

Shaped By His Hands: The Journey of Spiritual Formation

Shekijah Preparation Assembly

Romans 8:29

“Edified. Instructed. Transformed.”

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Born-Again Christian vs. a Self-Described Christian

 John 3:3 “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

When Jesus said this to Nicodemus, He wasn't talking about joining a religion — He was describing a spiritual rebirth that only the Holy Spirit can bring.

A born-again believer experiences a genuine, inside-out transformation through repentance and faith in Christ.

A self-described Christian often identifies with the label, tradition, or culture of Christianity but may never have experienced that transformation.



How to Know You're Truly Born Again

1. There's Been a Real Heart Change

You've repented — turned away from sin and self-rule.

You've trusted in Jesus alone for salvation — not good works, not church attendance, not family tradition.

The Holy Spirit bears witness in your heart that you belong to God (Romans 8:16).

“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature...” (2 Corinthians 5:17)



How to Know You're Truly Born Again

2. There's Evidence of Ongoing Transformation

Your desires shift — sin bothers you now, righteousness attracts you.

You hunger for God's Word (1 Peter 2:2).

You bear fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

You grow in humility, love, and obedience — even when no one's watching.

“By their fruits you shall know them.” (Matthew 7:16)



How to Know You're Truly Born Again

3. There's Relationship, Not Just Religion

You pray, not out of obligation, but out of love and need.

You recognize God's voice and correction.

You walk in fellowship with other believers.

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.” (John 10:27)



How to Know You're Truly Born Again

4. There's Perseverance in the Faith

Being born again doesn't mean you'll never struggle — but it does mean you keep coming back to the Cross.

You may stumble, but you don't stay down. There's conviction, not comfort, in sin.

“He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion.” (Philippians 1:6)



Self-Described Christianity

A self-described Christian might:

Know about Jesus but not know Him personally.

Attend church but resist change.

Use “Christian” as identity but not walk in daily surrender.

Lack spiritual fruit and hunger for holiness.

James said it clearly:

“Faith without works is dead.” (James 2:17)

Not meaning “earn your salvation,” but true faith produces visible fruit.



The Test of the New Birth...

Ask yourself:

Has my heart truly changed, or do I just try to behave better?

Do I love what God loves and hate what He hates?

Am I walking with the Spirit daily, not just on Sundays?

If Jesus returned today, would He recognize me as His own?



Why Spiritual Formation Matters

- The church doesn't just need attendance — it needs transformation.
- Spiritual formation is the shaping of our inner life by God.
- Goal: Move from informational faith to transformational faith.
- 2 Corinthians 3:18



Defining Spiritual Formation

- “The process of being conformed to the image of Christ for the sake of others.” - M. Robert Mulholland Jr. (1936-2015)
- Process - It's ongoing.
- Conformed - Shaped by the Spirit, not culture.
- Image of Christ (the *Imago Dei*)- Reflecting His character.
- For the sake of others - Transformation leads to service.



The Biblical Foundation

- Be Holy - 1 Peter 1:16
- Follow Me - Matthew 4:19
- Walk in the Spirit - Galatians 5:16
- Equip the Saints - Ephesians 4:11-13
- Formation is God-initiated, Christ-centered, Spirit-driven, and Church-supported.



Three Dimensions of Formation

- HEAD — Knowing God's Truth (Romans 12:2)
- HEART — Loving God Deeply (Mark 12:30)
- HANDS — Serving God Faithfully (James 2:17)
- Real formation engages the whole person.



The Pathway of Formation

- 1. Awakening - Recognizing spiritual hunger.
- 2. Discipleship - Growing through teaching.
- 3. Maturity - Bearing spiritual fruit.
- 4. Mission - Reflecting Christ in the world.
- Reflection: Where are you on the path?



Practices That Shape Us

- Prayer
- Scripture Meditation
- Fellowship
- Worship
- Solitude & Silence
- Service
- “Spiritual growth doesn’t happen by accident. It happens by intention.”



Barriers to Growth

- Apathy or laziness.
- Busyness and distraction.
- Unconfessed sin or bitterness.
- Isolation from community.
- Substituting religion for relationship.
- Hebrews 12:1 – Lay aside every weight...



Formation in Community

- We grow together, not alone.
- Acts 2:42 – 'They continued steadfastly...'
- Accountability and fellowship sharpen us.
- Commit to the “SPA’s” worship services, Bible Study, prayer gatherings, etc.



Formation at the “SPA”

- “At Shekijah, we don’t just attend church — we become the Church.”
- Weekly formation sessions
- Mentorship & discipleship pairs (*future*)
- Service outreach
- Word • Worship • Witness • Works



A Call to Commitment

- Will you allow the Spirit to form Christ in you?
- Formation requires surrender and consistency.
- Philippians 1:6 — 'He who began a good work in you will complete it.'
- Action Step: Choose one discipline this week and practice it faithfully.



Group Reflection

- What area of your life is God reshaping right now?
- Which practice will help you grow deeper?
- How can we strengthen SPA's culture of formation together?



Closing Thought

- “Formation is not about perfection — it’s about direction.”
- Stay pliable. Stay yielded. Stay on the Potter’s wheel.



Final Declaration

- “Lord, form us until we reflect You.”
- Shekijah Preparation Assembly — Preparing a People for His Presence.

