

Spiritual Formation Discovery Reflections

What a blessing last week to be able to gather together as a pastoral staff at the Discovery retreat with you and others in Portland! Thank you for your gentle and loving leadership and facilitation of us all – as the Spirit worked in and through you to point and orient the ears of our hearts to listen to our Heavenly Father calling each of us by name in Christ. Initial conversations with my pastoral colleagues indicate they were personally “met” by our Lord – and that it seemed “right” to us to be there with y’all last week.

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I look at my weekend as a point of reference for years to come or the rest of my life. The fog cleared. I saw where I was and where I desperately want to go. I am so grateful that I had the privilege of experiencing it with all of you!

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I had a vague idea of what I was getting myself into when I signed up for Discovery at the suggestion of my fellow Discoverer and mentor. She asked me if I would accompany her. Inside, something nudged me forward. I was on the hinder part of experiencing some of life's excruciating events and a time of big change. Through it all, intimacy with God seemed so much deeper, but surrounding me were accusations, condemnations and so many other voices that created a seemingly impenetrable fog of questions. Through it all, I had (and still may) more questions than answers. At Discovery, I was given a bird's eye view of my spiritual life. It gave me perspective (first order of calling) and a point of reference (Mansions). The fog lifted that weekend as I stepped back and saw where I was, where I had come from and where I desperately longed to go. I had never been given a picture quite so clear as this. I gained perspective as I live life every day. In the questions, discussions and decisions, I ask myself where this falls in light of God's call on my life. It gives order of importance to so many things.

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I came away with more clarity of sight. I came away with desire to continue building upon and also protecting my time with God. My mind was spinning at how I would do this and what changes I would make in my life. Where could I find accountability? So to begin, I could only pray for God to help me put these changes into shoe leather and carve them into the very minutes of my daily life.

And I am excited to see God Himself hearing and honoring my requests. First, seemingly out of nowhere, a group of girls from my church emerged with a desire to

form an accountability group. It is open to all the single girls and quite optional. The focus and goal is that we get together weekly or bi-monthly at the least, to talk about where we are at, our triumphs, failures and our goals for the week ahead.

I have been through enough classes and seminars to know that if it doesn't make a difference in your everyday life and your relationship with God, it may be (tho God's Word doesn't return void) for naught!

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Thank you for being a vessel of God's glory and investing that in so many souls. I noted that self did not get in the way. I saw Christ, the shape of a cross, in the leaders at Discovery through broken vessels, not shined and whitened sepulchers.