

Study Guide Questions

Series: Connected

Speaker: Jay Haugh

Message: Spiritual Development

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Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 4:8

For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

- **Read 1 Timothy 4:6-9.** What resolutions did you make for this year? Were any of them spiritual? Name one area in which you think you need greater discipline for the purpose of godliness. Why should every believer focus on spiritual development?

Robert Mulholland in his book, *Invitation to a Journey: A Road Map for Spiritual Formation*, asserts that spiritual development has four components:

- 1.) It's a process
- 2.) Of being formed
- 3.) Into the image of Jesus
- 4.) For the sake of others.

A Process

- We live in a culture that values instant gratification - it's why we have instant coffee, fast food restaurants, TV streaming services, and so much more. However, spiritual development is not an instantaneous event, it is a process. Are you ever frustrated by the process? If so, why?
- **Read Ephesians 4:11-15.** What are other passages that speak to the idea that spirituality requires development? How much time do you invest in your spiritual development?



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Of being formed

- **Read 2 Corinthians 3:18.** Are you offering yourself to God in such a way that enables God to do this transforming work?

Into the image of Jesus

- **Read Romans 8:28-29.** Do you think that you are currently being formed more into the image of Christ or more into the image of culture?
- What are some ways you have experienced God forming you into Christlikeness?

For the sake of others

- **Read Matthew 7:12; Galatians 5:14; 1 John 4:20-21; James 2:8.** Jesus and the other New Testament authors saw the summation of the Law and prophets to be found in how we treat others made in the image of God. When you consider how you think and act towards others, does that reflect the way God feels about them? Do you put loving God and loving others into separate categories or is the way you treat others an extension of your love for God?
- Do you feel a burden or weight for people you know who do not have a relationship with Christ? If so, what steps can you take to welcome them into a Christ-loving community? If not, reflect and share what your attitude and thoughts are towards the lost.
- The mission statement of New Covenant is, “We pursue God, pursue others and practice His ways.” How does our mission statement speak to the idea that our spiritual development is not strictly for our own benefit? In what ways are you “pursuing others?”



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