

Dan Kimball, Robert Webber, Brian McLaren, Dan Burke, Richard Krejcir.

Some of the Organizations Promoting Spiritual Formation Practice

• Shalem Institute, The Upper Room, Kaiser Institute, Two World Wisdom School, Spiritual Leadership Institute, Presence, Inc, New Lights Movement, Faith House Manhattan, Fuller Theological Seminary, Spiritual Directors International, Saddleback Church, Willow Creek Church, Crystal Cathedral Church, Quaker Meditation Centre, Kairos Spiritual Formation Centre. For more detail log on to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_evangelical_seminaries_and_theological_colleges

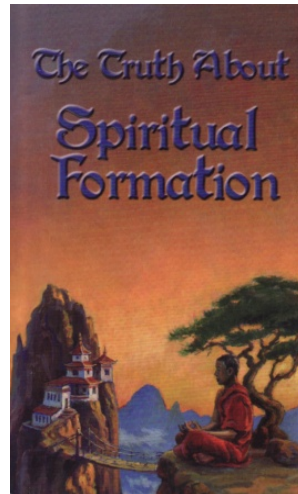
Books Containing Spiritual Formation Themes (There are many more)

Sacred Companions, Soul Keeping, Celebration of Discipline, Informed Intercession, The Promise of God's Power, Spiritual Friend: Reclaiming the Gift of Spiritual Direction, Spiritual Formation, The Practice of Spiritual Direction, Hunger, A Testament of Devotion, The Way of the Heart, Spiritual Classics, Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander, In the Spirit of Early Christians, Open Mind, Open Heart, Finding Grace at the Center, The Road Less Travelled, Further Along the Road Less Travelled, The Different Drum, The Shack, Quantum Spirituality, The Organic God, The Purpose Driven Life, The Purpose Driven Church, The Power of Positive Thinking, The Secret, Jesus Calling, God Calling, God at Eventide: Companion Volume to God Calling, Prayer: Finding the Hearts True Home, Navigating the Interior Life - Spiritual Direction and the Journey to God,

Books, DVDs and Authors Identifying Dangers of Spiritual Formation Practice

- The Truth About Spiritual Formation, Vance Ferrell
- The Dangers of Contemplative Prayer, Howard Peth
- A Wonderful Deception, Warren B Smith
- Another Jesus Calling, Warren B Smith
- Hidden Heresy? , Thomas Mostert
- The Hidden Agenda, Jan Voerman
- The Omega Rebellion, Rick Howard
- Faith Undone, Roger Oaklands
- Spiritual Formation (DVD set), Anthony Burns

- Meditation, Science and Religion (DVD set), Dr David Bird and Yip Kok Tho
- The Omega Rebellion (DVD set), Rick Howard.



The Truth about Spiritual Formation

By Vance Ferrell

320 pages

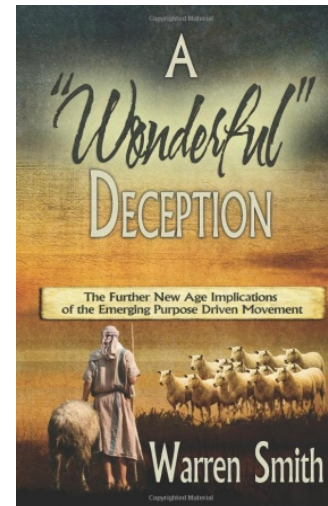
It is URGENT that you read this book in order to understand the crisis our churches are in. A tragedy is in the making! Oh, how earnestly we need God's help in order to prepare for what is ahead!

A "Wonderful" Deception

By Warren B. Smith

243 pages

Former New Age follower Warren B. Smith continues to reveal how Rick Warren and other Christian leaders-wittingly or unwittingly-are leading the church into a spiritual trap.



These resources and many more are available from:

Steps to Life (Aust) Ltd
PO Box 907, Lilydale VIC 3140
Ph. 03 9739 4093
www.steps.org.au
email: admin@steps.org.au

Don't Be a Sausage!



**Don't Be Salami Sliced Into
Spiritual Formation
Worship Practices!**



A Quick Guide

Salami Slicing. What is It?

Salami Slicing is a term used to describe the strategy of changing well established values and beliefs of a person, or group, from one position to a totally different one. If the person or group knew at the outset where they would finish up by incrementally accepting a large number of small changes in values or beliefs over a period of time, they would never have allowed themselves to be started on the journey of change in the first place.

