

Pavel Pola, *The Transformation of Faith in a Spiritual Crisis. The experience of Thérèse of Lisieux and Nicolae Steinhardt in the light of Viktor Frankl's approach*, dissertation. Prague: UK ETF 2023.

This thesis addresses the conditions of under what a spiritual crisis can affect a person's faith positively, and the characteristics of this crisis-affected faith. I first examine this question, based on the experience and psychological approach of Viktor E. Frankl, who speaks of an existential crisis characterised by the absence of meaning. According to Frankl, the search for meaning is the main step towards transformation in a positive direction – that is, towards an ordering of priorities, a consciousness of responsibility, a willingness to self-transcendence, and an acceptance of immutable reality. I then explore the experience of spiritual crisis in an analogous way with my two main authors on the basis of their autobiographies: Therese of Lisieux and Nicolae Steinhardt. First, I examine how their faith was formed and what their spiritual crisis looked like. Then I look for the steps they took in this crisis to help their own transformation. Finally, I describe how this transformed faith looked – and paradoxically, I come to the realisation that strength and unwavering resolve were not stronger, for it was the spiritual crisis that led to surpassing faith itself towards its existential expression, namely love or kindness.