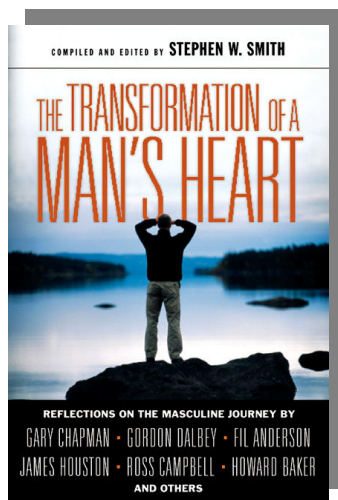




AN INTERVIEW  
WITH  
**STEPHEN W.  
SMITH**

The **Transformation of a Man's Heart** series puts men in conversation with God and with one another to see how God shapes them in the ordinary experiences of their lives. The book, featuring reflections on the masculine journey by experts in a variety of fields, can be read independently or in concert with the four discussion guides, which look in depth at the roles of sex, marriage, work and transformation in the spiritual lives of men.



*"This book is full of stories. Some will make you think. Others will make you cry. Still others will make you kneel. All will make you want to be a better man."*

—From the foreword by Ken Gire, author of *Moments with the Savior*, *Windows of the Soul* and *The Divine Embrace*

**Q: What inspired the idea for the Transformation of a Man's Heart series?**

**Stephen Smith:** The Transformation of a Man's Heart series was birthed out of need—not just my own need, but the deepest longing of nearly every man I have ever met. What man doesn't want to really change? Who really wants to stay the same his entire life? No one I know . . . no one I have ever met. Men need help to find their way to experience transformation. This series offers men a unique way to explore their own journey toward being transformed men. Through the stories of twelve men, the book and four unique study guides explore the masculine journey toward being Christian and male.

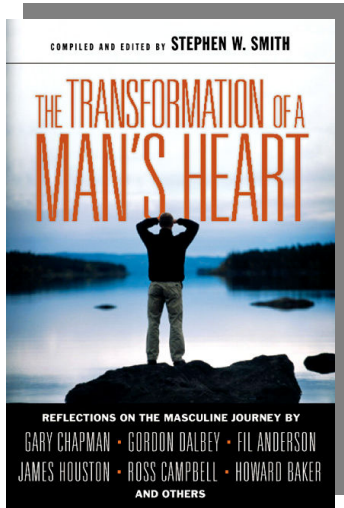
**Q: How is this series different than other materials and studies for men?**

**Stephen:** The Transformation of a Man's Heart series is more than Bible studies, more than a list of tips and techniques, more than learning principles and steps. It is a guided journey to the core of who a man is and an invitation to explore his own heart. It is his own journey before God that invites other men to process the journey along the way.

The four Transformation of a Man's Heart study guides help us to get our houses in order. Each session begins with an excerpt from the book *The Transformation of a Man's Heart*. This passage can be read individually or aloud in a group setting. "Examining My Story" offers reflective questions and exercises that help prepare us for the topic, theme and heartfelt need that will be addressed. "Engaging the Scriptures" is a guided study of a particular section of Scripture with questions and comments. "Experiencing the Journey" is a practical application of what has just been studied.

This convergence of thought, Scripture and reflection will help equip men for what lies ahead. "Expressing Our Hearts to God" offers creative ways of praying about the subject. Occasional encouragements from other companions run alongside each session to reassure us that our experience is authentic and transformation is possible.

Continued. . . .



**Stephen W. Smith** is the cofounder and spiritual director of The Potter's Inn, a ministry providing resources and services in spiritual formation. Find out more at [www.PottersInn.com](http://www.PottersInn.com).

#### July 2006

Series: 5 titles (4 studies: *Sex, Marriage, Transformation, Work*; and 1 book: *The Transformation of a Man's Heart*), \$41, #2144

*The Transformation of a Man's Heart*, 180 pages, paper, \$13, #2145

#### **Q: Why did you choose the topics you did for the studies?**

**Stephen:** It seems impossible to talk about authentic change and transformation of a man without discussing sex, marriage, work and a thorough understanding of the process of how a man really changes deep inside. While there are indeed other worthy topics, these four are crucial because when and if a man fails, most likely it's going to be in one of these areas. For too long men have been left without a map to help them navigate the swirling white water of sex, the mystery of marriage, and the disappointment in our work and purpose. The study guides quickly get real with questions that penetrate a man's heart, causing him to look in the mirror truthfully and bring the light of God's Word to the dark areas of our hearts. You won't be able to successfully hide out in using these study guides. They call a man to show up and engage with his own heart and the heart of God for him. There are tons of books on success, but I've not seen one like this that deals with failure in work, pain in parenting, disappointment in marriage and longings in our vocation so openly and honestly. It is a courageous attempt to bring the light into areas that have been left in the dark for too long. That's where men get into trouble—in the dark. This series sheds light and offers hope.

#### **Q: How can men best utilize this series?**

**Stephen:** After leading men and small groups for over twenty years, I've designed this series to offer a user-friendly way for men to be real with one another and to seek God's help in our own transformation. The series is designed for individuals, small groups or a class. It's an ideal guide for two men to use over lunch together, for a men's group to use in church, for a small group to use as a guide for spiritual growth and growth in personal relationships from honest sharing and storytelling. The framework of each study is the exploration of a man's heart and the masculine journey in a specific area, and the light of God's Word to bring understanding and insight.

#### **Q: What is your hope for the men who begin the *Transformation of a Man's Heart* series?**

**Stephen:** I hope for men to experience the authentic transformation that Jesus Christ offers—not shallow and empty promises to change and being left in the ruins of shame and blame over our repeated failures. I had my own four sons in mind when designing this project. Most men never had an opportunity to be given a map to help them find their way. Competing voices shout loudly to men today about what it means to be a man. I wanted men today to hear twelve men in various age brackets share their true experiences, failures and benchmarks in experiencing transformation. This series offers more than a solo voice shouting one way of being a man. Here, you have twelve men sharing their own stories of what the journey looks and feels like. It is the reflections of twelve godly men who want transformation for every man!