

MATHETES BIBLE COLLEGE (GHANA/USA)

PROGRAM: BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY (BTh.)

MASTER OF THEOLOGY (MTh.)

(1 YEAR INTENSIVE)

COURSE: SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT (MBC6)

LECTURER

BISHOP NII NAI MENSAH

(CHURCH BUILDERS CONSULT)

MATHETES BIBLE COLLEGE (GHANA/USA)

(FULLY ACCREDITED by WWAC, USA)

INTRODUCTION

The Mathetes Bible College **BACHELOR IN THEOLOGY** degree is a **ONE-YEAR INTENSIVE** program directed to meet the leadership needs of the church today. It is not necessarily academic but basically practical theology stuff well-tailored to fix the leadership gaps in the church, community and the nation. The goals of the Bachelors program is exactly what the world is yearning for in the mental, physical and spiritual spectrum.

THE ESSENCE OF MATHETES DEGREE PROGRAMS

In a chaotic and disjointed world where the devil seems to be in control, we need men and women of God who have been trained, equipped and ready to become world changers under the unction and power of the Holy Spirit infilling. And this is what the Bachelors and the Masters Degree programs exactly offer. Both the Bachelors and the Masters programs have online and classroom medium of tuition and course materials available. Seekers are at liberty to opt for what suites them.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A prospective student must be already a Christian, and if not, one can still apply because we believe the Holy Spirit can touch such and him/her a Christian or child of God.
- Seekers must be 18 years and above.
- No basic academic qualifications required but seekers must be able to read and write and fluent in the English language.

COURSE SUMMARY:

MBC6: SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT AND IMPARTATION

The course curriculum introduces students to the details and requirements of personal spiritual development of the leader and to be aware some levels of spiritual warfare some particular leaders encounter. Students would also engage the seven levels of the impartation and other important works of the Holy Spirit which a leader might need in the course of delivery of his ministry and call.

BACHELOR IN THEOLOGY Program: One-year intensive:

COURSE LIST:

- MBC1 PERSONAL MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT
- MBC2 PREACHING (HOMILETICS) AND PASTORAL THEOLOGY
- MBC3 SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY
- MBC4 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
- MBC5 MISSIOLOGY (SCHOOL OF MISSIONS)
- MBC6 SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT AND IMPARTATION
- MBC7 BIBLICAL THEOLOGY
- MBC8 COMPARATIVE AND ETHICS THEOLOGY
- MBC9 HISTORICAL THEOLOGY
- 50 PAGE DISSERTATION PAPER

MASTER IN THEOLOGY Programs: One-year intensive:

COURSE LIST

- MBC10 BASIC THEOLOGY
- MBC11 ETHICS AND LOYALTY THEOLOGY
- MBC12 STRATEGIC LEADERSHP DEVELOPMENT
- MBC13 FAITH THEOLOGY (SCHOOL OF FAITH)
- MBC14 REVIVAL THEOLOGY
- MBC15 POWER HEALING AND HEARING FROM GOD
- 200 PAGE DISSERTATION and CLASS PRESENTATIONS

MATHETES BIBLE COLLEGE program schedule (1YEAR INTENSIVE):

Master In Theology: Every Monday 7AM-1PM

Bachelor In Theology: Every Tuesday 7AM-4PM

Bachelor In Theology program: Every Saturday 7AM-4PM

For further information, call or WhatsApp:

The President, Bishop Nii Nai Mensah (+233-276716461)

www.mathetesbiblecollege.org

info@mbc.org

Wicca in the United States

[Dr. James Emery White](#)

The Frightening Truth about Wicca in the United States and elsewhere. Wicca is the name given to the rise of modern day witchcraft.

The news story couldn't have been more direct: "There may now be more Americans who identify as practicing witches... than there are members of mainline Presbyterianism."

Oh my.

Even worse:

"... Wicca has effectively repackaged witchcraft for Millennial consumption. No longer are witchcraft and paganism satanic and demonic... it's a 'pre-Christian tradition' that promotes 'free thought' and 'understanding of earth and nature.'"

