



# A Holy Convergence: Reflection Questions



## Chapter 1: One House, Many Windows

- 1) How long have you been worshiping at Word of Life Church?
- 2) What drew you to Word of Life?
- 3) What traditions from your family of origin and upbringing have most shaped your understanding of who God is?
- 4) If you ask, "What gifts might they offer me?" instead of, "Where are they wrong?" how might that change the way you think about Christians from traditions different from your own?
- 5) What does the image of the church as one house with many windows reveal about Christian unity that other metaphors might miss?
- 6) Which "window" into the Christian faith have you spent the most time looking through? How has it shaped your understanding of God?
- 7) Which window, or tradition, would you like to spend more time looking through?
- 8) Which of the seven gifts most resonates with you where you are in your spiritual journey? Which one do you most need to receive?

## **Chapter 2: Orthodox Mystery**

- 1) The Great Schism developed over centuries rather than happening overnight. What does this teach us about how relationships and communities can slowly drift apart and how we can avoid division?
- 2) What role does humility play in preserving Christian unity, especially when sincere followers of Jesus disagree?
- 3) What are the differences between viewing salvation as a legal pardon and viewing salvation as healing for our souls?
- 4) How do the ways we worship shape our theology?
- 5) God is not so much the object of our knowledge as the cause of our wonder. What can wonder do for us that knowledge never can do?
- 6) How does seeing the Trinity as a mystery to explore, rather than a problem to solve, change your perspective?
- 7) How can we pursue Christian learning and theology without becoming prideful or believing we have God completely figured out?
- 8) How comfortable are you with silence, contemplation, and simply being with God? What obstacles make this practice difficult, and what benefits might come from making it a regular habit?

### **Chapter 3: Catholic Beauty**

- 1) How does understanding the word catholic as "universal" challenge or deepen your understanding of Christian unity in the spirit of Jesus prayer in John 17?
- 2) How can Christians acknowledge real theological differences with other traditions while still showing respect and a commitment to unity?
- 3) Why is it important to distinguish between Catholic (the Roman Catholic Church) and catholic (the universal Church) in our practice of reciting the Apostles' Creed?
- 4) How can we honestly acknowledge the historic failures within a Christian tradition while also recognizing the genuine contributions within it? What does this balanced approach require of us?
- 5) How might intentionally involving our bodies in worship shape our experience of God differently than worship focused primarily on listening and thinking?
- 6) Which of Aquinas' three qualities of beauty—wholeness, harmony, and radiance—resonates with you most? Where have you seen it displayed in people you know or the beauty of God's creation?
- 7) How does the beauty of Jesus on the cross challenge cultural understandings of beauty?
- 8) What can you do to capture beauty where you live?

## **Chapter 4: Anglican Liturgy**

1) Do you feel that prayer and Bible reading come naturally to you? If not, which do you need to give attention to these days?

2) How can shared prayers and common patterns of worship help shape a church's identity?

3) In what ways are liturgical prayers beautiful? Where do you see integrity, harmony, and radiance in written prayers?

4) Why is it important for Christians to engage with Scripture in both corporate worship and personal devotions?

5) How does the vision of God's desire to restore all things through Jesus shape the way you think about the mission of the church and your place within it?

6) What is the value in a prayerful reading of Scripture and prayers crafted from the Scriptures?

7) What are the advantages and challenges of following a Bible reading plan instead of choosing to read Bible passages based on personal preference?

8) What does it mean to read the Bible with Jesus as the interpretive guide, and how might this kind of reading help you understand difficult passages?

## **Chapter 5: Protestant Audacity**

- 1) Why is holy courage necessary for the ongoing renewal of the church?
- 2) How can we preserve ancient traditions within our church while remaining open to the Holy Spirit's renewing work?
- 3) How do we discern the difference between unnecessary division and healthy reformation of the Church?
- 4) What does it mean for our consciences to be shaped and governed by Scripture rather than by cultural or institutional pressures?
- 5) Which of these biblical characters do you resonate with the most—Moses, Aaron, Esther, Nathan, or Peter? What can you do to emulate their audacity?
- 6) How know when obedience to God requires resisting cultural, political, religious, or social pressures?
- 7) Why are humility, wisdom, and love essential companions to audacity?
- 8) Where do you believe God is calling you to exercise courageous, Christlike audacity in your life today?

## **Chapter 6: Anabaptist Peacemaking**

- 1) How does the Anabaptist emphasis on intentional discipleship in addition to believing correct theology challenge or deepen your own view of what it means to be a Christian?
- 2) Which of the teachings of Jesus do you find the most difficult to put into practice?
- 3) Why do so many people struggle with resisting trading insult for insult or hurt for hurt?
- 4) What daily habits or practices can you incorporate into your life to grow as a peacemaker?
- 5) What are the differences between being a peacemaker and a peacekeeper?
- 6) Why are the means we use to achieve peace just as important to the end goal of peace?
- 7) How does embracing hardship change the way you think about following Jesus?
- 8) What does the cross teach us about God's way of overcoming evil with good? How can we follow the way of Jesus on the cross as we approach conflict resolution?

## **Chapter 7: Evangelical Energy**

- 1) Why is it important to distinguish between historic classic evangelicalism and “evangelical” as a modern political label?
- 2) How does centering our identity on the gospel rather than politics reshape the way we engage the world?
- 3) Have you had your "heart strangely warmed" or have you had a pivotal experience of God's grace that has shaped your faith journey?
- 4) What qualities do you see in John Wesley and Billy Graham that encourage you as you follow Jesus today?
- 5) Review the many expressions of evangelical energy. Which of these activities have had the greatest impact on the Church, and why?
- 6) Which of Willard's three elements of spiritual transformation—Vision, Intention, Means—is strongest in your life, and which needs the most attention?
- 7) What habits or expectations most often leave you spiritually tired, and how might Jesus be inviting you into a healthier rhythm?
- 8) Where do you most need energy in your relationship with God today? Prayer? Worship? Sharing your faith? Service to others? Acts of justice?

## **Chapter 8: Pentecostal Reality**

- 1) What does the Azusa Street Revival reveal about the work of the Holy Spirit to break down racial, ethnic, and social barriers, and how can today's Church better reflect that same unity?
- 2) Which aspect of this “full gospel” message of Jesus as Savior, Baptizer in the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Soon-Coming King do you need to emphasize in your spiritual life today?
- 3) Where are you most tempted to rely on your own strength instead of the Spirit's power?
- 4) How can Christians remain open to the surprising work of God while exercising wisdom and discernment?
- 5) Which of the seven traditions—Orthodox mystery, Catholic beauty, Anglican liturgy, Protestant audacity, Anabaptist peacemaking, Evangelical energy, or Pentecostal reality—has challenged or enriched your faith the most? Why?
- 6) Why is love the ultimate measure of Christian maturity?
- 7) Looking back over all eight chapters, which historical story or spiritual practice do you believe God is inviting you to carry into your own life?
- 8) What are the benefits and potential challenges of approaching the Christian life as a holy convergence with an open posture of learning from brothers and sisters in Christ from a different tradition?