

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

About Me

- 10+ years of church staff experience: rural church, megachurch, church plant
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Spiritual formation is the foundation of successful Strategic Envisioning.

IT UNDERGIRDS EVERYTHING.

Importance of Spiritual Formation

Strategic Envisioning will not be effective without spiritual formation.

"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD Almighty."
Zech. 4:6

"Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."
John 15:5b

What is Spiritual Formation?

Definition of Spiritual Formation

It is a spiritual process in which the Holy Spirit transforms us into Christ's likeness.

- It's "Christ formed in you" (Gal. 4:19; 5:22-23; 2 Cor. 3:18).
- It's the work of the Holy Spirit (2 Cor.3:18).
- It is a spiritual transformation process (2 Cor. 3:18).

How is Spiritual Formation accomplished?

A FOUR-STEP PROCESS.



**Action Step 1:
Repent & Confess**

1. Ponder and acknowledge your personal sinfulness (1 John. 1:8-10; Rom. 7:14)
2. Confess your sins to God (Psalm 51)

**Action Step 2:
Forgive & Be Forgiven**

1. Forgive those who've sinned against you (Eph. 4:31-32; Col. 3:13-14; Matt. 18:21-22)
2. Pursue reconciliation with a brother or sister (Matt. 5:23-24; 18:15-19).

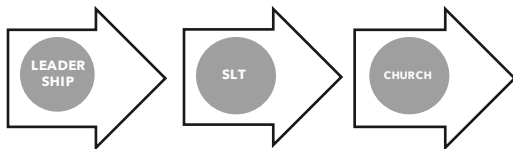
**Action Step 3:
Align Your Attitude**

1. Put off any "negative stuff" (Eph. 4:31-32; Phil. 2:14; 1 Cor. 10:10). Unwholesome talk, bitterness, negativity, complaining, pessimism, etc.
2. Become a better listener (James 1:19-21).
3. Don't tolerate a critical spirit (Gal 5:15)
4. Adopt a servant attitude (Phil. 2:3; Mt. 20:28)

**Action Step 4:
Align Your Actions**

1. Speak the truth (Eph. 4:25).
2. Speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15)
3. Seek to build others up (Eph. 4:29)
4. Offer yourselves to God as instruments of righteousness (Rom. 6:13-14)
5. Spend time in intense, positive prayer for the ministry (Matt. 7:7-12; James 5:16)

The Implementation of Spiritual Formation



Implementation of Spiritual Formation

The Leadership

- It's imperative that spiritual revitalization starts with the leadership (elders & lead team).
- Only as the Holy Spirit revitalizes and refreshes their spirits will they be able to lead the ministry in its transformation to "Christlikeness".

Implementation of Spiritual Formation

The Leadership Cont'd

- Key to their being Christ-followers are their personal integrity. Their trustworthiness is more important than vision, ability to communicate, intelligence, courage, etc.

Implementation of Spiritual Formation

The Strategic Leadership Team

- However, spiritual vitality is "catching."
- Next comes the leadership team. As the Spirit transforms the key leaders, so their lives, in turn, will catalyze the SLT to a passionate pursuit of Christ.
- Thus, they experience the same spiritual revitalization and transformation of their souls.

Implementation of Spiritual Formation

The Ministry

From there it spreads through these Godly leaders to the rest of the ministry, where it has the same affect, the spiritual transformation of the congregation into Christ followers!

**Spiritual Formation
Exercise**



THE RESULT:

The ministry becomes a lighthouse that penetrates and illumines the darkness of communal unbelief (Mt. 5:14-16)



Questions?