

JAMES SPENCER, PHD

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Address: 501 Alder Ridge, Dr. O'Fallon, IL, 62269

EDUCATION

PhD, Theological Studies

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School | 2012

Certificate, Institute of Education Management

Harvard Graduate School of Education | 2012

MA, Biblical Exegesis

Wheaton College | 2005

Master of Divinity

Moody Theological Seminary | 2004

BS, Kinesiology

University of Illinois at Chicago | 2000

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

President

D. L. Moody Center | 2022-present

Oversee the strategic direction and operation of a historic preservation non-profit in Northfield, MA, as well as serving as the public face of the organization.

Chief Operating Officer

The D. L. Moody Center | 2018-2022

Oversee the operations of the D. L. Moody Center, including the management, repair, and presentation of historic properties in Northfield, MA.

Vice President and Dean

Moody Bible Institute | 2016-2018

Oversee budget, academic programs, and faculty for residential campuses in Chicago and Spokane.

Interim Vice President of Enrollment Services

Moody Bible Institute | 2015-2016

Oversee academic records, financial aid, admissions and recruitment to optimize services and drive enrollment.

Vice President and Dean

Moody Bible Institute-Distance Learning | 2012-2016

Oversee all aspects of distance education, including education marketing, education finance, a student-led call center, instructional design and quality, adjunct faculty, and education CRM.

Associate Consultant

Ruffalo Noel-Levitz | 2014-2022

Worked with colleges, universities, and seminaries to create and implement plans for marketing and recruitment, online program development and optimization, and leadership development.

Assistant Dean

Moody Bible Institute- Distance Learning | 2007-2012

Exercised operational oversight of all distance learning venues including regional classrooms, online, and independent studies, as well as overseeing non-collegiate education offers.

TEACHING

Doctoral Mentor

Liberty University | 2025-Present

Serve as a reader for Doctor of Ministry projects and dissertations.

Doctoral Mentor

Kairos University | 2023-Present

Oversee doctoral research in the areas of Old Testament and Biblical and Theological integration with other disciplines.

Adjunct Instructor

Wheaton College | 2022-Present

Teach an online and hybrid course in Wheaton's MA in Leadership program titled, "Biblical and Theological Foundations of Leadership"

Adjunct Faculty/Faculty

Moody Bible Institute | 2005-2020

Taught online and in-person at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Served as an administrative member of the faculty from 2012-2018.

Instructor

Trinity International University | 2012

Served as an in-person instructor for Old Testament Survey

Instructor

Greenville College | 2006

Taught an in-person course on Christian worldview

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Member, Institute for Biblical Research, 2026-present

Associate Research Fellow at the Kirby Laing Centre for Public Theology, 2025-present

Member, Faith and Media Connect, 2025-present

PAPERS

“The Social Implications of ‘No Other Name’: Salvation in Christ in Light of Pierre Bourdieu’s Sociology,” *Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society*, 2011.

“The Davidic Innocence Motif in the Book of Samuel,” *Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society*, 2010.

“Collective Memory and Torah,” *Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society*, 2006.

SPEAKING

2025

“Human Capacity and Technology: Reading the Early Chapters of Genesis to Inform Our Adoption of Technology Today,” *Kairos University Doctoral Student Colloquium*

2024

Panelist, “Christian Nationalism and the ‘Trump Effect,’” *The Christian Post’s Politics in the Pews, Grapevine, Texas*

“A Framework for Biblical Integration in Bible College Curricula,” *ABHE Annual Meeting*

“The State of Bible College,” *Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors for the College of Biblical Studies-Houston*

2022

“Getting the Right Students in and Out of Your Institution,” *ABHE Online Education Leadership Conference*

“Christian Witness in Today’s World,” *Harvest Mission Community Church-Jakarta*

2020

“Pedagogies for the Next Generation,” *Multnomah University Faculty Workshop*

2018

“Centralized versus Decentralized Recruitment: Strengths, Weaknesses, and Your Institution,” *Ruffalo Noel Levitz Recruitment Conference*

PUBLICATIONS

James Spencer, *Discernment in a Digital Age* (Downers Grove: IVP, forthcoming).

_____. "Armor and AI: A Consideration of Artificial Intelligence through 1 Samuel 17," *40 Bible Passages about AI* ed. Douglas Estes and Marcus Schwarting (Washington, DC: Friendship, forthcoming)

_____. "AI and the Tower of Babel (Gen 11:1-9)," *40 Bible Passages about AI* ed. Douglas Estes and Marcus Schwarting (Washington, DC: Friendship, forthcoming)

_____, "A Little Slower in Scranton: Technology and Relationships in 'The Office,'" in *Theology and Religion in The Office* ed. Daniel J. Cameron (Minneapolis: Lexington/Fortress Academic, 2025).