Now for the worst of the worst:

"Despite biblical warnings against the practice of witchcraft, the Rev. Valerie Love, who describes herself as a practicing Christian witch and an ordained minister of spiritual consciousness, is insisting that there is nothing wrong with Christians being witches and has recently launched a school to help Christians tap into magic.

"Stop thinking you can tell people how to worship. Stop thinking you can tell people how to connect with the divine. I could tell you how many people have

told me, “You can't be a Christian witch” but here I am. See, you can't tell me how to worship. You cannot tell me how to connect with the divine. That's between me and God. You cannot tell me how to pray,' a defiant Love declared in a recent rant on Facebook.”

I think it's time for some biblical theology.

As [mentioned in a previous blog](#), one of the marks of the world of the occult is any attempt to gain and master paranormal power in order to manipulate or influence other people into certain actions. This would include all forms of witchcraft and the casting of spells.

Yes, this includes Wicca.

When you think of a witch, or classical witchcraft, you think of one who uses black magic, a process of working harm through contact with an evil spirit or, more specifically, Satan. That was a deeply medieval concept of witchcraft. Today, witchcraft is more commonly seen under the title of Wicca. Don't get me wrong—people can and do dabble in the direct attempt at black magic by purposefully invoking the powers of Satan or a demon. But most are into witchcraft another way.

Wicca is among the fastest-growing religions in the country. Almost half a million people practice it in the United States alone. A book titled *Teen Witch: Wicca for a New Generation* sold more copies for its publisher than any other book in its 95-year history. Websites devoted to Wicca have been cited as the most visited religious websites on the internet.

While they do not deny they are practicing witchcraft, Wiccans say that theirs is a harmless magic. Many come to Wicca after reading a history of the faith, its teachings and its rituals called *The Spiral Dance: A Rebirth of the Ancient*

Religion of the Great Goddess; a book that was written under the name Starhawk, who is actually Miriam Simos, a California witch.

In her book, Simos claims that the religion of Wicca began 35,000 years ago and that its early adherents worshiped a female god and lived for thousands of years in societies that were egalitarian, attuned to nature and focused on women. Then invaders swept across the region, introducing warrior gods and a male-dominated society. That was followed (she says) by Christianity, after which religious and secular authorities began (she claims) a 400-year campaign to kill what she calls “the old religion.”

Now none of that is historically accurate.

Even respected mainstream secular journals such as the Atlantic Monthly and others have revealed that not a single element of the Wiccan story is true. Scholars have concluded that Wicca is a 1950s concoction influenced by Masonic ritual and the world of the occult. It was actually created in its present form by Gerald Gardner, an English civil servant and amateur anthropologist who died in 1964.

But the power of the movement remains.

Those who practice it talk about the tie it gives them to the earth’s cycle of birth and growth, and that it brings a sense of the spiritual to their life. Rather than a blatant worship of Satan, though they don’t rule out worshipping anything or anyone, most Wiccans follow a nature-oriented belief system that is polytheistic—believing in many gods and many goddesses, built around the worship of the Great Mother Goddess. In a similar vein to the earlier New Age movement, Wiccans believe that all things in nature – plants, rocks,

planets – have a spirit. If you want a really good popular presentation of this worldview, just watch Avatar.

The philosophy is simple: There is no such thing as sin, only the need to elevate the self—the “god within.” When they cast spells, they claim that none of those spells are harmful or manipulative. They say they practice two kinds of magic: low magic, which tries to improve their everyday life, and high magic, which they use to try to change themselves.

They don’t deny that magic can be misused for wrongdoing – though they don’t exactly define what they mean by “wrong” – just that they don’t do those kinds of spells. There is even a priesthood, which is entered into through various sexual rites that I don’t need to go into here.

Because the term “witch” has historically been so loaded with bad press, they originally chose to use the term “Wicca” or “Wiccans,” that comes from the word “witch,” and means one who works with natural forces in order to shape or bend them. Some refer to themselves as neo-pagan, which simply means new pagans. But now that it’s become more mainstream, more and more people are just calling themselves witches.

So what does the [Bible](#) say about this?

The Bible talks about witchcraft in all of its forms, whether it’s “black magic” or Wicca. Because no matter its form, the dynamics are the same. And the Bible speaks to those dynamics. It speaks to those who engage in sorcery, those who try to use magical formulas, or incantations and those who try and exercise control over the world or themselves through some type of paranormal power.

