

*A Work of Heart*  
Reggie McNeal  
Book Discussion  
July 10, 2006

Jossey Bass has a series on Leadership.

Not normal a religious publisher, but have gotten into this leadership network.

See pages xii, xiii

In this volume I am arguing for the return to the center.

Heart-shaping or spiritual formation

Now, how does the heart get shaped?

Culture

Call

Community

Communion

Conflict

Commonplace

All of these shape our lives.

Take a blank sheet of paper and discuss these from the perspective of your life.

See [My 6 Spiritual Life Formation Factors](#)

To a large extent theology is autobiography

What we choose to preach about is all related to our spiritual journey.

Our conflicts are related to that.

Jon: 15-20 years ago there were some strong theological battles in the SDA Church

WWII German issues of persecution were replaying themselves.

That cultural and historical background drastically affects how you evaluate the situation.

Jon Dybdahl and Alden Thompson have experienced relationship together.

That book on inspiration is about Thompson's autobiography.

Thompson's view of inspiration is how he maintained his faith through the experience of graduate school to not vary the SDA belief.

Stories are behind the people who come out with particular documents/books/writing/lifestyle and writing.

Our history radically affects us in our relationships.

Not everybody sees it our way because our history is different.

We also need to be careful not to ride our hobby horse.

For Jon the most positive thing to come out of the book was the value of conflict and the opportunities that arise from conflict.

McNeal in other places talks about planning...

"Beyond Planning"

1. Admit your need
2. Ask for vision of ministry
3. Prepare yourself/your people spiritually
4. Watch God work (and when you see Him begin to work...)
5. Respond with plans and strategy

He's turning things upside down.

Start with God first...

This is a countercultural model.

This is beyond business.

May be easier to do in local church rather than major institution