

## **The Concept of Personal Development in Contemporary Neospiritualism: A Missiological Evaluation**

**Abstract:** The current context bears the mark of transformations that should constitute a subject of interest for every person who seeks to relate authentically to the purpose of his existence –namely, the effort to approach holiness as much as possible.

In this regard, the article by Father Dumitru Stăniloae—*Nature and Grace in Byzantine Theology* – in its final section refers, citing St. Nicholas Cabasilas, to the fact that “the development of the human personality does not lie in the pursuit of individualistic goals, but in the active deepening of the relationship of love with one's fellow human beings, and the model and source of power of this love is found in Christ, who from this point of view is the perfect man, since He is also God”.

The numerous personal development books that have proliferated in recent years, together with all the forms through which the current process of personal development – such as it is being shaped in today's understanding – imposes itself in various social settings, present a perspective different from what St. Nicholas Cabasilas mentioned.

First of all, the individualistic character is what predominates in almost every context, and often the relationship with the other person becomes merely contextual. Not to mention that, in most cases, the presence of Christ is a relative one, without having a significant impact on the growth of the human being as a person. Starting from these observations, We have considered that addressing a topic related to personal development in the context of contemporary neospiritualism is more than necessary for missionary theology, which within its field of research also includes dialogue with certain ideologies, perceptions, and perspectives spread across different social contexts.

The opportunity offered is that of opening a Christian theological perspective on current problems and concerns, while at the same time highlighting the theological approach in dialogue with other fields of research, such as psychology or philosophy. The importance and meaning of the development of the human being as a person have always been at the center of the subjects of theological anthropology and in the writings of the Holy Fathers, where a vision about the human person has been developed – one who can grow in his or her true quality only through the cultivation of communion with fellow human beings and with God, and in God, with the whole of creation.

*Saluy*