Wikipedia (online free dictionary) describes it as a series of many small actions, often performed by clandestine means, that as an accumulated whole produces a much larger action or result that would be difficult or unlawful to perform all at once. Many famous and infamous politicians have used and still use the strategy. So do religious leaders.

Salami Slicing: The Emerging Church, Spiritual Formation and Contemplative Prayer Practice – By Whatever Guises They Come In.

Little by little most churches calling themselves ‘Christian’ – Protestant and Catholic - have been influenced incrementally over time to embrace aspects of the practices of the Emerging Church movement. Most theological degree granting training universities include a unit of study that features spiritual formation as part of the curriculum. Spiritual formation practices also find their way into the education degrees offered at these institutions.

The practices of spiritual formation and contemplative prayer are promoted as a pathway to a closer relationship with God and to experience his abiding presence. The practices are recommended for those wanting a deeper spiritual experience. This is a laudable objective for all Christians. But at what cost?

However, the pathway is often through ancient mystical and occultist meditation practice. Through these practices one’s

reasoning capacity is closed down by entering into the silence through mantras, music, yoga breathing practice, and visioning Bible characters, even Jesus, to the point where mind conversations are held and the presence of these characters in visions are experienced.



When one arrives at this point in their so called ‘spiritual growth’ they have come a long way from where they started, by many little steps. Spiritual experience now overrides reason as the paramount objective of worship. Our Christian experience should always follow the logic of the scripture. Our minds must be in control of our senses.

Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Jesuit order, adopted, adapted and developed the ancient mystical practice of meditation to the point where priests who became Jesuits

were transformed into obedient ‘living corpses’ who would unreservedly obey instructions regardless of the morality of what they were asked to do. (Refer to the Jesuit Oath)

The emphasis of Bible teaching is that in prayer we actively engage in thought. We don’t close our minds down but seek to keep our reasoning clear and in tune with the teachings of scripture. In the Bible the model for meditation is to actively read, think study and pray asking for God to direct our thoughts and to guide us as we seek to know, love and serve him better.

Many excellent books and DVD recorded presentations have been made defining the dangers and differences between Biblical worship practice and Emerging Church worship practice. Some of them are listed in this brochure. The contrast is sometimes stark and sometimes subtle.

The Language of Spiritual Formation

Here is a partial list of some commonly used words, phrases

and terms associated with spiritual formation teaching and practice. When you hear or read these expressions in the context of spiritual growth be alert to discover the origins and intent of what is being described and the pathway they lead a long. Words and phrases are taking on new meanings when used in the context of spiritual formation. It’s a subtle process.

- Celebration/celebrationism, stillness, empty the mind, spiritual exercises, breath prayer, lectio divina, imagery, contemplative, contemplation, infused contemplation, kataphatic, apophatic, path to God, spiritual guide(s), intuitive communication, thought stream, emerging church, reformation, renovare, rethink, new think, emerging spirituality, prayer stations, taize, the silence, sacred space, a thin place, Ignation contemplation, centering, inner light, mantra, prayer labyrinths, prayer rooms, journaling, sacred icons, spiritual retreat, spiritual journey, visualization, discovering the god within, God is in everything, oneness, great divine heart, heart-consciousness, path of initiation, soul balance, listen to your feelings, know no theology, know Me, abide, be calm, Jesus needs us more than we need Him, visualize God, practicing the Presence, reimagining, true prayer, multi-sensory worship, spiritual direction, spiritual director.



Some of the Popular Proponents of Spiritual Formation Practice

- Derek Morris, Richard Foster, Sue Mallory, Howard Baker, David Benner, George Otis Jr, Jim Cymbala, John Ortberg, Jon Dybdahl, Tilden Edwards, Tony Compolo, Thomas Kelly, Henri Nouwen, Thomas Merton, Morton Kelsey, Dallas Willard, Thomas Keating, M Scott Peck, Leyland Kaiser, Leanne Kaiser Carlson, Kevin Kaiser, Leonard Sweet, Margarte Feinberg, Norman Vincent Peale, Samir Selmanovic, John Wimber, Rick Warren, David Hubbard, Larry Crabb, Eugene Peterson, Martin Saunders, William Vaswig, Brennan Manning, Robert Schuller, Lee Strobel, Rhonda Byrne, Sarah Young, Basil Pennington,