



REAL SPIRITUALITY

Select Bibliography with Notes

Mark K. Parker
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Beasley-Topliffe, Keith, ed. The Upper Room Dictionary of Christian Spiritual Formation. Nashville: Upper Room Books, 2003. *Articles on spiritual writers, topics, and methods of prayer and group practice. A chart in the back compares "several major streams of Christian spirituality" and includes cross references to articles related to those themes.**

Benner, David G. Sacred Companions. DownersGrove: InterVarsity, 2002. *An introduction to the art of spiritual direction. Approaches spirituality from a counseling perspective.*

Bloesch, Donald G. Spirituality Old and New: Recovering Authentic Spiritual Life. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2007. *A brief but wide-ranging theology of spirituality. A conservative, Reformed treatment.*

Boa, Kenneth. Conformed to His Image. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001. *An upper-level undergraduate textbook focusing on application of spirituality through what he calls "twelve facets of spirituality." Conservative evangelical treatment.*

Dykstra, Craig. "The Formative Power of the Congregation." In Theological Perspectives on Christian Formation: A Reader on Theology and Christian Education, edited by Jeff Astley, Leslie J. Francis, and Colin Crowder, 252-65. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996. *The entire book is an important discussion of Christian formation rooted in psycho-educational practice and theory, particularly building on the work of James Fowler. Technical treatment.*

Fee, Gordon D. Paul, Spirit, and the People of God. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1996. *A moderate charismatic view from one of our time's best conservative New Testament scholars. Listening to the Spirit in the Text. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2000. *His reflections on Pauline spirituality are important in discussions that so easily stray from the Text. Take the part about speaking in tongues with a grain of salt.**

Fowler, James. Becoming Adult, Becoming Christian. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1999 (original: Harper and Row, 1984). *The granddaddy of faith development. He is the link between the world of psycho-educational theory and the Christian world.*

Healey, Charles J. Christian Spirituality: An Introduction to the Heritage. Staten Island, NY: St. Paul's, 1999. *An accessible yet thorough historical overview of characters impacting Western, Christian Spirituality. Primary focus is the Catholic tradition, but respectful treatment is given to major Orthodox and Protestant characters as well.*

Heifetz, Ronald A. Leadership without Easy Answers. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 1994. *A key work in popularizing the concept of adaptation in leadership. Secular.*

Hendrix, John D. Nothing Never Happens. Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys, 2004. *Applies David Kolb's learning models to Christian education. Developed "Four Quadrants of Experiential Bible Study" model.*

Holmes, Urban T., III. Spirituality for Ministry. Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse, 1982. *This book put Holmes on the map; he is arguably the preeminent conservative Episcopalian voice on matters of spirituality. A History of Christian Spirituality. 2002 (originally published in 1980 by Seabury). *Painfully brief essays about major concepts throughout the history of Christian spirituality. His chart of spiritual types is the base for many other works, but I find it more helpful as a descriptor of the past than as a guide for future exploration.**

Howard, Evan B. The Brazos Introduction to Christian Spirituality. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2008. *An extended, graduate-level overview of significant thoughts, events, and people shaping what we call "Spirituality." Generous samples of primary sources, but without critical interaction. Moderate evangelical treatment.*

Johnson, Susanne. Christian Spiritual Formation. Nashville: Abingdon, 1989. *Contains helpful critique of psychology, individualism, and feminism in relation to spirituality.*

Kolb, David. Experiential Learning. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1971. *Kolb's early theories, which John Hendrix shapes into his influential Christian education system. Free download explaining Kolb's four phases of the learning process: www.haygroup.com/tl/downloads/why_people_learn.pdf. Secular.*

Monk of the Eastern Church. Orthodox Spirituality: An Outline of the Orthodox Ascetical and Mystical Tradition, 3rd ed. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1987. *A modern re-statement of classical Orthodox thinking. Helpful for those working with young people to see why so many are attracted to Orthodoxy.*

Mulholland, M. Robert. Invitation to a Journey: A Road Map for Spiritual Formation. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993. *A conservative Methodist call for spiritual maturity, devotion, and practice of good works.*

Peterson, Eugene. Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places: A Conversation in Spiritual Theology. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005. *The first half of this book lays out what makes "Christian Spirituality" truly Christian. The second half pretty much says the same thing again.*

Powell, Samuel M. A Theology of Christian Spirituality. Nashville: Abingdon, 2005. *A thorough, semi-technical theology.*

Principe, Walter. "Toward Defining Spirituality." In Studies in Religion 12 (1983): 127-41. *Attempts to bring the spirituality discussion into the mainstream of theological education.*

Purves, Andrew. Reconstruction Pastoral Theology: A Christological Foundation. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2004. *A conservative, Mainline theology of pastoral care giving a Christological foundation for spiritual nurture. His critique of Seward Hiltner is a call to marked differentiation between psychology and spirituality.*

Sager, Allan H. Gospel-Centered Spirituality. Minneapolis: Augsburg 1990. *An accessible implementation of Holmes's "Types of Christian Spirituality." Despite the title, it tends to follow tradition lines of discussion rather than provide a biblical theology.*

Sheldrake, Philip, ed. The New Westminster Dictionary of Christian Spirituality. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005. *Articles on "themes, movements, regions or periods." No biographical entries are included. A separate section in the front contains 13 short essays that survey the content, methods, and current debates in the field of spirituality. Includes cross references and an "Index of Names and Titles."**

Tickle, Phyllis. The Great Emergence. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008. *Essays seeking to interpret the sweeping changes occurring in (American) Christianity—of which current discussions of spirituality are a result.*

Tippens, Darryl. Pilgrim Heart: The Way of Jesus in Everyday Life. Abilene: Leafwood, 2006. *A non-technical look at the spiritual disciplines in modern life from a noted church of Christ thinker.*

Ware, Corinne. Discover your Spiritual Type. Bethesda, MD: Alban Institute, 1995. *Implements Holmes's "Types of Christian Spirituality" on a very user-friendly level. She is a counselor, so approaches spirituality from that perspective.*

Wilhoit, James C. Spiritual Formation As If the Church Mattered: Growing in Christ through Community. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008. *The name says it all.*

*Indicates notes by Don Meredith

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