

Personal Paradigm of Formation
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Toward the fulfillment of
DMin 512 Spiritual Formation in the Minister
Professor: Dan Brunner
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Assignment: From your experience, how is one formed spiritually? In other words, if you were to create a universal model for spiritual growth (based solely on your experience), what would the three key components be?

God-concept redemption/formation: Few inherit an accurate God-concept. In the context of community, the study of God's character as revealed through the Word is a wise investment of salvation's first blush of love and gratitude. God's breath conceived our spirits: they were always designed to be his resting place. His fullness begins to rest in us as we focus upon His character, ways, acts, and emotions as revealed in the Living Word. Key disciplines can include the cultivation of community, Bible study, gratitude, repentance, and daily devotional life.

Self-concept and global purpose: Since God is prior, revelation of our selves is rootless (if not sickly) without the rich soil of who He is. Often these two concepts grow in tandem toward a moment where an increasingly healthy self willingly relinquishes center and chooses to centralize God's Presence. Internal conversation begins to shift from the singular to the plural as Brother Lawrence's "Every little thing for the love of God" becomes practical and God's global cause becomes paramount. Key disciplines include scripture meditation, giving, listening, serving, and missional living.

Suffering and spiritual authority: God whispers to us through weakness, forms us through suffering, and answers our spirit's deepest cries through the gap between ideal and real. Our perspective on suffering is seasoned by time, transitioning from externally

imposed curse to internally fruitful gift. Intentionality overtakes gratitude. Pain reveals coping-add-ons to sincere love for God and further purifies our God and self concepts. Key disciplines can include silence, stillness, waiting, intercession, and seclusion retreats.