This is very dangerous because there is no “power” floating around out there. There’s God or Satan, there’s heaven or hell, there’s good or evil. And all forms of witchcraft are strictly forbidden in the Bible as being tied to the occult and the work and world of the evil one.

For example, in the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy, the Bible says: “Let no one be found among you who... practices... sorcery... engages in witchcraft or casts spells... Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord.” ([Deuteronomy 18:10-12](#), NIV)

And in the New Testament, the apostle Paul writes these words in his letter to the Galatians: “The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality... idolatry and witchcraft... I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.” ([Galatians 5:19-21](#), NIV)

Let’s have remorse there are more Wiccans than Presbyterians. Let’s regret that [culture](#) has made witchcraft so mainstream. But let’s repent that there is even a hint that any of this can be considered Christian.

James Emery White

Sources

Brandon Showalter, “Witches Outnumber Presbyterians in the US; Wicca, Paganism Growing ‘Astronomically,’” The Christian Post, October 10, 2018, [read online](#).

Leonardo Blair, “Christian Witch Claims Christ Followers Can Practice Witchcraft, Despite Biblical Warnings,” The Christian Post, October 19, 2018, [read online](#).

“How many Wiccans are there? Estimates for the U.S., Canada, etc.,” Religious Tolerance, [read online](#).

According to hitbox.com, the website is “The Witch’s Voice” found at Witchvox.com

The Spirit-Filled Life

Have You Made the Wonderful Discovery of the Spirit-Filled Life?

by Dr. Bill Bright. – The following is taken from a booklet written called ‘How to be Filled with the Holy Spirit’. It explains how Christians can live their Christian lives with fulfillment and not become defeated by sin.

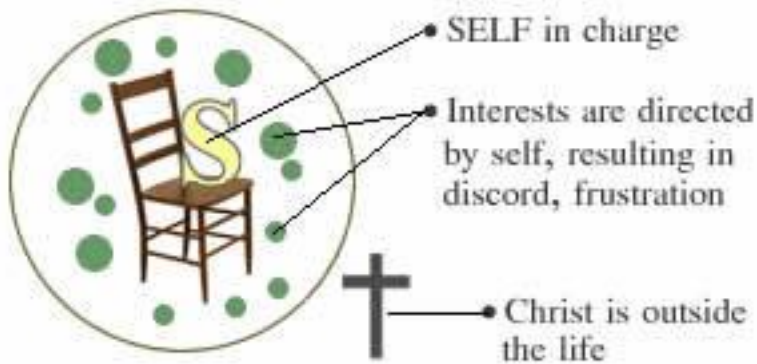
Every day can be an exciting adventure for the Christian who knows the reality of being filled with the Holy Spirit and who lives constantly, moment by moment, under His gracious direction.

The Bible tells us that there are three kinds of people.

1. Natural Man

(one who has not received Christ)

The Self-Centered Life

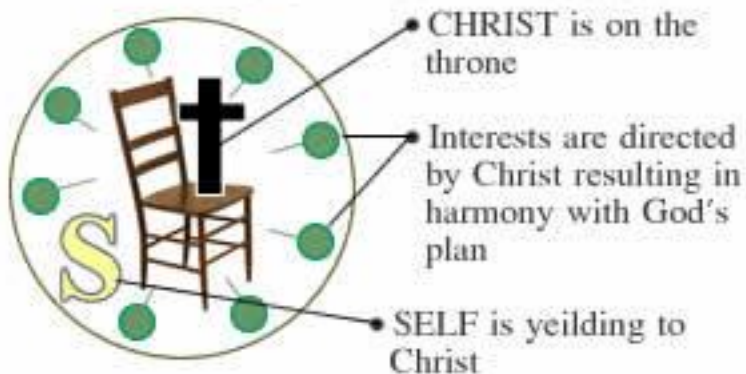


“A natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised” (1 Corinthians 2:14).

