fullness of the Spirit, I am currently experiencing a closer relationship with God, which will result in growth in Christ. Recently, my God has changed my heart and mind to the point that it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. Every selfish trait in me has died because of His grace, and I have started to make it more about Jesus and less about me. He has made me into a new person. God has helped me resist my inclination toward pride.

I need to remove the spirit of disobedience from my life, serve the Lord my GOD with all my mind, and obey what Jesus commands me to do in order to grow in my confidence in GOD. Based on my spirituality experiences, my naturalistic instinct characterizes me. I enjoy working out because it allows me to worship and give thanks to the almighty God for the

wonderful things he has created, especially now that the weather in New York has improved. I never use my phone while working out; instead, I use that time to communicate with God. My spiritual growth, especially in terms of growing closer to God, has been benefited by spending 45 minutes in the presence of the LORD twice a day (45 minutes in the morning and 30 minutes in the evening). It has helped me to stay upbeat and have faith in God. It has considerably strengthened my faith, and sustains a spiritual connection with God, which I was able to do through adoration, which is a key aspect of faith. I realized that without prayer, I am nothing, and that God's assistance is always necessary for me to reach the heights of glory. I ask for God's assistance in executing his plan for my life through prayer. My daily courage-building strategy of prayer works really well. Additionally, prayer helps me to forgive others and myself for past wrongdoings. I am at peace at last because of prayer, and I am able to let go of my previous mistakes and harmful tendencies to go on in health and happiness. I embrace a fasting lifestyle to improve my life. I always include fasting as part of seeking the face of God. But I always fast from 7 pm to 12 noon for 21day. Fasting enables me to hear God louder. Fasting allowed me to better digest God's word. When I do not eat, I give my spirit the opportunity to absorb God's Word in new ways. When I take anything out of my life, I have to figure out how to replace it. When I take food out, I replace it with Bible study and meditation.

I am cooperating with what God is trying to do to form Christ in me by showing love and accepting the path that God wants me to go through. I have changed my attitude toward those around me, and now I live a life filled with care and love. I will incorporate his message into my daily life and share my knowledge and love with those around me. Starting from my family to my church and the people I meet every day. By the grace of God, I hope that the holy spirit will help me share his grace and love.

My own lack of self-awareness is one of my biggest barriers to knowing God. As a result, I present a false front to God, myself , and other people. In the Christian community, particularly

in my own ministry, many Christian pastors today do not practice what they preach. I learned from the class discussions that the most important thing is to spend quality time with God. At times our false self has become such a part of who we are that we do not even realize it. The consequences of fear, self-protection, possessiveness, manipulation, self-destructive tendencies, self-promotion, self-indulgence, and a need to distinguish ourselves from others are harder to hide. My spiritual relationship with God and self-awareness will always be connected. Actually, the struggle I have between embracing my "new true" self and letting go of my "old fake" self touches at the very heart of real spirituality. I cannot claim to love God without first comprehending who I am. The core causes of all problems in my spiritual life, which I shall now change, are a lack of self-awareness and development.

Without the aid of the Holy Spirit, I am unable to obediently perform what God desires. I believe that the Holy Spirit helps me to follow Jesus' instructions to worship the Lord with all of my heart, mind, and strength, which I believe helps to strengthen my confidence in the Lord. I will incorporate it more by spending quiet time, with his help. During my quiet time, I shall seek the Lord's face rather than his hand. I will make an effort to spend enough time with him, to cherish his presence, and to ask him for guidance. I will need to schedule time to reflect, pray, and think about his words. I desire to sense God's presence. I need his intimacy in my life because intimacy is more valuable than knowledge. It demonstrates that God is close to me since I have faith in him. I get to know God more and more deeply as I put more of my trust in him. A loss of trust, such as a transgression or disappointment, is frequently the cause of feeling disconnected from God. "Praying without ceasing" This means that I should adopt a prayerful mindset and put God foremost in my heart at all times. I want to put God first in whatever I do, especially when anything wonderful occurs for me. I will thank God right away. I need to build connections with others. I think it is crucial for me to grow my relationships with people in order to grow in my connection with God. I love this verse that says, As iron sharpens iron, so one

person sharpens another. (Proverbs 27:17) We need each other. Learning and growing together with like minded Christians will help me to grow closer to God. To develop the skills of Listening to God's voice and practicing obedience to his word because obedience is better than sacrifice. A relationship is a two-way street, So, while talking to God is important, listening to him is just as necessary. The truth is, God is always speaking but sometimes I fail to hear him. I can get distracted by so many things including social media, our family, and even work. I want to develop the skills of not letting any distractions get in the way of my hearing God's voice. To develop closer ties of friendship with God I want to understand God better. A relationship with God on a personal level is no different than any other relationship you may have. Between me and him, I want to grow in friendship, love, and trust. Knowing him and being known by him are synonymous. Going to church or even reading my Bibles are not enough for me. It is about stillness and solitude. I was created for a relationship with God. In fact, it's my primary purpose in life.

In conclusion, my vision for the future, my knowledge, the wisdom I have gained in soul care practices all contribute to this goal. I will always make it more about Jesus and less about me because when Jesus appears, his kingdom comes, but when humans appear, nothing happens. I am driven to put out my best effort and participate more fully in Obedience. These are the three things that I do every day to help me become full and which I will translate to my family and my ministry. I will continue to seek the face of GOD, I will continue to have faith and obedience in him and always being in tune with oneself, stillness and solitude.

