

Spiritual Formation: Becoming Who He Says We Are



Cornelius J. Bekker

**School of Global Leadership
and Entrepreneurship**

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The word *discipleship* and
the word *discipline* are the same word
-- that has always fascinated me.
Once you have made the choice to say,
"Yes, I want to follow Jesus," the question is,
"What disciplines will help me
remain faithful to that choice?"
If we want to be disciples of Jesus,
we have to live a disciplined life.

- Henri Nouwen



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Presentation Outline

Spiritual Formation

**Dynamics of
Spiritual Formation**

Prayer

**Reflection &
Discussion**





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Spiritual Con/Formation

The quest for Spiritual Formation falls in the academic field of spirituality.

The Oxford Dictionary defines “*spirituality*” as the quality or condition of being spiritual.

In turn it defines “*spiritual*” as devout, holy, pious, morally good.



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Spiritual Con/Formation

Christian Spirituality is about
a process of formation.

We are formed by, and in, Christ.

It is a form of Christ-[ening] –
being clothed with Christ,
and so being transformed.”

Leech, K 1980. Spirituality and Pastoral Care. London: SPCK.



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Spiritual Con/Formation

Christian Spirituality
is "one's unique and
personal response
to the call of Christ
through the Spirit
in the world of inner and
outer realities."

- Roy Fairchild, San Francisco Theological Seminary



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Spiritual Direction

“We define Christian spiritual direction as help given by one Christian to another which enables that person to pay attention to God’s personal communication to him or her, to respond to this personally communicating God, to grow in intimacy with this God, and to live out the consequences of the relationship.”

- W. A. Barry and W. J. Connelly (1982)



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Spiritual Con/Formation and Direction

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that they might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

(Romans 8:28-29 - NKJV)

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Spiritual (Con)Formation

The Quest for con-[trans]-formation is the quest to find our truest identity in Christ.



“Who are you Lord,
and who am I?”

– Francis of Assisi



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Dynamics of Spiritual Formation

“And we all,
with unveiled faces,
beholding the glory of the Lord
as within a mirror
are being transformed into the same image
from glory to glory,
just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

(2 Corinthians 3:18)



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Dynamics of Spiritual Formation

“And we all, (communal presence)

with unveiled faces, (intra/inter personal presence)

beholding the glory of the Lord (devotional presence)

as within a mirror

are being transformed into the same image

from glory to glory,

just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

(2 Corinthians 3:18)



