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**Conversions and Transformations:  
Missiological Approaches to Religious Change**

**The Role of the Holy Spirit in the transformation of children and young people.**

This paper will build on the insights of the pioneering work of Professor James E. Loder into the ways in which the Spirit of God (the Creator Spirit) transforms the human spirit through a lifetime. His starting point is I Corinthians 2: 10-16. He combines perspectives and analysis from theology (“the view from above”) and psychology and the social sciences (“the view from below”).

Unless there is an informed understanding of both the nature of the human, and the Holy Spirit then any attempt to understand transformation is likely to be inadequate from a Christian point of view.

Theologically and missiologically the Holy Spirit is the prime mover and sustainer of Christian mission. Unless this is acknowledged a default position of many Christian individuals, churches and organisations is to assume that transformation is largely a matter of human commitment, planning and resources, laced with prayer for God’s blessing on the human endeavour.

The original part of this paper is the author’s attempt to break new ground in connecting Loder’s work with a range of movements, initiatives, and Christian organisations engaged in world mission among children and young people with which he has been connected.

Key Texts:

James E. Loder *The Logic of the Spirit: Human Development in Theological Perspective* (San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 1998)

D. R. Wright & K.J. White (eds.) *The Logic of the Spirit in Human Thought and Experience* (Eugene: Picwick, 2014)