

READING REPORT FORM

PMN 101 – Introduction to Spiritual Formation

Student Name: **Esterlyna Hicks**

With integrity, I have read this book (circle one):

Thoroughly and Entirely—100%

Quickly but completely—100%

Thoroughly but NOT Entirely—_____%

Quickly and NOT Completely—_____%

Not at all

Signed: **Esterlyna Hicks**

1). Where did this book “take you apart?” How did God use it in “spiritual surgery?” (Please use quotes & page numbers)?

- This book helped me to examine parts of my life and behavior that I unknowingly haven't addressed. One message from the book that cut me was when the author spoke about her experience on a school trip where she was caught by a teacher in a room with other classmates that were smoking marijuana. The teacher did not list her as a student smoking but when her father asked her about what happened on the trip, she told him a half truth. She told him that she heard of the smoking but did not tell him that she was present in the room with the transgressors. She says, “Close enough to the truth is a lack of character, partial truth is still a lie, I never told my father the truth.” How many times do I find it hard to tell the whole truth when it is inconvenient to do so. It is not easy to be so transparent when doing so could jeopardize someone's interests.

2). Where did you agree most with the author? Disagree most?

- I agreed most when the author spoke about how God uses trials in our lives to reveal things to us. Through trials, “He [God] is showing us that trials reveal what we are like on the inside and afford us the opportunity to act and look more like Jesus.” Saint John of the Cross once said, “He who is not tempted what does he know?” How are we suppose to know exactly who we are and what we are made of if we don't go through trials and temptations? We have deceitful hearts and without knowing the extent of our good nature and sinful nature we will have a distorted view of ourselves and our relation to a Holy God.

I disagreed most with the author when she spoke about telling my sins to others. I believe in confessing my sins to God but not always to others. I understand that it is healthy to talk to someone like my pastor, spouse, or counselor to let out the pain I'm going through and start to heal, but I must be careful who I tell my weakness to.

3). What was the key spiritual truth you gleaned from this book? How are you integrating it into your personal spiritual formation process?

- A spiritual truth that I gleaned from the book is that there are two types of men. There is a first Adam and a second Adam. The first Adam is the natural man whose condition we are born with. Adam one represents the sinful self that craves external validations such as career success, material wealth, and worldly accomplishment. The second Adam is the new man who Jesus represents. This new man acts in the way that we ought to act. He is motivated by love and strives to be a good person that sacrifices for the needs of others. These two different Adams are in conflict with one another. In the Bible it says, "The flesh is weak but the spirit is willing." It is important for me to put away the old man who is the first Adam and put on the new man the second Adam to be more like Jesus.

Note: I couldn't add the page number because I purchased the audiobook and it does not say the page numbers.