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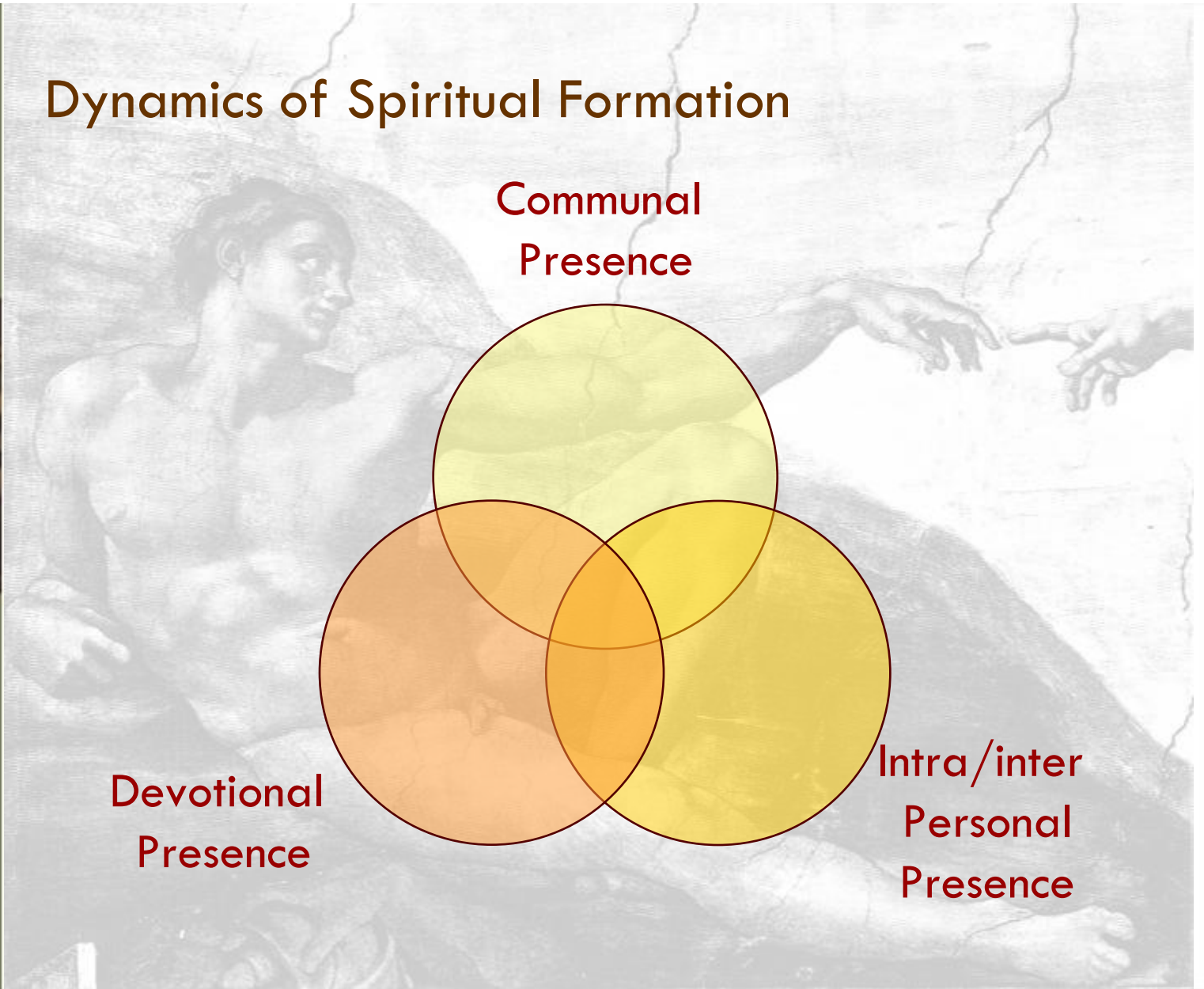


Dynamics of Spiritual Formation

Communal
Presence

Devotional
Presence

Intra/inter
Personal
Presence





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Communal Presence

Within the discipline of community are the disciplines of forgiveness and celebration.

Forgiveness and celebration are what make community, whether a marriage, a friendship, or any other form of community.

- Henri Nouwen





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Intra/Inter Personal Presence

**We make
ourselves
real by
telling the
truth.**

-Thomas Merton





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Devotional Presence

“Place your mind in the
mirror of eternity;
Place your soul in the
splendor of glory;
Place your heart in the
figure of the divine
substance;
And, through
contemplation, transform
your entire being
Into the image of the
Divine One Himself.”
- Clare of Assisi





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Goal of Transformation

“And we all, (Communal Presence)

with unveiled faces, (Intra/intra Personal Presence)

beholding the glory of the Lord (Devotional Presence)

as within a mirror

are being transformed (process)

into the same image (icon)

from glory to glory, (process)

just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” (Divine Presence)

(2 Corinthians 3:18)



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Goal of Transformation



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Spiritual Direction & the Discipline of Presence

“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

- James 5:16



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There is healing in being known in my vulnerability and impatience and weakness. Suddenly I realize that Henri is a good person also in the eyes of people who don't read books and who don't care about success. These people can forgive me constantly for the little egocentric gestures and behaviors that are always there.

- Henri Nouwen





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Reflection

Discussion

Prayer



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[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=HyvV6f7Iycz
tenuvbTFlzg_3d_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=HyvV6f7Iycz
tenuvbTFlzg_3d_3d)

Habits of the Heart #1- Becoming Who He Says You Are.

Please give us your [feedback](#).