2. Spiritual Man

(One who is directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit)

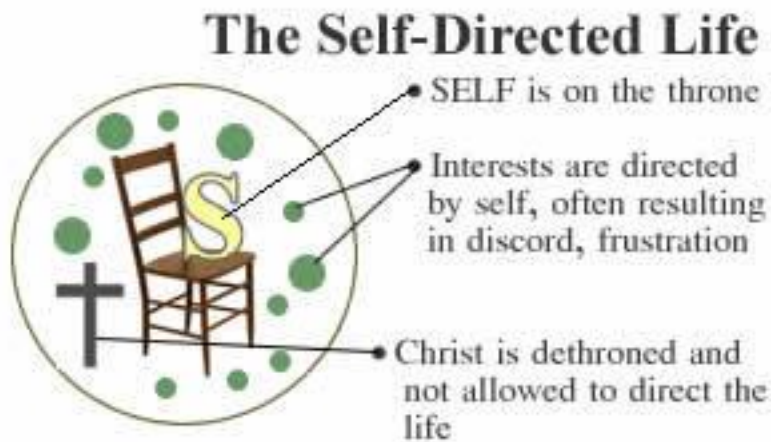
The Christ-Directed Life



“He who is spiritual appraises all things...We have the mind of Christ” (1 Corinthians 2:15)

3. Carnal Man

(One who has received Christ, but who lives in defeat because he is trying to live the Christian life in his own strength)



“And I brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to carnal men, as to babes in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, for you are still carnal. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshy, and are you not walking like mere men?” (1 Corinthians 3:1-3).

God has Provided for Us an Abundant and Fruitful Christian Life

Jesus said, “I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly” (John 10:10).

“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

“But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law” (Galatians 5:22, 23).

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

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The Spiritual Person

Some spiritual traits which result from trusting God:

TRAITS

- Christ centered
- Trusts God
- Obeys God
- Empowered by the Holy Spirit
- Introduces others to Christ
- Effective prayer life



- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Faithfulness
- Goodness
- Understands God's Word

The degree to which these traits are manifested in the life depends upon the extent to which the Christian trusts the Lord with every detail of his life, and upon his maturity in Christ. One who is only beginning to understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit should not be discouraged if he is not as fruitful as more mature Christians who have known and experienced this truth for a longer period.

Why is it that most Christians are not experiencing the abundant life?

Carnal Christians cannot experience the Abundant and Fruitful Christian Life

The carnal man trusts in his own efforts to live the Christian life:

1. He is either uninformed about, or has forgotten, God's love, forgiveness, and power (Romans 5:8-10; Hebrews 10:1-25; 1 John 1; 2:1-3; 2 Peter 1:9; Acts 1:8).

2. He has an up-and-down spiritual experience.


3. He cannot understand himself – he wants to do what is right, but cannot.

4. He fails to draw upon the power of the Holy Spirit to live the Christian life. (1 Corinthians 3:1-3; Romans 7:15-24; 8:7; Galatians 5:16-18)

The Carnal Person

Some or all of the following traits may characterize the Christian who does not fully trust God:

TRAITS

- Ignorance of spiritual heritage
 - Discouragement
 - Disobedience
 - Unbelief
 - Guilt
 - Worry
 - Jealousy
 - Critical spirit
 - No desire for Bible study
 - Loss of love for God and others
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- Legalistic attitude
 - Impure thoughts
 - Poor prayer life
 - Frustration
 - Aimlessness

(The individual who professes to be a Christian but who continues to practice sin should realize that he may not be a Christian at all, according to 1 John 2:3; 3:6, 9; Ephesians 5:5).

The third truth gives us the only solution to this problem...

Jesus Promised the Abundant and Fruitful Life as the result of being filled (directed and empowered) by the Holy Spirit

The Spirit-filled life is the Christ-directed life by which Christ lives His life in and through us in the power of the Holy Spirit (John 15).

1. One becomes a Christian through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, according to John 3:1-8. From the moment of spiritual birth, the

Christian is indwelt by the Holy Spirit at all times (John 1:12; Colossians 2:9, 10; John 14:16, 17). Though all Christians are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, not all Christians are filled (directed and empowered) by the Holy Spirit.

2. The Holy Spirit is the source of the overflowing life (John 7:37-39).

3. The Holy Spirit came to glorify Christ (John 16:1-15). When one is filled with the Holy Spirit, he is a true disciple of Christ.

