

Treasury of Christian Literature

Book: *The Release of the Spirit* by Watchman Nee

Course Description:

All Christians start their new life in Christ with a desire to serve God and bear fruit to His glory, yet most fall far short of this goal. Once their natural energy runs out with very little to show for it, they give up. Watchman Nee, in his book *The Release of the Spirit*, examines the cause of this inability to live a life of fruitful service and shows us our real need. We, like Him, need to go into the ground to die, that the new life within our spirit can be released.

Instructor: Dave Shields

Time: Mondays 7:30–8:30 PM ET

Class Size: Limit of 30

Book: *The Release of the Spirit* by Watchman Nee

In John 12:24, Jesus spoke of His upcoming death by saying that He, as a grain of wheat, must fall into the ground and die to bear much fruit. Once in the ground, the outer shell of the grain of wheat would break and decay so that the life inside could grow and produce many grains. Then, in the next verse, He applies this same principle to us when He said that the one who loves his soul life must lose it. According to Watchman Nee, this loss of our soul life is to have our outer man broken so that our spirit can be released. Only by passing through this process can our service to God and man be truly spiritual and bear fruit that satisfies God.

Each student is expected to obtain a copy of the book before the first class. It is available free as a PDF file for reading online or to download [HERE](#), or through Amazon in Kindle and paperback [HERE](#).

Syllabus (Week by Week):

1. Introductions, Goals, Class requirements, Homework blog, Questions
2. Chapters 1, 2
3. Chapter 3
4. Chapter 4
5. Chapter 5
6. Chapter 6
7. Chapter 7
8. Chapter 8
9. Chapter 9

Class Structure:

Most of the class time will be used for mutual discussion, led by the instructor, over the week's reading assignment. Everyone should come on time with their Zoom camera turned on, prepared to speak up and volunteer something profitable. Students who do not volunteer will be called on. No one will be left out.

Homework:

- **Reading:** Each student is expected to read the week's assigned chapter(s) and attend class ready to discuss the material.
- **Blog Post:** This will be explained in the first class. Each student will post something about that week's reading assignment on the class blog located at Christian-Lit.mystrikingly.com. Posts could be about what you especially enjoyed, how something changed your understanding, how you applied or experienced something you read, or questions where you need clarification.
 - Be specific. Do not post something general like, "I really liked it."
 - Feel free to read other's posts and, if inspired, give an encouraging reply or a thoughtful answer to a question.
 - All posts should be kept positive to maintain an atmosphere in which everyone can participate. The blog is intended to become an avenue of edifying fellowship among us.