

The Elder's Spiritual Life

School of the Shepherds 102

OVERVIEW

Welcome to the School of the Shepherds. This nine-lesson course is aimed at studying the essential elements of an elders' spiritual life that will form a foundation for shepherding God's people. The apostle Paul challenged the Ephesian elders to:

"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. (Ac 20:28).

An elder must first guard himself, and then he can be in a position to guard the flock of God.

This course will look at the elder's growth in relationship to the Word of God, the study of it and meditation/memorization of it. Prayer will be studied as well as the elder's personal life and growth.

This course is not intended to be studied alone, but is best done in a group context with other potential elders or interested people, or in a one-on-one situation with a discipler/disciple or mentor/mentee. The material provided is meant to encourage and stimulate discussion.

Taking this course does not guarantee a person will become an elder, but will help in gaining an understanding of what eldership is all about. It will help in the preparation for becoming an elder.

GOALS

At the end of this course, the student will have a good understanding of the importance of developing the elder's (or potential elder's) personal life and will have learned some practical steps to help in his personal growth.

Each lesson includes the following:

- Video lecture: Normally fifteen minutes or shorter. Most lessons have a video.
- Audio link: Just the audio version of the lecture, same content as the video.
- Lecture Outline: To be printed and used for taking notes during the lecture.
- Detailed Outline: Contains the lecture content in condensed written form. Print these and save them in a binder or a folder on your computer. You will need these notes to better remember the message and answer the review questions.
- Review Questions: These will help solidify the teaching in your mind. You must score 90 percent or higher in order to advance to the next lesson. You will have opportunity to repeat these reviews. The answers will come directly from the teaching.
- Discussion Questions: These are for kick-starting your interactions with your mentor or your study group/team. You will have the opportunity to indicate in the course that you have

completed these. It is during these discussions and encounters that the most meaningful learning takes place, the content is internalized, and life transformation happens. If you are doing these lessons by yourself, you can use the discussion questions for personal contemplation.

- Optional Assignments: These are for those who would like to immediately respond to or put into practice what they have learned. They may include links or suggestions for further study.

Before you are allowed to proceed to the next lessons, the Review Questions from each lesson must be answered correctly (at least 90 percent) and the Discussion Questions marked complete.