

The Matrix for Christ Formation

Part 2

Discipleship Community

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THE FOUR CATALYSTS FOR CHRIST FORMATION

CATALYST 1: _____ .

◆ _____ Revelation

◆ _____ Revelation

Through General Revelation:

We learn that God _____ and that He _____ everything!

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun, which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is hidden from its heat." Psalm 19:1-6

How does General Revelation help us understand the Christ Formation process?

Science helps us discover many truths within General Revelation in regards to human nature and human physiology—both of which aid our understanding of the Christ Formation process.

Specifically the sciences of:

1. _____

2. _____

God created people as whole/integrated beings that are wonderfully complex!

"Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it." Psalm 139:14 (NLT)

The Bible speaks to the INNER BEING of man:

Inner Being = _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ .

Our inner being is radically effected by our family of origin and painful life events!

*"For in my **inner being** I delight in God's law..." Romans 7:22*

*"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your **inner being**." Ephesians 3:16*

"Though our outer self is wasting away, our **inner self** is being renewed day by day."

2 Corinthians 4:16

"For man looks at the outward appearance but the LORD looks at the **heart**." 1 Samuel 16:7

NEUROLOGY is _____ Science.

"For as he thinks within himself, so he is." Proverbs 23:7

PSYCHOLOGY is _____ Science.

"You desire truth in the **innermost being**, and in the **hidden part** You will make me know wisdom." Psalm 51:6

GENERAL REVELATION = _____ & _____.

"Psychological and theological understanding of the spiritual life must go hand in hand. Neither of them is complete without the other. A psychology that is Christian, in the sense of a comprehensive understanding of the facts of spiritual life and growth, should be a top priority for disciples of Jesus..." -Dallas Willard, PhD.: *The Great Omission*, 74.

"A baby's brain begins to wire in accordance with his experiences. In fact, the nature of his relationships with his parents shapes the neural networks in a fashion that will have lifelong implications." -Curt Thompson, M.D.: *Anatomy of the Soul*, 111.

SPECIAL REVELATION

"For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." 2 Peter 1:21

"All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

2 Timothy 3:16-17

The Bible is the "living" and "active" word of God. (Hebrews 4:12)

TWO MODES FOR READING THE BIBLE

1. _____ the Word (Analytical Mode)

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

2. _____ the Word (Meditative Mode)

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23-24

Dr. Klaus ISSLER says:

"Here we patiently wait and listen for God to speak to us, personally. Our purpose is not to master a certain portion of Scripture, but to read a few verses, slowly, meditatively, vocalizing each word, and monitoring our heart to sense God's movement to highlight a certain word, phrase or sentence for our attentive reflection and rumination."

CATALYST 2: _____ .

The Holy Spirit is the _____ agent for change!

*"But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the **Spirit of our God.**" 1 Corinthians 6:11*

*"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the **Spirit.**" 2 Corinthians 3:18*

*"But the fruit of the **Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control....since we live by the **Spirit**, let us keep in step with the **Spirit.**" Galatians 5:22-23 & 25*

*"He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the **Holy Spirit**, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior." Titus 3:8*

TWO WAYS TO WORK "WITH" OR "AGAINST" THE SPIRIT

1. _____ : Obedience

*"...keep **in step** with the Spirit." Galatians 5:25*

*"...**be filled** with the Spirit." Ephesians 5:18*

*"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will **teach** you all things..." John 14:26*

2. _____ : Disobedience

*"...do not **grieve** the Holy Spirit of God." Ephesians 4:30*

*"...do not **quench** the Spirit." 1 Thessalonians 5:19*

*"You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always **resist** the Holy Spirit." Acts 7:51*

CATALYST 3: _____ .

Relationships are _____ for Christ Formation!

The reason is because we are _____ in the image of God.

*"So God created man in his **own image**, in the **image of God** he created him; male and female he created them." Genesis 1:27*

God is a _____ Being!

"God is love." 1 John 4:8

All life is _____ —death is the result of isolation!

*"The Lord God said, 'It's **not good** for man to be **alone.**'" Genesis 2:18*

“Relationship, or bonding, then, is at the foundation of God’s nature. Since we are created in his likeness, relationship is our most fundamental need, the very foundation of who we are. Without relationship, without attachment to God and others, we can’t be our true selves. We can’t be truly human.”

-Dr. Henry Cloud, *Changes That Heal*, 49.

CATALYST 4: _____ .

Christ Formation involves _____ —spiritual growth takes effort!

“Spend your time and energy in the exercise of keeping **spiritually fit**.” 1 Timothy 4:7 (LB)

“Bodily exercise is all right, but **spiritual exercise** is much more important and is a tonic for all you do. So exercise yourself spiritually...” 1 Timothy 4:8 (LB)

“So let us feast upon him and **grow strong** in the Christian life...” 1 Corinthians 5:8 (LB)

“But **grow in spiritual strength** and become better acquainted with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18 (LB)

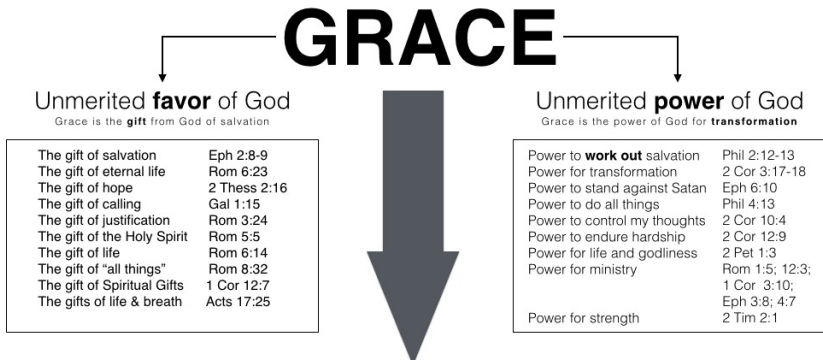
Dr. Dallas Willard says:

“We must stop using the fact that we cannot earn grace (whether for justification or for sanctification) as an excuse for not energetically seeking to receive grace. Having been found by God, we then become seekers of ever fuller life in him. Grace is opposed to earning, but not to effort. The realities of Christian spiritual formation are that we will not be transformed ‘into his likeness’ by more information, or by infusions, inspirations, or ministrations alone. Though all of these have an important place, they never suffice, and reliance upon them alone explains the now-common failure of committed Christians to rise much above a certain level of decency.”

-Dallas Willard: *The Great Omission*, 76

“We have counted on preaching, teaching, and knowledge or information to form faith in the hearer and have counted on faith to form the inner life and outward behavior of the Christian. But, for whatever reason, this strategy has not turned out well. The result is that we have multitudes of professing Christians who well may be ready to die but obviously are not ready to live, and can hardly get along with themselves, much less with others.”

-Dallas Willard: *The Great Omission*, 69.



“Grace is the **divine influence** upon the heart, and its **reflection** in the **life**.”

-James Strong; *Strongs Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*