

# DSRE 541 FOUNDATIONS OF BIBLICAL SPIRITUALITY Spring 2020

Lake Union (Universidad de Andrews)

# Allan Machado

This course explores the meaning of biblical Christianity and its relationship to faith and practice, giving special attention to spiritual growth through prayer, fasting, study of the Bible, journaling, stewardship, meditation, and personal retreats. The lectures form a paradigm of spiritual growth and maturity that would affect both the individual and the church. The course aims to develop a functional biblical definition of spiritual foundations fostering a greater desire for knowing and serving God.

# **CLASS & CONTACT INFORMATION**

Class location: Andrews University seminary S215 Class meeting dates: March 15-19 Class meeting times: Sunday 6-9 p.m., Monday-Thursday 8-12m, 1-6 p.m. Course Website: LearningHub, Andrews.edu Instructor Tel.: 786-208-1964 Instructor Email: allan.machado@floridaconference.com Office hours:

# **COURSE PREREQUISITES**

### **Prerequisites:**

### 1. Reading report—30 points

Students need to invest a minimum of 45 hours reading for this class. 20 hours reading should be from several of the required books (find list in pages 2 & 3). A four-page report should be submitted **of at least 4 books** with the following information: (a) the name of the student, (b) the author and title(s) of the book(s) read, and (c) the number of hours read. An example of the format of the book report is attached at the end of the syllabus.

This report is due on March 15, 2020—The first day of class. There is a 5-point deduction for submitting this report late.

### **During the intensive:**

*Class attendance*. Students will need to spend 45 fifty-minute periods during the intensive with the professor. Participants who miss four class periods without a written consent from the seminary Dean (Dr. Jiri Moskala), will have to repeat the course.

*Spiritual Retreat.* The best way to discover the areas where we can improve is by developing spiritual disciplines. Every student will participate in a Spiritual Retreat. Details about the retreat will be discussed during class.

#### **Post-Intensive Requirements**

1. *Final project* – **70** points. Write a paper with a minimum of 25 pages, double spaced, comprised of 5 chapters. The paper should be submitted on **June 15, 2020**. Late submission of this assignment is penalized with a 10-point deduction.

The project has the purpose of developing spiritual disciplines: fasting, prayer, study of the Bible, journaling, stewardship, meditation and spiritual retreats.

The paper should follow the following format:

- **Chapter 1** (3-5 pages). Choose a spiritual discipline and describe the importance of growing in this specific area and how developing this discipline will impact your spiritual live and your ministry.
- **Chapter 2** (6-8 pages). Develop theological foundations regarding the chosen discipline. What does the Bible say about this spiritual discipline?
- **Chapter 3** (6-8 pages). Literature review. What does contemporary literature say about this subject? Use books recommended in the bibliography. Reference at least 10 books. EGW counts as only one reference.
- **Chapter 4** (6-8 pages). Develop a spiritual plan to grow in this specific area. Put the spiritual discipline into practice. Describe the plan in details and write a journal.
- **Chapter 5** (3-5 pages). Write the conclusion. How did the research helped you understand the subject? How beneficial was the project in your spiritual growth? Share a testimony of how the project impacted your spiritual life.

The project will be graded based on the Project Rubric at the end of this document and should have the following parts: **1**) *title page*; **2**) *table of contents; and 3*) *appropriate content subheadings*. The final project paper must be submitted electronically in a MSWord document following the *Andrews University Standards for Written Work*. Available at the following site: <u>http://www.andrews.edu/grad/documents/andrews-university-standards-for-written-work-as-of-october-2011.pdf</u>

This final assignment is due on June 15, 2020, before midnight.

### **COURSE MATERIALS**

### **Required Reading:**

- Bailey, Boyd. *Learning to Lead Like Jesus*. Harvest House Publishers, 2018.
- Bunyan, J. *El Progreso del Peregrino*. New Kensington: Whitaker House, PA 2013. (Clásico de la Literatura, siglo XVII. Lectura requerida)
- Dick, Dan R. & Miller, B. (2011). Equipped for Every Good Work, Building a Gifts- Based

*Church*. Wipf & Stock Pub.

- Machado, A. (2017). Creados para Adorar. Pacific Press Publishing Association.
- Rainer, Thom S. Autopsy of a Deceased Church. 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive. B&H Publishing Group, 2014.
- Swenson, Richard A. M.D. (1992). *Margin: Restoring Emotional, Physical, Financial, and Time Reserves to Overloaded Lives.* Colorado Springs: NavPress.
- White, Ellen G. (1995). *Pastoral Ministry*. Maryland: General Conference—Ministerial Association. (También en español).

