



Q & A



## ***Spiritual Formation for the Global Church*** ***A Multi-Denominational, Multi-Ethnic Approach***

October 19, 2021 | \$28, 248 pages, paperback | 978-0-8308-5518-6

**Ryan A. Brandt** (PhD, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) is associate professor of Christian history and theology at Grand Canyon University. He serves as the managing editor of the *Journal of Biblical and Theological Studies*, and his work has appeared in the *Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care* and *Perichoresis*.

# Expanding Our Understanding of Spiritual Formation

**What led to your interest in spiritual formation and now sharing about spiritual formation and the global church?**

**Ryan A. Brandt and John Frederick:** In recent decades, the world has undoubtedly grown closer and smaller, becoming a global village through the advent and proliferation of communication technology and the internet. Yet, despite these advances, evangelicals often remain fixed and focused on theological conversations and practices that take place within narrow regional, national, denominational, and racial/ethnic boundaries.

We are addressing the need to do theology and Christian discipleship in a way that is broader and open to the wisdom and practices of the manifold streams of the global church, which can speak with authority, conviction, and transformative power when we combine the riches of our various streams of historic, orthodox, evangelical Christianity into a coherent chorus of transformative global constructive theology. In our book, the reader is invited to engage with the voices of theologians and practitioners, men and women from every tribe, tongue, nation, and stream of the evangelical church. The reader will be immersed in the full breadth of the wisdom of the contemporary church throughout the world by encountering indigenous theological formulations and practices representing the church in its African, Asian, Latin American, North American, and European contexts and cultures.

**What is your main thesis in *Spiritual Formation for the Global Church*?**

**Brandt and Frederick:** Our book is a global, multid denominational, multiethnic effort in which evangelical biblical scholars, theologians, and practitioners from around the world join together to represent the one body of Christ in pursuit of a cohesive, yet diverse, constructive theology and praxis of spiritual formation for the global church in the twenty-first century.

This book engages with evangelical voices from different cultures to help one another chart spiritual courses away from dangerous dichotomous paths that separate the heart from the head in the pursuit of spiritual growth and toward conformity with Christ. The book invites you to examine yourself through the various cultural and theological lenses provided, and to do so in a prayerful manner, asking—and indeed expecting—God to illuminate your own cultural and theological assumptions and spiritual blind spots in order that you might be blessed by the voices of the global communion of the saints.

**What do you hope your book contributes to the study of spiritual formation?**

**Brandt and Frederick:**

- The volume represents the latest, cutting-edge original research on the theology and practice of spiritual formation from leading biblical and theological scholars from Pentecostal, Anglican, Reformed, Wesleyan, Barthian, Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Anabaptist, and nondenominational streams of the evangelical church.



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**John Frederick** (PhD, University of St. Andrews) is lecturer in New Testament and Greek at Trinity College Queensland in Australia. He is the author of *Worship in the Way of Cross: Leading Worship for the Sake of Others* and *The Ethics of the Enactment and Reception of Cruciform Love*. He is a priest in the Anglican Church of North America (ACNA).

- Our book brings together a broader array of voices from a very diverse, global perspective (including the Pentecostal, Anglican, Presbyterian, Lutheran, and evangelical perspectives) and focuses on spiritual formation in general from these different perspectives. In other words, our book proposes to ask what spiritual formation looks like for a Latin Pentecostal, African Anglican, or Eastern European Baptist. In this sense, our book is interested in a global contextual cohesive theology of spiritual formation meant for the benefit of the global church. There is not another book that does this in this way.
- The book provides a single-volume, affordable, global, evangelical resource that can function as a course text at the graduate and undergraduate level. It functions well as a text that can be easily bundled with other shorter texts to form a suite of spiritual formation resources for a college or seminary course. In particular, our book offers a contemporary evangelical perspective that incorporates voices of the global church in a constructive and collaborative theology on the topic of spiritual formation. Thus, it can be marketed as a course text alongside other devotional primary sources on spiritual formation—texts that listen to the voices of the saints through the ages—alongside the voices of the saints from across the globe in our book. Our book achieves this by situating the student in an example of global listening that spans ethnic, cultural, and denominational boundaries by organizing all of these distinct charisms and perspectives under the broad tent of the evangelical stream of the historic Christian faith.

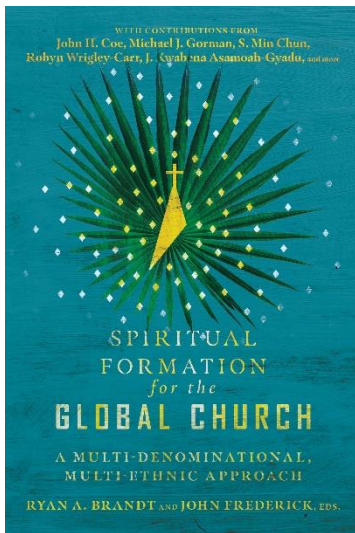


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Chris Hall, president of Renovaré

## **Spiritual Formation by Worldwide Practitioners**

The church is a global body of believers called to grow in Christ. Yet too often, it privileges a few voices and ignores the practical dimensions of the faith. Offering a multi-denominational, multi-ethnic vision, this volume brings together biblical scholars, theologians, and practitioners from around the world to pursue a theology and praxis of spiritual formation for the global church.

**Sammy Alfaro** (PhD, Fuller Theological Seminary) is professor of theology at Grand Canyon Theological Seminary in Phoenix, Arizona, and pastor of Iglesia Nuevo Día / New Day Church in Goodyear, Arizona. He is the author of *Divino Compañero: Toward a Hispanic Pentecostal Christology* and coeditor of *Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements in Latin America and Latino Communities*.

