Spiritual formation is
the lifelong, faith-filled process
of the Holy Spirit transforming
the whole person
into the likeness of Christ
to the glory of the Father
as informed by the whole Word of God,
in relationship with the whole people of God
to fulfill the whole mission of God.
SPIRITUAL FORMATION IS...

THE LIFELONG, FAITH-FILLED PROCESS

– Never fully formed in this life
  • Continuous dynamic

– Not a one-time event
  • Though there may be significant events throughout the process

– Not by human achievement, but by grace, through faith
  • Trusting appropriation of spiritual disciplines

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SPIRITUAL FORMATION IS…

THE LIFELONG, FAITH-FILLED PROCESS,
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TRANSFORMING

− The Spirit is the primary former in the spiritual formation process
− Both continuity & discontinuity
  • Personality etc. not replaced
  • Radically altered throughout one’s life
SPIRITUAL FORMATION IS…

THE LIFELONG, FAITH-FILLED PROCESS,

OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TRANSFORMING THE WHOLE PERSON

– Body, mind, spirit, soul, will, heart…
– Intellectual, physical, spiritual, emotional, volitional, relational…

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SPIRITUAL FORMATION IS...
THE LIFELONG, FAITH-FILLED PROCESS, OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TRANSFORMING THE WHOLE PERSON INTO THE LIKENESS OF CHRIST
– Romans 8:28-30: And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers & sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

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1 Corinthians 15:49: And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18: Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

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SPIRITUAL FORMATION IS…

THE LIFELONG, FAITH-FILLED PROCESS, 
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TRANSFORMING 
THE WHOLE PERSON 
INTO THE LIKENESS OF CHRIST 
TO THE GLORY OF THE FATHER

– Trinitarian process through union with Christ
– John 15:7-8: If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

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SPIRITUAL FORMATION IS…


– Living Word of Jesus/Written Word of Scripture
– Preached Word of Sermon/Embodied Word of Sacraments

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SPIRITUAL FORMATION IS...

THE LIFELONG, FAITH-FILLED PROCESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TRANSFORMING THE WHOLE PERSON INTO THE LIKENESS OF CHRIST TO THE GLORY OF THE FATHER AS INFORMED BY THE WHOLE WORD OF GOD, IN RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WHOLE PEOPLE OF GOD

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– In relationship with the *Church militant*
  • Congregations/Worship
  • Small groups
  • Soul friendships/Direction relationships

– In relationship with the *Church triumphant*
  • Spiritual reading
  • “In the course of reading Scripture, it is only natural that we fall into conversation with friends who are also reading it. These leisurely, relaxed, ruminating conversations continue across continents and centuries by means of books—and these books offer themselves for spiritual reading.” Eugene Peterson, *Take & Read*, p. x.
Not self-centered, introverted, navel-gazing!

• “A process of being conformed to the image of Christ for the sake of others”—M. Robert Mulholland, Invitation to a Journey: A Road Map for Spiritual Formation (Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 1993)

• But also non-instrumental:
  • Don’t seek to be spiritually formed to be a better pastor, person, spouse, etc.
  • Knowing, loving, glorifying God by reflecting Christ more fully is always an end in itself, and not a means to an end.
SPIRITUAL FORMATION IS…

THE LIFELONG, FAITH-FILLED PROCESS

OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TRANSFORMING

THE WHOLE PERSON

INTO THE LIKENESS OF CHRIST

TO THE GLORY OF THE FATHER

AS INFORMED BY THE WHOLE WORD

OF GOD,

IN RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WHOLE

PEOPLE OF GOD,

TO FULFILL THE WHOLE MISSION OF GOD.
TO FULFILL THE WHOLE MISSION OF GOD

• **MISSEO DEI**
  – PROCLAMATION
  – COMPASSION
  – JUSTICE
  – RESTORATION OF ALL CREATION UNDER THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST

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