

Choose one of the essay prompts below. Each Essay is graded on a scale of 10 points and each essay is worth 20% of the final course grade.

FORMAT: Each essay must be 650-1,000 words, 1.5 spacing, with 12-point Arial or Times New Roman font. Please include your full name, date, and which essay prompt you are answering. Word count is required at the bottom of the last page.

PHASE 2: MODULE 1 — EXAM ESSAY PROMPTS

Prompt #1 - Tending to the Inner Life to Rightly Re-Present Jesus

Peace between God and Man is established at the moment of salvation but continues to expand in a Christian's life as inner thoughts, motives, and responses are transformed to become Christlike.

Meditate on the phrase John Thomas received from God and shared in Unit 2: ***“The result of a well-prayed life has an interior reality that does not resist the presence of God.”***

Write an essay sharing the ways you have experienced the peace of God's rulership increase in your soul through developing a life of prayer:

- Share a testimony of a time when you sought to overcome a problem using your intelligence, but then discovered a better solution through yielding to the Holy Spirit's speaking and guidance.
 - What was your initial solution or perspective?
 - In what form did God's revelation come to you?
 - Did you ask a question to God first or did He bring the solution up to you?
 - How did this circumstance play out?
- Describe a time when you uncovered an area of deception (resistance) within yourself, and how you interacted with God to embrace his truth and presence.
 - Was this resistance a habit of thinking, feeling, or responding? Explain it.
 - What happened that made you realize it was ungodly? Did God point it out directly? Did a circumstance bring it out in you?
 - What truth or experience did God bring you to for healing?
 - What attribute of Jesus did you learn God was inviting you into?
- When you pray, are there any special recurring practices, phrases, visualizations, or questions that you like to connect with God through?
 - How have you recognized your soul being sensitized to God's presence through this?

Prompt #2 - Living in the Tension of the “Now and Not Yet” of the Kingdom

“If Jesus has all authority, why is bad stuff still happening in the world?”

Explain what the phrase, “**The Kingdom of God is now and not yet**” means.

- Identify (2) scriptures that support this statement and give commentary on what those scriptures are communicating

Select (1) Old Testament example and (1) New Testament example of a godly believer who walked in faith but still suffered unjustly. For each believer:

- Identify which major suffering or injustice they endured
- How do you think they perceived God at the end of their life?

Share a memory of a time when you stood in faith for a breakthrough that did not come.

- Did you have to work through any temptation of blaming yourself, God, or others?
- Did you struggle with needing to know “why” breakthrough didn’t come? If so, what fruit did this bear in you?
- What helped you overcome discouragement to get your focus back on Jesus and his goodness again? What advice would you give others?

Prompt #3 - Recognizing Servant Authority in the Life of Jesus

Reflect on the way Jesus reveals the authority of servanthood in each of the three spheres of authority and how Kingdom authority can be expanded.

Define the three different spheres of authority in your own words.

Describe what “servant authority” is.

Select (3) accounts from the Gospels that reveal Jesus’ submission to or demonstration of authority. You will need (1) biblical account for each sphere of authority. Cite reference verses to support each answer.

- **Relational Authority**
 - Consider: Is there a bible character who reveals that he trusts Jesus’ intentions for him? How is that trust demonstrated? Does Jesus give away relational authority that allows someone to minister to Him?
- **Positional Authority**
 - Consider: When does Jesus submit to positional authority and to whom is he submitting? Who recognizes a position that Jesus holds and submits to him because of it?
- **Commissioned Authority**
 - Consider: Who commissioned Jesus? Does Jesus commission anyone?

Consider a servant leader who has impacted you spiritually and whose authority and favor you have witnessed God expand over time.

- How have you observed **faithfulness** in this person?
- How have you observed **loyalty** in this person?
- How have you observed **righteousness** in this person?