_____, *Serpents and Doves: Christians, Politics, and the Art of Bearing Witness* (KDP, Self-Published, 2024).

_____, *The Essential Moody Collection* (Grand Rapids: Revell, 2024).

James Spencer and Ashish Varma, eds., *A Praying People: Essays Inspired by Dwight L. Moody* (Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2023).

James Spencer, *Christian Resistance: Learning to Defy the World and Follow Jesus* (KDP: Self-Published, 2023).

_____, *Useful to God: Eight Lessons from the Life of D. L. Moody* (Greenville: Kingdom Winds, 2022).

_____, *Thinking Christian: Essays on Testimony, Accountability, and the Christian Mind* (KDP, Self-Published, 2020).

_____, "The Messianic Vision of 1 and 2 Kings," in *The Moody Encyclopedia of Messianic Prophecy* ed. Michael Rydelnik and Edwin Blum (Chicago: Moody, 2019).

_____, "Psalm 72," in *The Moody Encyclopedia of Messianic Prophecy* ed. Michael Rydelnik and Edwin Blum (Chicago: Moody, 2019).

Bryan C. Babcock, James Spencer, and Russell L. Meek, *Trajectories: A Gospel-Centered Introduction to Old Testament Theology* (Eugene: Wipf and Stock, 2018).

James Specner, "Continuing Insight: God's Ordained Vehicle," in *Marriage: Its Foundation, Theology, and Mission in a Changing World* (Chicago: Moody, 2018).

_____, "The Gainful Employment Rule," in *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Online Education* (Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE, 2016).

_____, "Online Education and Curricular Design," in *Theological Educator* 49 (2015), 19-32.

James Spencer and Michael Rydelnik, "The Book of Isaiah," in *The Moody Bible Commentary* ed. Michael Rydelnik and Michael Vanlaningham (Chicago: Moody, 2014).

James Spencer, "An Eight-Week Online Capstone Experience," in *Teaching Theology and Religion* 15 (2012), 184-185.

SELECT INTERVIEWS AND ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

Interviews

"Christian Manhood and Discipleship," *The Man Within Podcast*, 2026 (forthcoming)

"Guidelines for Discernment in a Digital World," *Stand in the Gap Today*, 2026.

"The Christian MASKulinity Episode," *MASKulinity Podcast*, 2025.

"Digital Journalism: Racing to the Lowest Common Denominator," *Stand in the Gap Today/ American Pastors Network*, 2025.

"What the Church Gets Wrong about Discipleship and Leadership," *March or Die Podcast*, 2025.

"Christians, Politics, and the Art of Bearing Witness," *Lauren Green's Lighthouse Faith Podcast*, 2024.

"What Does it Mean to Be a 'Christian Nation?'," *Providence Forum*, 2024.

"The Rise of Artificial Intelligence," *TBN Special*, 2023.

"Defy the World w/ Dr. James Spencer," *Men's Alliance Podcast*, 2023.

"Faith Under Fire," *Lauren Green's Lighthouse Faith Podcast*, 2023.

"Is Busyness Ever Glorifying to God?," *Relatable with Allie Beth Stuckey*, 2023.

"Christian Resistance," *Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk*, 2023.

"Discerning Truth," *Faith vs. Culture presented by CBN's Faithwire*, 2022.

Online Publications

"Does God Accept the Worship of Every Religion?," *Christianity.com*, 2026.

"What Marjorie Taylor Greene's Genocide Claim Means for the Conversation on Gaza," *Christianity.com*, 2025

"How Does Genesis 6 Explain the Mysterious Sons of God," *Christianity.com*, 2025.

"How Christians Can Counter Christian Nationalism," *Sojourners*, 2024

"Gay's Ouster May Prove a Pyrrhic Victory?," *The Wall Street Journal*, 2024.

“We’re On a Mission from God? Why America Needs the Church, Not Christian Nationalism,” *Baptist Global News*, 2024.

“What Does It Mean to Be A Christian Nation,” *The Washington Times*, 2024.

“The Political Appropriation of Christianity,” *Townhall.com*, 2024.

“Transhumanism and the Human Condition,” *The American Thinker*, 2023.

“Who is Our Neighbor in an AI-Enabled World?,” *Charisma*, 2023.

“Jesus Teaches Others the True Meaning of Wealth,” *FoxNews.com*, 2023.

“How Does Discipleship Show Up in the Old Testament, Parts 1-3,” *Christianity.com*, 2023

“Now is the Time to Be Stirred, Not Shaken,” *The Western Journal*, 2022.

ACCREDITATION AND WORK GROUPS

Participant, ABHE Biblical Integration and Pedagogy Summit, 2023

Participant, ATS Educational Models and Practices in Theological Education Project- Formation in Online Contexts Peer Group, 2015-2017

Member, ABHE Commission on Accreditation, 2014-2018