### **Recommended Reading:**

- Heath, Chip & Heath, Dan. *The Power of Moments. Why Certain Experiences Have Extraordinary Impact.* Simon & Schuster, 2017.
- McNeal, Reggie. (2000). A Work of Heart: Understanding How God Shapes Spiritual Leaders. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- Cole, N. (1999). *Cultivating a Life for God: Multiplying Disciples Through Life Transformation Groups*. ChurchSmart/ CMA Resourses. (También en español en formato electrónico, 2012)
- Habermas, Ronald T. (2008). *Introduction to Christian Education and Formation*. Zondervan: Grand Rapids, Michigan.

### **REVISION STATEMENT**

The instructor reserves the right to revise the syllabus for the benefit of the learning process with appropriate notification to the students.

### **COURSE OVERVIEW**

Course topics and assignments have been selected to contribute to learning and evaluating these Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) as follows:

### **Program Learning Outcomes (PO):**

- 1. Upon completion of this course, students will understand the biblical foundations and practices of devotional theology.
- 2. Understand the psychological, and sociological foundations for growth in the Christian life.

- 3. Know the Seventh-day Adventist contributions to spiritual growth and spiritual disciplines in a more holistic approach.
- 4. Understand that the depth of their relationship with God will be expressed in their relationships with others.

# **Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) The student:**

- 1. The student will be able to identify their present devotional needs—based on their temperament and interests, the nature of learning, and areas of their lives where growth is needed.
- 2. Skillfully practice basic Christian spiritual disciplines.
- 3. Participate effectively in spiritual retreats and small groups for spiritual growth
- 4. Renew and commit to a personal devotional and spiritual life with Jesus, develop a consistent plan of growth through spiritual disciplines resulting in a deeper relationship with God.

# **TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

Month	Day	Class Topic	Assignments Due Dates
	15	<ul> <li>Syllabus review</li> <li>Course introduction <ul> <li>In search of real transformation.</li> <li>Is it really possible to be different?</li> </ul> </li> <li>What spirituality is NOT <ul> <li>Ten truths about spiritual transformation</li> <li>Jesus grew holistically (He. 5: 7-10)</li> <li>Paul spiritual journey</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Turn in required reading reports. Mail one MSW document by electronic file before 6 pm to: <u>machadoallan@aol.com</u> and post in the LearningHub an electronic MSW document.
March	16	<ul> <li>General definition in relation to spiritual growth topics.</li> <li>Sin</li> <li>Repentance</li> <li>Confession</li> <li>Forgiveness</li> <li>Worship and communion</li> <li>Soteriology more as a relationship than Knowledge</li> <li>The difference between the biblical concept gnosis versus ginosko</li> <li>Maturity versus perfectionism</li> <li>The influence of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer.</li> </ul>	Devotional Group discussion

		1
	<ul> <li>True worship and spiritual growth</li> <li>In spirit and in truth</li> <li>Created to worship, created to grow spiritually</li> <li>Worship, its true meaning</li> <li>Worship as a lifestyle</li> <li>Worship acceptable to God</li> </ul>	
	Spiritual disciplines	Devotional
17	<ul> <li>Fasting <ul> <li>Biblical fasting "The fast that God chooses" (Is. 58)</li> <li>Purpose of fasting</li> <li>Benefits of periodical fasting</li> <li>Fasting could be more than ceasing eating</li> </ul> </li> <li>Prayer <ul> <li>Jesus and prayer</li> <li>Seven elements of efficient prayer</li> <li>How to spend an hour in prayer</li> <li>Why house shall be called a house of prayer." Church prayer ministry</li> </ul> </li> <li>The study of the Bible <ul> <li>The Word of God. Solid foundation</li> <li>EGW and the preeminence of the Word</li> <li>Relationship with God and the study of the Bible</li> <li>A church founded on the Word (Sola Scriptura)</li> <li>Daily Bible reading plan</li> </ul> </li> <li>Journaling <ul> <li>How to make a daily journal</li> <li>Write with your heart</li> <li>Find time to write</li> <li>Daily reflections on the Word</li> <li>Practical tools to make a daily journal</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Group discussion

