THE GENERATIVE GRAMMAR
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Rethinking
Faith Formation:
Christian Identity
and Practice
in a Pluralistic World
July 23-25, 2014
RETHINKING FAITH FORMATION, IDENTITY, AND PRACTICE

Get inspired and equipped to cultivate in your people a vibrant, distinctive, and compelling Christian identity that proves useful in navigating the challenges of everyday life in a world of many faiths, cultures, and stories.

*The Visitation*, Van der Weyden
THESIS

Faith formation is about the Holy Spirit giving birth to Christ in our lives.
QUESTION

What is the Holy Spirit’s generative grammar?
THE GENERATIVE GRAMMAR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

IDENTITY: Who do we become when the Spirit’s generative grammar is at work in our lives?

FORMATION: How are our ways of perceiving and responding to life transformed?

PRACTICE: How are our actions—our behavior—transformed?

*The Visitation*, Van der Weyden
ROLE MODEL: THE APOSTLE PAUL AS MOTHER

My little children, for whom I am again in the pain of childbirth until Christ is formed in you (Gal 4:1 NRS)
THE HOLY SPIRIT’S GENERATIVE GRAMMAR

For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness . . .

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THE HOLY SPIRIT’S
GENERATIVE GRAMMAR

For in Christ Jesus

neither circumcision

nor un-circumcision

counts for anything . . .

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... the only thing that counts is faith working through (energou-menē) love (Gal 5:5-6)

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For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is faith working through (energou-menē) love (Gal 5:5-6).

For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.

THE HOLY SPIRIT’S GENERATIVE GRAMMAR

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## OVERVIEW: THE HOLY SPIRIT’S GENERATIVE GRAMMAR

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<th>FAITH</th>
<th>HOPE</th>
<th>LOVE</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>IDENTITY:</strong></td>
<td>Gal 3</td>
<td>2 Cor 3-5</td>
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<td>Who do we become?</td>
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Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us . . . . in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the nations (ethnē) so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. (Gal 3:13-14)
There is no longer: "for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Gal 3:28)

FAITH: IDENTITY = NO DISTINCTION

Sieger Köder
Consider your own call. God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us Wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption . . . (1Cor 1:28-30 NRS)

FAITH: FORMATION = CHRIST AS WISDOM

Sieger Köder
But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" (Gal 4:4-6 NRS)

FAITH: PRACTICE = CRYING "ABBA!"

Kirsten Malcolm Berry
For it is written, "Rejoice, you childless one, you who bear no children, burst into song and shout, you who endure no birth pangs; for the children of the desolate woman are more numerous than the children of the one who is married."

Now you, my friends, are children of the promise, like Isaac. . . . So then, friends, we are children, not of the slave [Hagar] but of the free woman [Sarah] (Gal 4:26-31 NRS)

Marc Chagall
For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another.

For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” . . . . (Gal 5:13-14 NRS)
Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want . . .
18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law.
19 Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
FAITH: PRACTICE
=
LIVE BY THE SPIRIT

22 By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

26 Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another. (Gal 5:16-26NRS)
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By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another. (Gal 5:16-26NRS)
“So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another”

(Romans 12:5; cf. 1 Cor 12)

Kirsten Malcolm Berry
HOPE
# HOPE: Glory

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<th>IDENTITY</th>
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*Seeing / reflecting (*katoptrizomenoi*) the glory of the Lord*

*Being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another*

*This comes from the Lord, the Spirit (2Co 3:7-18)*
### HOPE: Suffering

| IDENTITY | TREASURE IN CLAY JARS:  
|          | God’s extraordinary power / Not ours |
| FORMATION | Afflicted / Not crushed  
|          | Perplexed / Not driven to despair  
|          | Persecuted / Not forsaken  
|          | Struck down / Not destroyed |
| PRACTICE | Always carrying in the body the death of Jesus / The life of Jesus made visible *(phanerōthē)* in our bodies.  
|          | For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake / The life of Jesus made visible in our mortal flesh.  
|          | Death at work in us / Life at work in you. |
|          | *(2Co 4:7-12)* |
### HOPE = **Glory** + **Suffering**

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HOPE: Glory
(Rom 8: 1st half)

Spirit of life in Jesus

Setting minds on the Spirit

Spirit bearing witness with our spirit: “crying, Abba!”
HOPE: Suffering
(Rom 8: 2\textsuperscript{nd} half)
HOPE = \textbf{Glory} + \textbf{Suffering} \\
(Romans 8)

- Spirit of life in Jesus
- Setting minds on the Spirit
- Spirit bearing witness with our spirit, “crying, Abba!”
- Creation groaning
- Our groaning
- Spirit groaning in our weakness
Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.
And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces (katergazetai) endurance, and endurance produces character, and character (dokimē), produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” (Rom 5:1-5)
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LOVE

Sieger Köder
For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died.

And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them (2 Cor 4:14-15)
From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way.

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! (2 Cor 5:16-17)
All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

(2 Cor 5:18-19 NRS)
LOVE: PRACTICE = RECONCILIATION

MINISTRY
Sorrowing
Poor
Having nothing

MESSAGE
Rejoicing
Making many rich
Having everything

Jesus MAFA
How is the Holy Spirit giving birth to Christ in our lives?

**Identity:**
Who are we becoming?

**Formation:**
How are our ways of perceiving and responding to life being transformed?

**Practice:**
How are our actions—our behavior—being transformed?
How is the Holy Spirit calling you to assist in Christ’s being born in other people’s lives?

My little children, for whom I am again in the pain of childbirth until Christ is formed in you (Gal 4:1 NRS)