PHASE 2: MODULE 2 — EXAM ESSAY PROMPTS

Prompt #1 - Becoming a Reformer: Applying Lessons from Church History

Consider the churches you have been involved in throughout your Christian walk:

- Overall, did your church(es) put a heavier emphasis on the Word or the Spirit, and how was this revealed through the community's shared culture?
- Describe a scenario in a Christian setting where you witnessed either the ministry of the Word or the ministry of the Spirit being neglected.
- What counsel would you give to remedy this problem and restore a balance of valuing both the Word and Spirit?

Explain the arguments the Roman Catholic church pointed to for why its spiritual authority was not to be questioned. What were the counter-arguments of the Reformers?

Use the wisdom you have gained from studying church history to share how you believe the modern Church could be reformed and healed for the better:

- What are the current abuses or wounds you have observed in the Church?
 - You can address the Church in the West as a whole **or** address Charismatic Christian culture
- What do these blemishes reveal about our deeply held beliefs and values?
- Select an example or lesson from church history that you think should be revisited and applied to the current problems you identified. Explain what we have lost sight of and need to relearn.

This might be an example of how the early church handled a problem, the downfall or benefit that resulted from a significant movement or wave of revival, or a past lesson gained from a prominent Christian figure's life.

Prompt #2 - Shifting into a Biblical Worldview

Analyze how your biblical worldview was formed:

- Identify one unbiblical paradigm that was previously part of your worldview but you shifted out of. Explain how this shift happened.
- Which community has had the most impact in shaping your Christian worldview, and how did this community impact your beliefs and values?
 - Consider how being involved in this community may have informed your identity or understanding of the world around you.

Select one of the six unbiblical worldviews outlined in Unit 4, and imagine you are discipling a new Christian who is coming out of that worldview.

- Which worldview is your disciple coming from? What are the commonly held beliefs, values, or feelings associated with this worldview?
- Which verses or truths from scripture can you use to unravel some of these wrong beliefs and present a biblical worldview instead?
 - Use at least two scriptural arguments

What are two practices or new experiences that you want your disciple to engage in? What do you hope this will teach them indirectly?

Prompt #3 - Applying the Four Levels of Scriptural Understanding

Explain the Four Levels of Scriptural Understanding from Unit 3 Part 4.

Read through Genesis 1-3: Select passages of scripture that you will offer an interpretation to for each of the Four Levels of Scriptural Understanding:

- Literal - verse(s) and interpretation
- Moral - verse(s) and interpretation
- Allegorical - verse(s) and interpretation
- Mystical - verse(s) and interpretation

Note: You may use different verses for the four different interpretive lenses. Your interpretations can be original or quoted from another bible commentator (cite any references used).

In your study of the Bible, which lens of understanding do you predominantly see through? Which lens do you desire to strengthen in yourself and why?

PHASE 2: MODULE 3 — EXAM ESSAY PROMPTS

Prompt #1 - Understanding and Overcoming Demons

Common Arguments Surrounding Demonization

What does the biblical Greek word ***daimonizomai*** translate to? Explain why it is important to understand the difference between ***demonization*** and ***demon-possession***.

What is one common argument used to support the belief that Christians cannot be demonized?

Select two scriptures that refute this misconception and give commentary on each.

Questions to consider for your commentary:

- *What type of demonic influence is happening. What is the impact on the person?*
- *Is there a lesson about spiritual warfare that can be inferred by this scripture?*
- *How does this scripture dismantle the idea that a believer cannot be demonized?*

Closing Demonic Gateways

Identify the **Four Doors** that commonly open a person up to demonic influence.

Discuss your own experience with one of the Four Doors:

- How did you experience the attack? What were your symptoms?
- Did the enemy attack you through intrusion or invasion? Which sin(s) committed by you or against you, do you believe may have opened this door?
- How did you shut the door?

Prompt #2 - Defining Inner Healing, Overcoming Trauma, and Addressing: Vows, Judgments, and Bitter Roots

The Necessity of Inner Healing

Explain what **inner healing** is and who needs it.

