

Spiritual Formation: Some Basics

1. What is spiritual formation? Spiritual formation is the continuing process of life and experience through which we are progressively formed, conformed, and transformed into the image of Jesus Christ. (See Gal. 4:19, Rom. 8:29, 2 Cor. 3:18.)
2. How does spiritual formation occur?
3. How does God grow a tree?
4. Spiritual formation is a life-long response to God's gracious initiatives.
5. Spiritual formation is based on a present relationship with Christ.
6. Spiritual formation leads us through desert, mountain, and cloud.
7. One of the most common stumbling stones is to mistake the part for the whole.
8. Spiritual formation resists neat categorization.
9. Spiritual formation leads us toward a mysterious synthesis rather than a synthetic copy.
10. Spiritual formation revolves around the centrality of Jesus Christ "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col. 2:3).