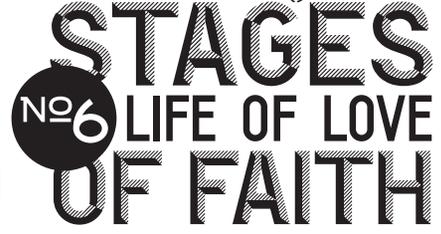


April 29, 2018

THE CRITICAL JOURNEY



FAITH IS REFLECTING GOD

- + This is a stage of living life in God, no longer about our work, our calling, our life—but life in and through him.
- + This can be confused with the Productive Life of No. 3, but at No. 3 people give up what they can afford of time, money, and energy, whereas people at No. 6 give up what it appears to others they cannot afford to give--their whole life.
- + Four basic movements. You mature through these stages by moving first from:
 - Forgiveness to
 - Taking to
 - Fear to
 - Responsibility to

CHARACTERISTICS OF STAGE 6

- + Christ-like Living in
- + Wisdom Gained from
- + The height of Christian Spirituality is not, as in eastern religions, detachment, but rather
- + Compassionate Living for
- + Detachment from
- + Life Underneath or
- + Life

CAGED AT STAGE 6 APPEARS TO OTHERS AS:

- Separation from
- Neglect
- Apparent Waste of

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH/LEADERSHIP DO WITH THESE PEOPLE?

- + Encourage them to
- + They can be great formal, informal
- + Ask These Questions of People here to learn from them
 - How is God everything for you?
 - How do you feel called to sacrifice yourself for others with no reservations and no guarantees regarding the results?
 - How are you detached (not affected adversely or drawn into addictive desires) from self, others, and the world and simultaneously attached (ever desiring to be more intimate, even to die to gain union) to God?

THE CHURCH CAN EXPECT THESE PEOPLE TO...

Power By Wisdom

Series Take Outs/Wrap up

STAGE 5: The Outward Journey *The Call To True Spiritual Maturity* (Eph 4:14) DEFINING IT:

FIVE CHARACTERISTICS

1. A renewed sense
2. A new sense of the Horizontal Life
3. Sense of calling, vocation or ministry
4. Concern and focus on others' best interests
5. A Deep Calm or Stillness

Caged or stuck at No. 5?

- + Seemingly out of touch with practical concerns
- + Apparently careless about important things

The Church/Spiritual leadership role

Moving forward

Catalyst for moment from No. 5 to No. 6

Power by Purpose

THE CHALLENGE FOR YOU AND ME: Will you let God's transform your life so you can enter spiritual adulthood?

The church is full of spiritual babies, children and some adolescents—powerful but self focused.

STAGE 6: The Life of Love

Biblical Examples

1. Philippians 1:21
 2. Luke 23:46
 3. The Life of Jesus.
- Grown up... Spiritual mature and adults.
Embrace Matt. 6:25, 33

The smaller groups in our church community are inside our homes where we go deeper, build friendships, and walk out the Christian life with each other.

HOME CHURCH/SMALL GROUP/CLASS GUIDE

1. "Breaking the Ice" question: (group facilitator)
2. Check-ins: What's been happening in your week(s) since last meeting? Introduce yourself if new/new people in group, check in with each other
3. Care: Needs in the group; name needs and have sentence prayers (short sentences/open ended, not long-winded) at end of the gathering time
4. Compassion: What compassion work is the group planning? Are you inviting your neighbors to join?
5. Group Announcements (church-wide and group-only)
6. Dig in: Any reflections, discernments, disagreements from last week's teaching (or since you last met)? Look at the Bible passage(s) again and read some of them out loud in the group (and other verses that may have been mentioned). What jumps out at you? Discuss some of the questions as a group.
7. End and Homework: Final questions, prayer huddles for personal requests. Consider breaking into small groups (huddles) of 2-4, by gender, if large enough.

PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK:



QUESTIONS FOR HOME GROUP: APRIL 22, 2018 Stages of Faith No.5 Through The Wall & The Journey Outward

These questions are only guides. You may go other directions based on the Bible passage and teaching as well!

Some examples to discuss: Philippians 1:21, The Life of Jesus, the last phases of Moses, Abraham and Sarah, Paul, Stephen, Mary the mother of Jesus, and Peter's lives. Luke 23:46.

1. We have covered, to some degree, aspects of the six stages in the journey of faith. What stage or stages do you think you've been through and why?

2. Stages No. 5 and No. 6 are places reached after we've been through much. Many people turn back before these stages. Can you think of examples of people who reached these places in their maturity in Christ? What do they look like? What about someone who doesn't let God take them there? What are the alternatives?

3. A life lived out of the love of God is the goal of the Christian. What do you see as the driving motivation for your faith right now whatever stage/age you're at?

4. Surrender and a deep attachment to God is part of the life of love. What do you think you need to surrender to right now?

5. Stage No. 6 is really an extension of No. 5 in letting ourselves merge more clearly and deeply with the heart of God. How do you feel called to sacrifice yourself for others with no attachments? Have you been called to do this ever?

6. Stage No. 6 usually develops later in life. Moving beyond Stage No. 6 is death and the life to come. This is a reunion with those who have gone before and a face to face encounter with Jesus. Have you thought of what you want your spiritual life to be like as you age? What comes to mind when reflecting on this?

