

Suggested Spiritual Formation Reading

General Spiritual Formation

The Life You've Always Wanted, John Ortberg

This book is an easy read but was a “shifter” for me. Really helped me see the goal of the Christian life and the role spiritual habits play in transformation. When I ask people what book has been the most influential for them on the topic of spiritual formation, this one is often mentioned.

The Jesus Creed, Scott McKnight

Very good read on Jesus' teaching on the Greatest Commandments. This can be read daily like a devotional book.

An Invitation to the Journey, Robert Mulholland, Jr.

The Deeper Journey, Robert Mulholland, Jr.

These contain good theology on formation as well as practical habits.

The Good and Beautiful Life, James Bryan Smith

Based on the Sermon on the Mount and Willard's teachings. I love the “soul-training exercises” he uses in his books. This was his attempt to answer the challenge of Dallas Willard for someone to write a “curriculum for Christlikeness.” This is one of a three-part trilogy. The others are: *Good and Beautiful God* and *Good and Beautiful Community*.

Renovation of the Heart, Dallas Willard

Spirit of the Disciplines, Dallas Willard

The Divine Conspiracy, Dallas Willard

I have been strongly affected by Willard. These are definitely accessible to anyone, but you might need a discussion buddy! People are already saying that Willard will be perceived in time as America's version of C.S. Lewis.

Sacred Rhythms, Ruth Haley Barton

An Invitation to Silence and Solitude, Ruth Haley Barton

Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership, Ruth Haley Barton

Ruth Haley Barton is one of the top experts and authors on spiritual formation today. Her writing is very accessible and practical. *Sacred Rhythms* looks at the basic spiritual habits everyone needs. The other two titles are self explanatory.

Classics on the Spiritual Life

The Pursuit of God, A.W. Tozer

I was undone by the introduction alone!

A Testament of Devotion, Thomas Kelly

This is on my “read every 5 years” list. Kelly was a Quaker in early 20th century. His language is a little “ethereal” but the content is VERY good.

Books on Engagement with Scripture

Eat This Book, Eugene Peterson

This is the pastor/theologian who translated Scripture into the paraphrase called The Message. This is a great book on how to meditate on Scripture.

Shaped by the Word, Robert Mulholland, Jr.

Accessible read on how to mediate on Scripture.