Call for Papers

The *Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care* is calling for contributions to a special issue on:

**Suffering and the Christian Life**

Both lament and the theology of the suffering of God have a contribution to make for Christian suffering that is being largely neglected. Among various biblical themes and Christian traditions that address suffering, the role of lament has almost slipped into obscurity. Contemporary theologians like R.W.L Moberly and Walter Brueggemann have warned about the danger of losing lament. From the global violence of terrorist organizations to on-going poverty in Western nations; from churches that worship only with high-octane praise to an epidemic of spiritual frustration over the “silence of God,” there is more than enough reason to reconsider the ancient role of lament for the Christian and the church. What is the role of ritual and community in lament? How does lament help people worship *in* their pain? Further, writers like William C. Placher, Terence E. Fretheim, and Douglas A. Sweeney have broken open the rich significance of a suffering God for the way Christians view suffering in their own lives. How can an affectable God—to whom we lament—and his emotional life change the way Christians approach suffering, individually and corporately? This special issue will focus primarily on these two themes, contemplating their theological and practical implications for suffering.

We are interested in submissions from historians of Christian spirituality, biblical scholars, theologians, ministry leaders, sociologists, and other scholars and practitioners. These contributions can be article-length, research-oriented papers or scholarly essays of a shorter length. Review essays of relevant monographs are also of interest.

**The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2016**

Submissions will be subject to a blind, peer-review process. This special issue will be published in fall of 2016. Include a 100–200 word abstract with your submission. All submissions should be formatted according to the Chicago Manual of Style/Turabian. Electronic submissions are required. Address any correspondence concerning possible topics and all submissions to the special issue guest editor, Andrew J. Schmutzer (andrew.schmutzer@moody.edu). Further writing guidelines can be found at the Journal website: [www.biola.edu/sfj](http://www.biola.edu/sfj). The Journal also accepts submissions on topics outside of this special issue theme. See the Journal website for more info.