

Dear Pastor,

Greetings to you in Christ's love and faithfulness. As you will see from the content of my websites and my book, *Metamorpha: Jesus as a Way of Life*, one of my deepest passions is the church, and I hope I can be a blessing to you through *Metamorpha* in your own pastoral ministry.

When people ask what my book is about, I usually say something like, "I am laying out a journey model of belief formation." But that quick description doesn't clarify my intentions as well as the parable that Jesus tells about the sower (Matt. 13) whose seed – the Word – lands on both hard and soft hearts.

I believe our mistake has been seeing this as a parable about evangelism alone, rather than as a parable also about the nature of our hearts as followers of Jesus.

Metamorpha tries to engage the half of this parable we have left behind. It offers a map for the journey towards engaging God's people with Him and instructions on the tilling of our hearts. We have often been a people devoted to sowing the Word, but sadly, we often fail at being people who have taken seriously the hardness of our own hearts. A journey of belief formation is a journey away from mere propositional knowledge and towards deep-rooted belief. It is a journey that I believe we leaders personally need, even as we lead others in the adventure of spiritual transformation.

This is one of the reasons I have written this letter to you. In my interactions with leaders across the country, I have found a common tendency to focus nearly all of our attention on our external abilities, leaving our hearts under-tilled and without accountability. I believe, as I'm sure you do, that the church

doesn't need talented leaders nearly as much as it needs godly ones.

Throughout the writing process, my heart and mind would always gravitate towards those who are in pastoral ministry. It's my hope to encourage you and to offer some suggestions about how we might view differently the end goal of our spiritual and church lives.

We all fight the temptation to let our understanding of God, church, and life stagnate, rather than to remain open to the ongoing reshaping of our hearts by God. Those in leadership find themselves especially susceptible to avoiding community, trying to appear "perfect," and acting our way through the Christian life. It's my hope that *Metamorpha* will help us keep the soil of our life tilled, while at the same time offering a fresh vision for what the Jesus way of life can be.

Metamorpha is not only for pastors; it's for congregations to engage in as a body. I have created a free study guide and leaders guide that may be downloaded at www.JesusAsAWayOfLife.com. As you know, reading in isolation can often excite, encourage, and even inspire people to a godly life, but it's when the journey is taken in community that beliefs become action. My hope is that this curriculum will help till the hearts of the people in your congregation so that, as you sow the Word, it will penetrate to the core of their beings, turning them to Christ and all that he has for them.

To further stimulate dialogue and growth in your community, my ministry partner and I have launched Metamorpha.com, an online community for spiritual formation. Please stop by and see if this resource might be helpful in your – and your church's – transformational journey.

I so appreciate your vital role in the Kingdom, and I humbly offer you a heart-felt invitation to join us on the ongoing journey of belief formation. May God richly bless you in your role in creating churches that eagerly seek after the heart of God.

In his abounding faithfulness,

Kyle Strobel