One commonly held misperception among believers is that you just need to trust your new identity and righteousness from God - not pursue inner healing over your pain or past sins because, "It's all already under the Blood."

- How would you correct this belief?

Understanding and Overcoming Trauma

Describe the **two different types of Trauma**.

How is it possible for two people to go through the same hardship, but one becomes traumatized while the other one does not?

- Share an example of how being **attuned** to someone emotionally healthy helped you overcome a personal struggle.
- Why is the spiritual discipline of **practicing gratitude** valuable for inner healing, and what do you like to do to cultivate gratitude in your own life?
(If you don't practice this as a spiritual discipline, how can you begin to?)

Removing Vows, Judgments, and Bitter Root Expectancies

Explain the difference between a **vow** and a **judgment**; give an example of each.

Share a testimony about a personal vow or judgment you broke free from.

- What was it and how did you break the stronghold?

Give an example of when you experienced your soul or someone else's soul "broadcasting" a message.

- What was being communicated and how did you discern this?

Do you believe this message was the result of a bitter root expectancy, vow, or judgment? Why?

Prompt #3 - Honoring Parents, Forgiveness, & Recognizing Generational Dynamics

How Parents Reveal & Model God to Their Children

Describe the first image that comes to mind when you think of God. This could include words, feelings, images, memories, etc. What is He like?

- What experiences of your parents do you believe shaped your initial view of God?

Understanding Forgiveness

Identify one thing you have had to forgive a parent for. What is something you also honor about this parent?

Imagine you are walking someone through the process of forgiving another person.

- How would you explain the difference between **forgiveness** and **reconciliation**, and when each one is needed?
- How will this person be able to know that they have fully forgiven?
- What is one personal reminder, practice, or encouragement about forgiveness that you would want to give this person?

Recognizing Generational Patterns

Identify one **sin pattern** in your family line; this likely presents in at least 2-3 generations. What is the specific iniquity, and how did it function in each generation?

Identify one **spiritual blessing or gift** operating through your family line. What is the blessing, and how do you recognize it in at least 2-3 generations?

What is one **positive family commandment** that you plan to continue passing down to future generations — or what is a new commandment that you want to begin to form in your family line? Explain why this is important to you.

PHASE 2: MODULE 4 — EXAM ESSAY PROMPTS

Prompt #1 - Cultivating a Lifestyle of Contemplative Prayer

Walk through the Prayer of Examen step by step and record any revelations or reflections the Holy Spirit prompts in you.

- **Becoming aware of God**

- Explain how you center your heart and mind on God's presence.
- (Ex: Some people hold an internal image, sing, pray out a scripture, remember testimonies, declare thanksgiving, etc)
- **Reflecting on God's daily invitations and tests**
 - Where was God's voice or leading throughout your day?
 - What was God wanting you to know or do in this moment? How were you being prompted by Him? How did you respond?
 - Analyze at least one moment and your response that the Holy Spirit brings to mind.
- **Repentance**
 - Are there any invitations from God that you ignored today? Or lies you believed? Are there any moments where you missed an opportunity to respond with his character?
 - Share at least one example that you chose to repent over.
- **Consolations and Desolations**
 - What consolations did you sense God communicating to you through today?
 - What desolations did you sense?

Reflection Questions

- Explain why self-honesty and humility are necessary for engaging the Prayer of Examen.
- How do you feel that practicing Examen has impacted you? Will you continue to practice this form of daily prayer?

Meditate on Christ's Humility through Imaginative Prayer

- **Select a passage from Scripture that displays Jesus' humility**
 - Describe the scene you are meditating on and cite the passage.
 - Do your best to enter into the text through prayerful imagination. How are you impacted by Jesus when you insert yourself into the narrative?

Prompt #2 - A Personal Inventory: Intentional Living and Loving

Take an inventory of how you serve others and extend the love of God

Give one example of how you participate in each category of service to others.