		1
	<ul> <li>God honors our faithfulness</li> <li>When we give we are transformed as others benefit</li> <li>Give without expecting anything</li> <li>Being faithful must be the priority of your life</li> <li>The joy of giving</li> <li>Teaching by example</li> <li>Meditation</li> <li>To meditate in Jesus should be our first daily priority</li> <li>The merit of silence</li> <li>Learning to listen to God</li> <li>Reflection at days end</li> <li>Personal Retreats</li> <li>Take charge renewals (vacations)</li> <li>Take time for spiritual retreats (at least once a month</li> <li>Remember the Sabbath day</li> <li>Find time during the day to grow in a specific spiritual discipline</li> <li>Find time during the day to disconnect in healthy and physical activities</li> </ul>	
18	<ul> <li>Spiritual inventory (Questionnaire) <ul> <li>Personal core values</li> <li>Spiritual maturity and true transformation</li> <li>The Holy Spirit's ten answers</li> <li>The super seven</li> <li>Designing a "Rule of Life"</li> <li>Self-assessment of spiritual maturity</li> </ul> </li> <li>Spiritual retreat <ul> <li>What is a spiritual retreat</li> <li>Retreat objectives</li> <li>God's presence in my past, present and future</li> <li>The prayer-walk and the promises of God</li> <li>Meditate on the Word</li> <li>A joyful heart</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Spiritual Retreat Group Discussion

		Reflections	
	19	<ul> <li>Practical skills for spiritual leaders</li> <li>Listening skill</li> <li>Open-ended question skill</li> <li>Affirming skill</li> <li>Confrontation skill</li> <li>Naming skill</li> <li>Unpacking emotion skill</li> <li>Empathy versus sympathy skill</li> </ul>	Devotional Group participation
June	15		Post intensive project due today (June 15). Mail one MSW document by electronic file before 6 pm to: machadoallan@aol.com and post in the LearningHub an electronic MSW document.
July	15		Late assignments receive no more than a <b>B</b> + by 6 pm this day ( <b>July 15</b> ).
August	16		Late assignments receive no more than a C+ by 6 pm this day (August 16).
Sept.	06		172 days from the first day of class, Student who have not completed all intensive requirements by September 06, 2020 will receive a D and will need to repeat the class.

# ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is required at all classes and other academic appointments. When the total number of absences exceeds 10% of the total course appointments, the teacher may assign a failing grade. Merely being absent from campus does not exempt the student from this policy. Absences recorded because of late registration, suspension, and early/late vacation leaves are not excused. The class work missed may be made up only if the teacher allows. Three tardies are equal to one absence.

### TIME EXPECTATIONS FOR THE COURSE

#### **US Credit-Hour Regulations**

For every semester credit, the Andrews University credit hour definition requires that:

- **Courses for professional masters' degrees (e.g. MDiv)** include 15 instructor contact hours and 30 hours of independent learning activities.
- Courses for academic masters' (e.g. MA [Religion]) and all doctoral degrees include 15 instructor contact hours, and 45 hours of independent learning activities.

**The calculation of hours is based on the study skills of the average well-prepared graduate student**. Students weak in these skills: 1) may require more time and should consider taking fewer classes each semester; and 2) can find skill development assistance through the Seminary Study and Research Skills Colloquia, the AU Writing Center, and AU Student Success office.

In order to achieve the outcomes of this course, learning time will be distributed as follows:

		Mas	ssional ters' rams
Instructor Contact	Face to Face Instructional Time	2 Credits	3 Credits 45 hrs
Hours			
Independent Learning Activities	Name of Assignment #1 Pre-Intensive Reading		30 hrs
	Name of Assignment #2 20-page project/paper		60 hrs
Total Hours:	1		135 hrs

*Note*. In order to make grading fair for everyone, grades will be assigned on the basis of the above requirements alone. No individual arrangements will be made for those requesting last minute grade adjustment or extra credit.

#### **Submission of Assignments**

Assignments are to be turned in on Learning Hub before the dates indicated in the Course Overview--Above.

#### Late Submissions

Because student assignments are an essential part of class activities, assignments turned in after the time they are due will be worth a maximum of 50 of possible points%--for this course, see penalties posted on the *Course Overview Table*. Any requests for extra time on an assignment must be made in advance with the professor. Such requests should be a rarity and should be accompanied by a valid reason why the work could not be done by the date due.

### ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Pr. Allan Machado currently serves as the President in the Florida Conference. He has served the church in various places and capacities, including as pastor, Youth Leader Director, Volunteer Lay Ministry Coordinator, Vice President for the Florida Conference Spanish-language Ministries, Assistant to the President for Strategic Planning and Senior Management for Communication and Executive Secretary.

Pr. Machado holds a DMin in Pastoral Ministry from Andrews University and serves as an adjunct professor in the University's Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Pr. Machado is currently working on the thesis for his second doctorate, Phd with an emphasis in Religious Education. He is also the author of "Creados para Adorar," "Transformación: Metamorfosis Espiritual Bíblica," and "Transformation: Biblical Spiritual Metamorphosis."

His desire is to serve Christ Jesus in the advancement of the gospel for the glory of God and has dedicated his life to proclaiming with passion the love of God and His saving grace. His greatest pride and joy is his personal relationship with God, and the love of his wife Elsa and their children Alan, Erich, and Tatiana.

### **OTHER COURSE-RELATED POLICIES**

#### **Academic Integrity**

The Seminary expects its students to exhibit rigorous moral integrity appropriate to ministry leaders representing Jesus Christ. Complete honesty in academic matters is a vital component of such integrity. Any breach of academic integrity in this class is subject to discipline. Consequences may include receipt of a reduced or failing grade, suspension or dismissal from the course, suspension or dismissal from the program, expulsion from the university, or degree cancellation. Disciplinary action may be retroactive if academic dishonesty becomes apparent after the student leaves the course, program or university. A record of academic integrity violations is maintained by the University Student Academic Integrity Council. Repeated and/or flagrant offenses will be referred to an Academic Integrity Panel for recommendations on further penalties.

Academic Dishonesty includes:

- Plagiarism in which one fails to give credit every time use is made of another person's ideas or exact words, whether in a formal paper or in submitted notes or assignments. Credit is to be given by use of:
  - Correctly designed and inserted footnotes each time one makes use of another individual's research and/or ideas; and
  - Quotation marks placed around any exact phrases or sentences (3 or more words) taken from the text or speech of another individual.
- Presenting another's work as one's own (e.g., placement exams, homework assignments);
- Using materials during a quiz or examination other than those explicitly allowed by the teacher or program;
- Stealing, accepting, or studying from stolen quizzes or examination materials;
- Copying from another student during a regular or take-home test or quiz;
- Assisting another in acts of academic dishonesty
- Submitting the same work or major portions thereof, without permission from the instructors, to satisfy the requirements of more than one course.

For additional details see: https://www.andrews.edu/academics/academic\_integrity.html

# Academic Accommodations

If you qualify for accommodation under the American Disabilities Act, please see contact Student Success in Nethery Hall 100 (<u>disabilities@andrews.edu</u> or 269-471-6096) as soon as possible so that accommodations can be arranged.

### **Use of Electronics**

No recording or streaming is permitted in seminary courses.

Courtesy, respect, and professionalism dictate that laptops and cell phones are to be used only for classrelated activities during class time.

### **Communications and Updates**

Email is the official form of communication at Andrews University. Students are responsible for checking their Andrews University e-mail, Moodle, and iVue alerts regularly.

### LearningHub Access

Andrews University Learning Hub hosts this course online. Your Learning Hub username and password are the same as your Andrews username and password. Use the following contact information if you need technical assistance at any time during the course, or to report a problem with Learning Hub.

Username and password assistance	helpdesk@andrews.edu	(269) 471-6016
Technical assistance with Learning Hub	dlit@andrews.edu	(269) 471-3960

Technical assistance with your Andrews account	http://andrews.edu/hdchat/chat.php		
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# **Emergency Protocol**

Andrews University takes the safety of its student seriously. Signs identifying emergency protocol are posted throughout buildings. Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting that specific location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during any evacuation or sheltering emergency.

Please Note: The instructor reserves the right to revise the syllabus, with the consensus of the class, at any time during the semester for the benefit of the learning process. The up-to-date Course Description for this course may be found at <u>www.learninghub.andrews.edu</u>.

### **APPENDIX 1: INTERPRETING LETTER GRADES**

#### Letter Grades and Percentages

95-100%	Α	80-84%	В	65-69%	С
90-94%	<b>A-</b>	75-79%	В-	60-64%	C-
85-89%	<b>B</b> +	70-74%	C+	55-59%	D
				58-Below	F

### THE B GRADE

The B grade is a sign that you have competently fulfilled all of the requirements stipulated for an assessment or competency evaluation. It is a very good grade and demonstrates a high level of the knowledge, insight, critical competence and professional presentation standards essential for an individual wishing to pursue a career as a professional leader in ministry.

