

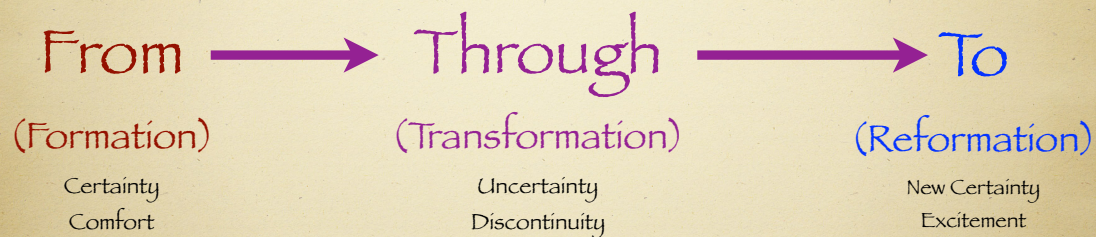


STORIES OF THE MYSTICAL WAY

It's a challenge to live a More Mystical Life because...

- Following a more mystical way is often shrouded in uncertainty—the path is only revealed as we walk it.
- Following this way means the pursuit of constant transformation.
- Secular and Christian culture often regards a life of deep openness to God as unrealistic or strange.
- Following God along the mystical way can make us feel like misfits.

The Mystical Life is a life of transformation



George Müller: Prayer & Providence

The difference between God being
Nowhere
and
Now Here
is the space we create for God in our lives.

FUNCTIONAL VS. SPIRITUAL LIFE

Functional:

- Driven by ambition, need for success, and/or a need to fit in.
- Live under the common wisdom of the culture, society, and trends.
- Focused on quantities of life—how much do I have, how well have I done, how much influence do I have, etc...?
- Struggle to find a deeper identity and a sense of deeper meaning and purpose in life.

Spiritual/Mystical:

- Driven by aspiration and inspiration—for a need to fit with God's purpose and call.
- Live according to spiritual wisdom that arises from scripture, prayer, and a deeper knowing
- Focused on qualities of life—how well do I live, how well am I loving others, how much do I integrate God into my life, etc...? .
- Are always seeking a deeper identity and that which brings meaning and purpose to life such as love, faith, joy, beauty...

THE FOUR DIMENSIONS OF LIFE

Spiritual Dimension (transcendent)

Aspiring to connect with God and openness to God's inspiration

Mental Dimension (functional)

How we function in life~our organizing planning, imagining, expecting, thinking, scheduling

Physical Dimension (vital)

How we embody and act upon thoughts, aspirations, and inspirations in life

Relational Dimension (socio-historic)

How we interact and connect with people, creatures, nature, and all of life

*Based on the work of Adrian van Kaam



THE PROBLEM
OF SPIRITUAL CUT-
OFF



Spiritual

Mental



Dimension

The focus of life centers on gaining and wielding power; achieving ambitions; getting my way; obtaining control; and everything being done according to a certain order.

Millard Fuller



Nobody loves a good worship service more than I do, but we are called to make religion real, to make our faith come alive. Helping others have a decent place to live is one way to do that and it doesn't take too long for others to recognize it, too.

— Millard Fuller —

AZ QUOTES

THE PROBLEM
OF SPIRITUAL CUT-
OFF



Spiritual

Physical



Dimension

The focus of life centers on satisfying desires & urges;
obsessing over the body, drugs, sex, and self-gratification;
or on appearances~attractiveness, coolness, plainness, etc...

St. Patrick



St Patrick Prayer!

As I arise today, may the strength of God pilot me,
the power of God uphold me, the wisdom of God guide me.
May the eye of God look before me, the ear of God hear me,
the word of God speak for me.

May the hand of God protect me, the way of God lie before
me, the shield of God defend me, the host of God save me.
May Christ shield me today.

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit, Christ when I stand, Christ in the heart of
everyone who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of everyone
who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.