- If you recognize that you have not been serving in one of these categories (reflect on your serving over the past six months), brainstorm **one realistic and simple action** that you can take to grow in this area.
 - Financial Generosity
 - Hospitality

- Evangelistic Outreach
- Ministering with power
- Serving the poor

Identify the area of service that you have been weakest in. **Select a passage from the bible that demonstrates Jesus serving and loving others in this way** to meditate upon. Cite the passage.

- What is highlighted to you about Jesus in this scene?
- What do you notice about the people he is serving?
- What does this passage stir in your heart and inspire you towards?

Recognize your assignment

- What is something that God has called you to do? And who is he inviting you to love and serve to fulfill this call?
- How are you being intentional in stewarding this assignment now?

Prompt #3 - Delighting in God: Practicing the Sabbath and Joyful Living

Explore the components of what a grace-filled Sabbath looks like for you

- How do you bring yourself to **stop**?
 - Which temptations do you recognize pressing against you in this?
- How do you choose to **rest**?
 - What do you do to replenish your soul?
- How do you practice **delight**?
 - Share the ways that you infuse joy into your Sabbath
- What do you do to **contemplate God**?
 - Describe practices you engage in that direct your Sabbath toward the Lord, so it's not just "me" time.

How would you respond to someone who claims that Sabbaths are no longer necessary under the New Covenant?

- Use at least **two scripture references** to support your counsel and correction.

Consider any hindrances to a joyful life and continual worship

"If we aren't finding joy growing in our experience of His presence, there's something in us that needs to be healed."

- How have you recognized your joy being stolen or chipped away at?
- What distractions often pull you from an awareness of God and his peace in your daily life?
 - Both "good" and "bad" things can become distractions

- Think of something that quickly shifts your attention back onto the Lord and increases your sense of joy in the midst of the mundane. What is it? Give a personal testimony of how you have seen this serve you.

PHASE 2: MODULE 5 — EXAM ESSAY PROMPTS

Prompt #1 - Avoiding Extremes, Mastering Your First Realm of Authority, & Recognizing How Attacks Come

Avoiding Extreme Viewpoints on Spiritual Warfare.

- Which extreme have you most often experienced in Christian circles, and how did you recognize this viewpoint being expressed?
- What counsel from this module would you offer someone who holds to this extreme viewpoint?

The First Realm of Authority

- How does self-control relate to authority and responsibility?
- Explain how someone can increase or diminish their authority.
- Where do you have personal victory?
 - Share a scenario where you realized you had gained authority over a sin-pattern or specific type of demonic attack.

How Attacks Come

Share **one experience** where you recognized you were under spiritual attack.

- Was this attack seen through circumstances, demonic torment, or persecution?
- Which source of warfare do you believe was behind the attack, and how did you recognize it? (The flesh, the world, or the devil)
- What is **one scripture** that you often lean on or fight with, during times of spiritual warfare? Explain why it ministers to you.

Prompt #2 - The Council of the Gods & The Boundaries of Nations

Analyzing the Council of the Gods

- Explain what the council of the gods is and the purpose behind it.
- **Select one biblical reference** that showcases the council of the gods.

- What was the outcome or revelation that resulted from this council gathering?

Understanding the Song of Moses

- Explain how the Song of Moses in Deuteronomy 32:8 relates to the account of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11.
- Who are the “sons of Israel” / “sons of God” that are referenced in this verse?
- Why is the number 72 significant in the context of the Tower of Babel?

God Revealing Himself through Nations

- Consider the cultures that make up your bloodline. Select one of these cultures and **identify three ways** it reveals God’s nature or divine ways.

Recognizing Principalities

Recall a nation or city you visited where you may have discerned a principality over the region.

Pay attention to the thoughts you were having while there.

- What were you internally thinking or feeling that seemed abnormal for you?
 - Could you recognize this same influence externally through the culture, people, or your surroundings?
- If you had to label this principality, what would you name it?