**J. Kwabena Asamoah-Gyadu** (PhD, University of Birmingham, UK) is currently president as well as a Baeta-Grau Professor of Contemporary African Christianity and Pentecostal Theology at the Trinity Theological Seminary, Legon, Ghana. He is the author of *Christianity and Faith in a Pandemic Era: Lockdown Periods from Hosanna to Pentecost* (2020) and coeditor of *Christianity in Sub-Saharan Africa* (2017). He has many other publications in the areas of Pentecostalism and Evangelical Christianity in Africa. Kwabena is a fellow of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences.

**Ryan A. Brandt** (PhD, Southern Seminary) is associate professor of Christian history and theology at Grand Canyon University. He serves as managing editor of the *Journal of Biblical and Theological Studies*, and his work has appeared in the *Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care* and *Perichoresis*.

**S. Min Chun** (DPhil, University of Oxford) is president and associate professor of worldview and Old Testament studies at Vancouver Institute for Evangelical Worldview, Langley, Canada. He authored *Ethics and Biblical Narrative: How to Read the Book of Judges* [Korean], and *Worldview Preaching* [Korean], and translated *Ethics and the Old Testament* (John Barton), *The God I Don't Understand* (Christopher Wright), and *The Dawkins Delusion* (Alister McGrath) into Korean. He manages a YouTube channel called *MinChun Salon*.

**John H. Coe** (PhD University of California, Irvine) is director and professor of spiritual theology at the Institute for Spiritual Formation, Talbot School of Theology. He was the founding editor of the *Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care* and has copublished several books in the area of spiritual formation and integration including *Embracing Contemplation: Reclaiming a Christian Spiritual Practice, Psychology in the Spirit*, and recently *Where Prayer Becomes Real: How Honesty with God Transforms Your Soul*.

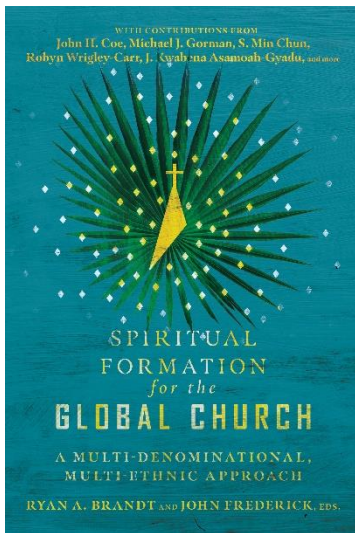
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**Chris Hall**, president of Renovaré

**Michael J. Gorman** (PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary) holds the Raymond E. Brown Chair in Biblical Studies and Theology at St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore, Maryland, USA. He is the author of numerous books and articles in New Testament theology and spirituality, including *Cruciformity: Paul's Narrative Spirituality of the Cross*, *Inhabiting the Cruciform God*, and *Participating in Christ*. He has a special concern for theology in the Majority World.

**Le Chih Hsieh** (PhD, Asbury Theological Seminary) is associate professor at China Evangelical Seminary in Taiwan. His work has appeared in *Sino-Christian Studies* and *Holy Light Theological Journal*.

**P. Markus Nikkanen** (PhD, University of Aberdeen) is the academic dean of the Finnish School of Theology (Suomen teologinen opisto) where he teaches New Testament exegesis, ethics, and pneumatology. He is an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Free Church of Finland and leads the school's spiritual formation program.

**Alfred Olwa** (PhD, University of Western Sydney/Moore College, Sydney) was formerly associate professor of practical theology at Bishop Tucker School of Divinity and Theology at Uganda Christian University. He is an Anglican bishop in the Diocese of Lango and is the author of *Missionary of Reconciliation: The Role of the Doctrine of Reconciliation in the Preaching of Bishop Festo Kivengere of Uganda Between 1971–1988*. He serves as coeditor of the journal, *Global Anglican* (formerly *The Churchman Journal*). His work has appeared in *Anthology of African Christianity*, *Global Renewal Christianity: Spirit-Empowered Movements of Past, Present, and Future, Vol.3: Africa and Diaspora*, and *St. Mark's Review, A Journal of Christian Thought & Opinion* 230, (December 2014) among others.

**Jonathan K. Sharpe** (PhD, University of Pretoria) is assistant professor of theology at Grand Canyon University. He is the coauthor of "Bonhoeffer and the Way of the Crucified: Methodia, Doctrine, and the 'Powers'" in the JBTS monograph *Ephesians and the Powers* and the author of "Experiential Obstacles to Faith: Why a Good and Powerful God Allows Christians to Suffer" in *The Beginning of Wisdom: An Introduction to Christian Thought and Life*. He is a cowriter and executive producer for the film *The Heart of Man*.

**HaYoung Son** (PhD, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary) is adjunct professor of New Testament at Asia United Theological University in South Korea. She is the author *Praising God Beside the Sea: An Intertextual Study of Revelation 15 and Exodus 15*.

**Robyn Wrigley-Carr** (PhD, University of St. Andrews) is associate professor of theology and spirituality at Alphacrucis College, Australia. She is on the editorial board and book reviews editor for the *Journal for the Study of Spirituality* and on the executive team of the International Network for the Study of Spirituality. Robyn is author of *The Spiritual Formation of Evelyn Underhill*, edited *Evelyn Underhill's Prayer Book*, and has contributed to several journals in spirituality and theology.



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