### THE A GRADE

An A grade is given only when a student not only fulfills the criteria for a B grade, but in doing so demonstrates an advanced academic aptitude for content knowledge, critique, synthesis and independent insight, while exhibiting highly developed communication skills and professional publication standards that would allow them to pursue a highly competitive academic career.

### THE C GRADE

The C grade differs only from a B grade in that the traits outlined in the B grade above are not consistently applied. However, with diligence and by applying feedback from your lecturer, the academic process can provide opportunity for a student to improve their consistency, and hence, their grade.

### THE D GRADE

The D grade points to a limited level of knowledge, insight, and critique, as well as to inadequate quality of written work. This may be because of a lack of time management on the part of the student, difficulty grasping the concepts being taught, use of English as a second language, or a personal issue that is affecting one's concentration and motivation levels. Again, with diligence, applying feedback from your lecturer, and seeking services offered by the University like the writing lab or the counseling center, the academic process can provide an opportunity for a student to significantly improve their performance.

#### THE F GRADE

A failing grade is given when very limited or no demonstrable competency has been observed or when the final assignment is not submitted within the dates indicated in the Course Overview Table.

# **Rubric for Assessing Project Plans**

# Student \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria	(5) Exceptional	(4) Proficient	(3) Satisfactory	(2) Emerging	(1) Unsatisfactory	Score
Title Page	Includes: 1) institution's name, 2) title, 3) name of the course, 4) course period, 5) name of the student, 6) date submitted, 7) follows AU Standards for Written work (AUSWW). Has no errors	Misses 1 of the 7 components	Misses 2 of the 7 components	Misses 3 components	Misses more than 3 components	
Introduction	The introduction is engaging, states the main topic and purpose of the paper, and previews the structure of the paper	Introduction states the main topic and purpose of the paper and previews its structure	States the main topic and purpose of the paper, but does not adequately preview its structure	The introduction states the main topic but lacks a purpose and a preview of its structure	There is no clear introduction or main topic and the structure of the paper is missing	
Project Description	Project is described in detail. Protocols to be followed are presented. Specific aspects of the organization, implementation, and evaluation are offered. Meets paper length requirements	Project is well described. Some details regarding protocols, organization, implementation, and evaluation of the project are missing. Meets length	Project is satisfactorily described and meets paper length	Project is poorly described and does not meet number of pages.	The report misses entire sections of the project description. Does not meet paper length.	
Organization	Report provides a table of contents, and is organized using different subhead levels, following AUSWW. Subheadings are exceptionally well-worded and reflect upon the main subject. Exceeds all organizational specifications stated in the syllabus	Table of contents and subheading levels follow AUSWW Standards. Subtitles reflects upon the subject, but wording can be improved.	Paper provides a table of contents and is organized using different subheading level. However, does not follow AU standards of written work	Paper provides first level headings, but headings do not clearly reflect upon the subject. No table of contents. Does not follow all specifications stated in the syllabus and AUSWW	Does not provide a table of contents and is not divided under headings and subheadings. Does not follow organizational specifications stated in the syllabus and AUSWW	
Format/Style	All texts and references follow specifications from AUSWW. Syntax and semantics are outstanding. Models language and	Consistently follows AUSWW with minor flaws. Syntax and semantics are very good. No major errors in style	Consistently follows all AUSWW format. Syntax and semantics are good. Few errors in style	Inconsistently follows some AUSWW. Syntax and semantics are poor	Does not follow AUSWW. Syntax and semantics are deficient	

	style. No errors in punctuation, spelling, and sentence formation					
Conclusion	Conclusion is engaging and provides an outstanding overview of the project and personal reflections on projected implementation. Exceeds expectations	Conclusion restates the purpose, gives a good summary, and provides personal opinions about the outcome	Conclusion restates the purpose and satisfactorily summarizes results Lacks personal reflection on projected implementation	Conclusion attempts to summarize the thrust of the project, but is ambiguous. Lacks personal reflection	Conclusion fails to summarize and to express personal reflection on the project	

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# Formato a seguir para el "Book Report"

Student Name: Instructor: Class: DSRE 541 – Foundations of Biblical Spirituality Book Report