Amen

THE PROBLEM
OF SPIRITUAL CUT-
OFF

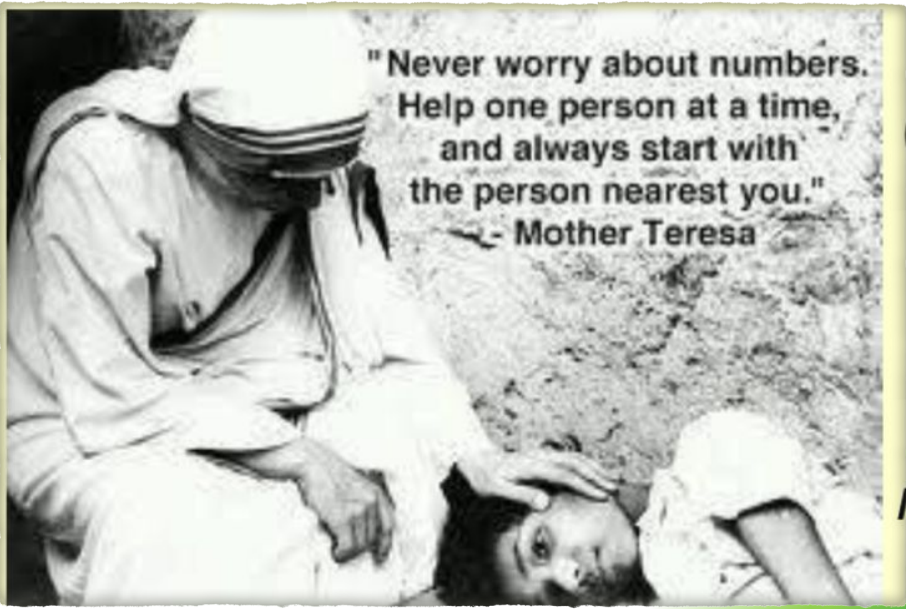


Spiritual

Relational CONFLICT Dimension

The focus of life centers on conforming to the past;
conforming to common standards;
conforming to trends;
or on rebelling against the past, common standards, and trends.

Mother Teresa



"Never worry about numbers.
Help one person at a time,
and always start with
the person nearest you."
- Mother Teresa

Spiritual Integration

Spiritual

Listening for and serving God becomes primary

Mental:

We structure our lives so that our connection with God grows through both solitude and relationships



Physical

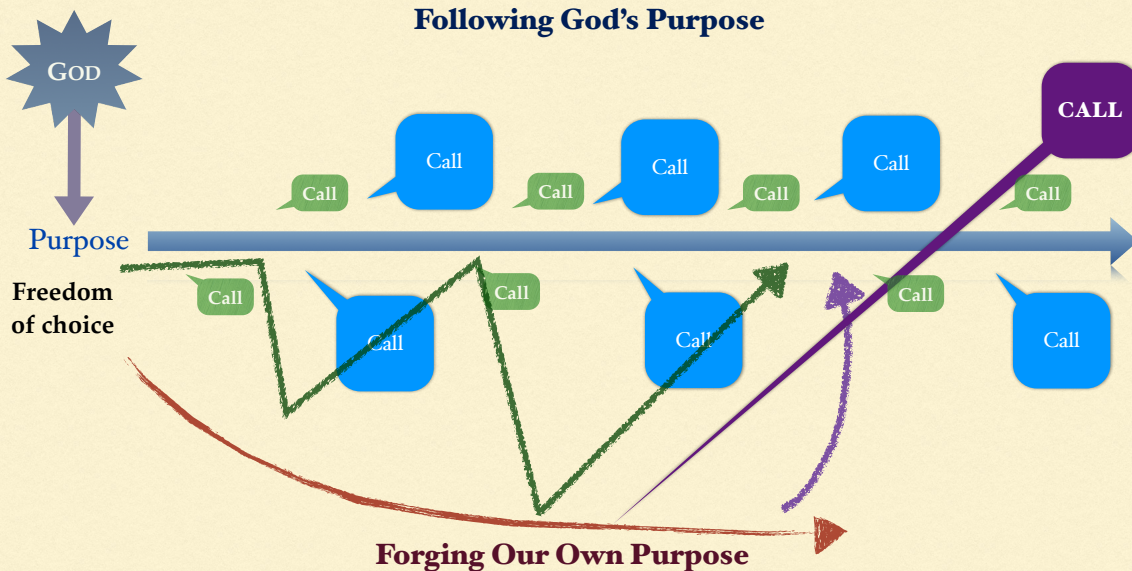
We strive to physically live in balance and harmony.



Relational



We increasingly emphasize love, compassion, & communion in all facets of life



We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28).

Thomas Kelly, The Eternal Promise

Our task is not to work for [God], but to yearn for God to work through us and to join our sensitivity to God's working, already going on inside the lives of others. For wherever we go, there God has preceded us. To whomever we speak, God has first been speaking to her or him. And our task is to urge people to listen to their inner Teacher. Within all people the heavenly Educator is at work, tenderly, patiently, speaking inside of rich and poor, educated and ignorant, black and white. And the church's task is first of all to call men to a listening life, a life of internal listening to the inner promptings that are already going on.

