

## Session 1: Introduction

“Discover Spiritual Renewal from Jesus Within” A Hybrid Online Course with Nat Saginario

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Rather than starting with a focus on external spiritual disciplines, this course begins by looking at the life of Christ within. Jesus forms a heart for disciplines and perseverance to walk in them. One is inspired to worship, to pray, to fast, etc., not because of a commitment on a calendar but by the overflow from Christ within.

This course is based on the words of Paul in Romans 8:29. The goal for every disciple is, “To become conformed to the image of His Son.” This course will equip you to rise, “To the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:13) It will become apparent as the course develops that Paul’s words were meant to be the goal of every Christian disciple. **JESUS’ INNER WORK** takes us from death to life, from the old man to the new man, from being controlled by sin to being directed by the Spirit of God.

### OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to develop the student’s ability to...

- experience the difference between being yoked together with Christ (external discipline) to being formed into the image of Christ (internal discipline)
- learn the full scope of disciplines that are part of the discipleship program for Christians
- understand what it means to “...come...unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”
- recognize how a life formed into the image of Christ can lead to a successful life: spiritually and otherwise (“Life more abundant”)

### INSTRUCTOR: Nat Saginario

“Teaching and mentoring has been the joy of my life.” Nat’s statement has totally represented the life and ministry of a man whose first priority is being in relationship with Jesus, second priority family, and third priority reaching out to people around the world challenging them to grow in Christ. This he has endeavored to do as pastor, assistant pastor, Bible college instructor, and cross-border missionary spanning 85+ countries. Nat presently resides near Cleveland, Ohio, and has been associated with various colleges, mission organizations, and churches. His academic preparation includes Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees, both in Education.

### COURSE FORMAT

This directed study format enables you to receive college level instruction while studying at home (*Note, AIM Institute does not offer accredited college credits.*)

Course elements include:

- Weekly video assignments
- Required textbook reading assignments: emphasis on John 15 (Vine and branches), 3 chapters a week
- Contact time with the instructor and classmates offered through a weekly Zoom debrief classroom
- Study questions for your personal benefit as well as for the preparation of the weekly debrief

*Course grade will be pass/fail.* Zoom attendance, interaction and course project are required to pass. Bear in mind your weekly preparation will have a direct correlation to that which will be gained from the course.

### COURSE SCHEDULE

- The first of twelve debriefs will begin on January 18, at 7PM EST (not daylight savings)
- You will receive a Zoom invite by email for each debrief  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89015764701?pwd=dmg5Y2NOT3FjOTBvdERhZFYxVUppUT09>
- Meeting ID: 890 1576 4701

- Passcode: 536014
- Preparation can be done at any time before the debrief
- To maximize the use of your time, we will not cover information from the videos in the debrief unless there are questions/comments
- Completion of the course requires a project

### REQUIREMENTS

- This is an intensive course; students should plan to participate in all class sessions.
- Complete all course reading and writing assignments, watch videos.
- Complete course project.

### LECTURE VIDEOS

- Videos will be available each week (will be sent to you)
- Use the weekly assigned study questions (will be sent to you)

### TEXTS

- Holy Bible (Translation of your choice)
- "ABIDE IN CHRIST," by Andrew Murray (available on Amazon)
  - Publisher: Whitaker House (December 1, 2002)
  - Paperback: 256 pages
  - ISBN-10: 0883688603

### PARTICIPATION

- Essential: Our weekly Zoom meeting is a discussion based debrief, not a lecture.
  - emphatically encouraging participation (1 hour)
- Please be prepared to turn on your camera and test your internet connection in advance.
- Videos: probably better to watch one each week, not to forget or mix up what will be discussed
- Questions to be discussed, not turned in
- Project: Compose a survey with 15 questions concerning Spiritual Formation as well as 15 responses
  - ask 15 people (church, pastor, family, friends) total findings for each question
  - prepare questions based on material from the course
  - the questions should only require short answers that can be tabulated for your final report
  - list the responses to every question with percentages or commonality
  - turn in any time but at least by end of course
  - purpose is to discover the beliefs, attitudes, programs, etc., of those around you
  - example: "Does your church have a discipleship training course, and if so, for how many weeks, and how well attended?"
- No notes will be available by instructor
- Email address: [natsaginario@AIMteam.org](mailto:natsaginario@AIMteam.org) (project/any questions)