# "MARGIN, Restoring Emotional, Physical, Financial, and Time Reserves to Overloaded lives" by Richard A. Swenson

If your life is overloaded with work, family demands, church activities, and of course, stress, "Margin" is one of the best books you can read in order be aware of those indispensable elements necessary to find balance in four key areas, good health, financial accountability, relationships and spiritual stability. It is difficult to define "margin" without practical examples of the daily life so the author in simple words puts it like this: "Margin is having breath at the top of the staircase, money left at the end of the month, and sanity left at the end of adolescence."<sup>1</sup> In other words, margin is the space that once existed between ourselves and our limits. It is something held in reserve for contingencies or unanticipated situations. On the other hand, living a marginless life is basically running on empty not for a short period of time, but always.

How to simplify our lives so that we can enjoy those irrelevant things nobody seems to enjoy anymore like: energy at the end of the work day, time with family, checkbook in black,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Margin" Richard A. Swenson, page 13

emotional stability (calm), sense of security, time to relax. The answer of our generation has been "progress". "Progress has given us unprecedented affluence, education, technology, and entertainment."<sup>2</sup> Yet, something has gone wrong. Our cars are full of extras, our paycheck is bigger than ever, our washing machines, clothes dryers, dishwashers, and vacuum cleaners declare our prosperous culture. There has never been so much progress; nevertheless, at the end of the day we are exhausted, depress, worn-out. Therapists' offices are full, sleep is less, and depressant pills are part of our daily life.

Margin has been stolen away, and progress was the thief. There can be little doubt that the contemporary absence of margin is link to the march of progress. In general sense, those cultures with most progress are the same as those with the least margin. There are natural consequences of how progress sabotages margin. The author mentions a list of 5 of them:

- 1. Progress works by differentiating our environment, thus always give us more and more of everything faster and faster. The American definition of happiness is, after all, "more than I have now" and progress provides "more" in abundance.
- 2. The spontaneous flow of progress is toward increasing stress, change, complexity, speed, intensity, and overload.
- 3. All human have physical, mental, emotional, and financial limits that are relatively fixed.
- 4. The profusion of progress is on a collision course with human limits. Once the threshold of these limits is exceeded, overload displaces margin.
- 5. On the unsaturated side of their limits, human can be open and expansive. On the saturated side of these limits, however, the rules of life totally change.

The author does not see progress as our enemy but for sure we need room to breathe,

freedom to think and time to heal. "Discerning Christians have long known that God is not

impressed with our wealth, education, or power. Nevertheless, we have labored eagerly in those

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ibid, Page 15

fields. What if, instead, we were to measure our progress not by our wealth but by our virtue, not by our education but by our humility, and not by our power but by our meekness?"<sup>3</sup>

We really need to go back to a simpler and balanced lifestyle. The spiritually minded have long sought it as a way of giving importance to what really matters most, the lordship of Christ. This means seeking God's kingdom first, thus giving over our plans, our expectations, our future, our family, our reputation and our possessions to Him. "The simple life sounds attractive when you are in love with the Truth."<sup>4</sup> Then, after you have freed yourself to pursue a different path, you will not desire more from your days on earth than simply to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God (1Tim. 6: 6).

The balanced life today seems inaccessible, too many activities, too many choices, too many decisions, too many commitments, too many expectations, too much change. Overloads, stress, complexity, all are unbalancing pressures. In essence, we need to recognize that everything begins with priorities. In order to find balance we need to have our priorities well defined and we need to find the strength to stay in the plan. Moreover, we need to understand that we are limited by our own finite condition. Although we belong to a culture that preaches that everything is possible, the reality is another. God gave us limitations in order to help us find balance. "We should work hard to please our Master, but we also rest confidently knowing that He understands our condition." <sup>5</sup>

Part of living with margin is rest. We are a tired generation, we are sick of "hurry" we are burning up the engine. We are in need of rest: physical rest, emotional rest, and spiritual rest. God has instructed us that life is more than work. It includes relationships, worship, and of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ibid, page 33

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Ibid, Page 181

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Ibid, Page 192

course, rest. Gordon Macdonald notes: "We do not rest because our work is done; we rest because God commanded it and created us to have a need for it." "When our bodies find rest, we feel refreshed. When our emotions find rest, our countenance is lifted. When we find spiritual rest, we find acceptance of God."<sup>6</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Ibid, Page 200