

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.



I. Intro:

REVIEW THE WALL

Key Characters in Bible

Defining the Wall Experience

“Fundamentally, this has to do with slowly breaking through barriers we have built between our will and newer awareness of God in our lives. We have spent our own energy; we have come to the end of our ropes. We are ready to learn about freedom - the liberty of living without grasping. In a more profound sense than ever before, we have “let God be God,” and let God direct our lives.

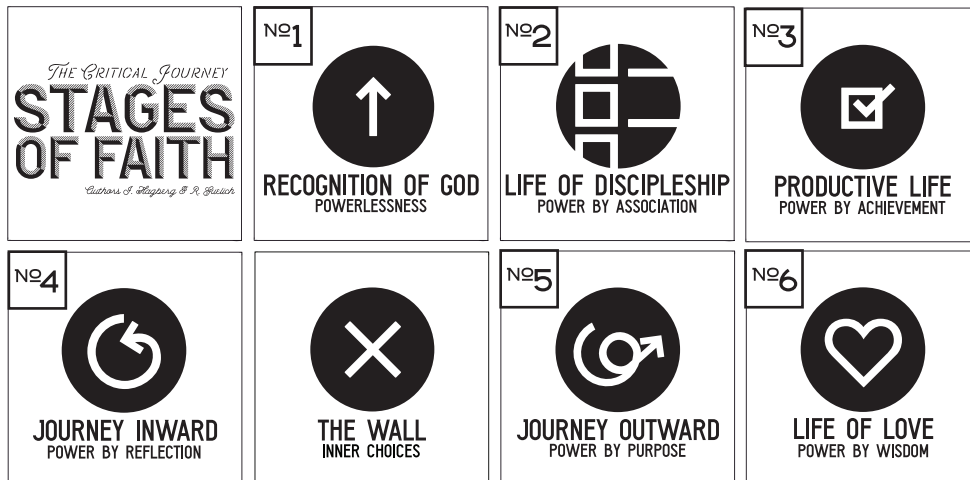
Picking up...

IV. GOING THROUGH THE WALL

- Discomfort
- Surrender
- Healing
- Awareness, Forgiveness, Acceptance, Love
- Closeness to God
- Discernment
- Melting/Molding
- Solitude and Reflection

V. EMERGING FROM THE WALL

VI. QUESTIONS TO TAKE WITH YOU





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!

KEY PASSAGES TO EXPLORE (one or two): Hannah receiving God's gift of Samuel and giving him over to God (1 Sam. 1.1-28); Jonah changing direction to go where he dreaded (Jon. 3.1-5); Joseph forgiving his brothers after they sold him into slavery and after becoming ruler (Gen. 45.1-15); Isaiah and Jeremiah allowing their lives to be changed to become prophets (Jer. 2.5-9, Isa 6.1-8).

1. **What other thoughts do you have about The Wall and moving through it?**
2. **Turning outward after allowing God to take you through The Wall, is natural, almost automatic. We need to become more aware of people in this stage with God. How can the church help this become a reality?**
3. **Have you been given more energy or stamina than you had to survive a crisis, illness, growth time (and not experienced burnout)?**
4. **When have you been "given" the right words or qualities to be available for another?**
5. **Do you have a glimpse of God's purpose (vocation/work, call, ministry) for your life?**
6. **How are you experiencing the shift from vertical to horizontal living?**