Prompt #3 - Kinds of Weapons & Common Battles

Utilizing Godly Weapons

Select **two weapons** that you are likely to embrace in the midst of tribulations or spiritual warfare. For each weapon:

- Explain how you applied this weapon in a past battle. What did you need to do practically?
- Describe the moment when you felt a sense of breakthrough by using this weapon. How did you recognize that victory had finally come and that your chosen weapon was effective?

Recognizing Common Battles & Overcoming Attack

Choose **one of the common spiritual battles** that John Thomas taught through in this module that you have had to endure.

- Which type of battle/ demonic strategy were you fighting, and how were you able to diagnose (even in hindsight) that this type of attack was in operation?
- How did you attempt to overcome the attack? Were your actions successful; why or why not?
- What strategy or advice from this module would you apply to this battle if you were facing it again today?

Putting on the Full Armor of God

Identify which piece of your spiritual armor takes the most hits. (Review Ephesians 6)
Share one way that you can intentionally strengthen this attribute of Christ's nature within yourself.

PHASE 2: MODULE 6 — EXAM ESSAY PROMPTS

Prompt #1 - Receiving and Stewarding Impartation

Defining Terms

- In your own words, explain the differences between a general **impartation**, an **impartation of authority**, and **ordination**. Cite a biblical example for each.

Recognizing What You Carry

- How does the principle of honor relate to stewarding an impartation?
- Share a personal testimony about how you received an impartation.
 - What did you spiritually gain?
 - Who gave the impartation to you and how was it transferred?
 - Did the impartation remain? How do you know?
 - What will you do to continue to steward this impartation into the future?

Wisdom for Leadership

- Which one of God's tests that precedes a spiritual promotion is the most important to you and why?
- Why should you be cautious about imparting authority to others too quickly? How have you seen this mistake made before?

Prompt #2 - Transitioning Well and Waking Slumbering Spirits

The First Stage of Transition

- Identify the first stage of transition and give a personal example of a time in your life when you found yourself in this stage.
 - What were you struggling with at this time? What was God asking of you in hindsight?
- What advice or encouragement would you give your younger self on how to grieve well?

The Second Stage of Transition

- Identify the second stage of transition and share about a time when you had to take on a new identity from God.
- Consider any past strongholds or habits that surfaced in your soul while in this stage of transition.
 - What were they and how did you address them?

The Third Stage of Transition

- Identify the third stage of transition and describe a time when you had to take a step of faith (risk) to move yourself forward into a new season.

Waking Slumbering Spirits

- Explain a significant moment when you felt your spirit “wake up”.
- How are you practicing “extending your spirit” to others? Have you noticed any impact on them or within yourself?

Prompt #3 - Increasing Faith and Ministering Healing

Increasing Faith through Scripture

Cite an account from the gospels where Jesus comments on another person’s faith; this can be a positive or negative example.

- **Explain the events** or interactions in this passage and what **lesson** it teaches about faith.

Increasing Faith through Testimonies and God’s Nature

Share a **personal testimony** of a miracle that God has done for you. This can be in any arena of life (relational, financial, physical health, ministry, etc), but it must be specific.

- What was your need and how did the miracle happen?
- What does this testimony reveal about God’s nature?
- How have you used this testimony to strengthen the faith of another person?
 - If you haven’t yet utilized your testimony as a tool for increasing someone’s faith, brainstorm and share a situation you can put yourself in that would enable you to share your testimony with someone facing a similar hardship.

Practicing the Five-Step Healing Model

Find someone in need of physical healing and pray for them using John Wimber’s Five-Step Healing Model. After your ministry, report on how you utilized each step and sought to make the person feel loved by both you and God.

- Step 1: The Interview
- Step 2: The Diagnosis
- Step 3: Prayer Selection
- Step 4: Prayer Engagement

- Step 5: Post-Prayer Direction