

-Reflection Questions-
The Great Emergence by Phyllis Tickle, and The Book of James

1. How would you describe your inherited church?
2. What corner of the quadrilateral graph (p.126) do you most identify with, if any? What has been your journey around this graph? For example have you moved quadrants? Have you moved toward the swirling circle in the middle or have you moved out to the far corners at any point in your journey?
3. What is the ultimate authority in your life? How has it changed over time?
4. What do you see as the ultimate authority in your peer group, in your community, and the country? How do these differ from your own personal authority? Has this changed in your lifetime?
5. What do you do with paradox in your spiritual life? Where do you see paradox in the Bible? How do you wrestle with that?
6. In your context, do you see the Church as without value any longer, and/or dying out? Or do you see the Church thriving? Do you see the Church in the midst of massive transformation?
7. What are your feelings around the idea of the Church having a “big rummage sale”? Does this idea ring true for you in your experience? Does it give you comfort, or inspiration? Does it make you feel afraid, or lost?
8. What ideas and traditions would you like to see Her get rid of at the “rummage sale”? What elements are worth preserving? What do you think are the shared values we must absolutely hold on to?
9. Do you feel any connection to the brothers and sisters in the faith from decades past? Do you see *your impact*, however big or small, on people in the future?
10. The Book of James begins with the seemingly impossible call to “consider it an opportunity for great joy when you face troubles of many kinds”. What do you make of this challenge? Can trials build perseverance in your life? Have you ever experienced trouble as an opportunity for joy?
11. If faith without good deeds is useless, as James tells us, how do we guard against the mindset of *earning grace*? How do we need to live in order that our faith might produce this fruit of good deeds, without striving to produce the fruit only God can make?