4. In His last command before His ascension, Christ promised the power of the Holy Spirit to enable us to be witnesses for Him (Acts 1:1-9).

How, then, can one be filled with the Holy Spirit?

We are filled by the Holy Spirit by faith; then we can experience the abundant and fruitful life which Christ promised to each Christian

You can appropriate the filling of the Holy Spirit right now if you:

1. Sincerely desire to be directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 5:6; John 7:37-39).

2. Confess your sins. By faith thank God that He has forgiven all of your sins – past, present and future – because Christ died for you (Colossians 2:13-15; 1 John 1; 2:1-3; Hebrews 10:1-17).

3. Present every area of your life to God (Romans 12:1, 2).

4. By faith claim the fullness of the Holy Spirit, according to:

- **His Command:** Be filled with the Spirit. “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18).

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His Promise: He will always answer when we pray according to His will. “And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked of Him” (1 John 5:14, 15).

Faith can be expressed through prayer...

How to pray in faith to be filled with the Holy Spirit

We are filled with the Holy Spirit by faith alone. However, true prayer is one way of expressing your faith. The following is a suggested prayer:

“Dear Father, I need You. I acknowledge that I have been directing my own life and that, as a result, I have sinned against You. I thank You that You have forgiven my sins through Christ’s death on the cross for me. I now invite Christ to again take His place on the throne of my life. Fill me with the Holy Spirit as You commanded me to be filled, and as You promised in Your Word that You would do if I asked in faith. I now thank You for directing my life and for filling me with the Holy Spirit.”

Does this prayer express the desire of your heart? If so, ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit right now and trust Him to do so.

How to know that you are filled (directed and empowered) with the Holy Spirit

Did you ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit? Do you know that you are now filled with the Holy Spirit? On what authority? (On the trustworthiness of God Himself and His Word: Hebrews 11:6; Romans 14:22, 23.)

Do not depend upon feelings. The promise of God's Word, not our feelings, is our authority. The Christian lives by faith (trust) in the trustworthiness of God Himself and His Word. This train diagram illustrates the relationship between fact (God and His Word), faith (our trust in God and His Word), and feeling (the result of our faith and obedience) (John 14:21).



The train will run with or without the caboose. However, it would be futile to attempt to pull the train by the caboose. In the same way, we, as Christians, do not depend upon feelings or emotions, but we place our faith (trust) in the trustworthiness of God and the promises of His Word.

How to Walk in the Spirit

Faith (trust in God and in His promises) is the only means by which a Christian can live the Spirit-directed life. As you continue to trust Christ moment by moment:

1. Your life will demonstrate more and more of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22, 23) and will be more and more conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18).

2. Your prayer life and study of God's Word will become more meaningful.

3. You will experience His power in witnessing (Acts 1:8).

4. You will be prepared for spiritual conflict against the world (1 John 2:15-17); against the flesh (Galatians 5:16-17); and against Satan (1 Peter 5:7-9; Ephesians 6:10-13).

5. You will experience His power to resist temptation and sin (1 Corinthians 10:13; Philippians 4:13; Ephesians 1:19-23; 2 Timothy 1:7; Romans 6:1-16).

Spiritual Breathing

By faith you can continue to experience God's love and forgiveness.

If you become aware of an area of your life (an attitude or an action) that is displeasing to the Lord, even though you are walking with Him and sincerely desiring to serve Him, simply thank God that He has forgiven your sins – past, present and future – on the basis of Christ’s death on the cross. Claim His love and forgiveness by faith and continue to have fellowship with Him.

If you retake the throne of your life through sin — a definite act of disobedience — breathe spiritually.

Spiritual breathing (exhaling the impure and inhaling the pure) is an exercise in faith that enables you to continue to experience God’s love and forgiveness.

1. **Exhale** — confess your sin — agree with God concerning your sin and thank Him for His forgiveness of it, according to 1 John 1:9 and Hebrews 10:1-25. Confession involves repentance – a change in attitude and action.
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2. **Inhale** — surrender the control of your life to Christ, and appropriate (receive) the fullness of the Holy Spirit by faith. Trust that He now directs and empowers you; according to the command of Ephesians 5:18, and the promise of 1 John 5:14, 15.
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