

AUGUST 8, 2021

Better Together

PEACE WITH GOD • PEACE WITH OTHERS • PEACE WITH SELF • PEACE WITH MATTER • PEACE WITH GOD

Heavenly Father, teach me to trust you even when I don't know where you are going. Help me to surrender and not turn inward into myself out of fear. The storms and winds of life, O Lord, blow strongly all around me. I cannot see in front of me. Sometimes I feel like I will drown. Lord, you are centred, utterly at rest and peace. Open my eyes that I might see you are with me on the board. I am safe. Awaken me, Jesus, to your presence within me, around me, above me, and below me. Grant me grace to follow you into the unknown, into the next place in my journey with you. In your name, amen (EHS, 134).

LET GO! Releasing Power and Control **THROUGH THE WALL OF DECONSTRUCTION**

We usually only learn to release the need to control circumstances or situations by an experience of "The Wall" or what is often called deconstruction. When we let go of this false power and control, we mature and receive the very life we were trying to achieve. This is an upside-down life principle. We don't give up our personal say-so or power, but when faced with challenges, we learn to lean into grace, and become graceful.

1 John 4:18, Philippians 4:12, Ephesians 1:4, Matthew 5:3, Luke 18:9-14, 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

TAKING OFF

For many, when we go back to go forward, we end up hitting a wall. Other times, we are brought to a wall in our lives by circumstances and crises beyond our control.

At some point, all followers of Jesus hit the wall. Emotionally Healthy Spirituality helps us become aware of the wall and understand a way through it.

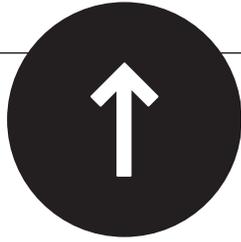
THE JOURNEY - ABRAHAM

The Jesus Way is a "Way"—it's a journey with movement, action, stops and starts, detours, delays, and trips into the unknown (117, EHS).

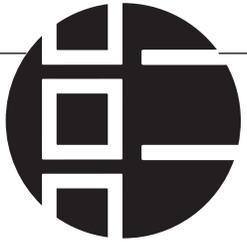
Many believers are stuck and deconstructing. They fail to see that this is part of the journey, not the whole journey! God works at our wall, but growth requires this experience to go through the wall.

The Critical Journey
STAGES OF FAITH

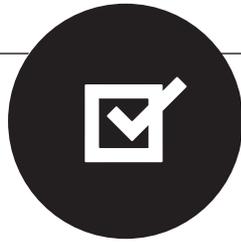
Authors J. Hagberg & R. Guelich



1. RECOGNITION OF GOD
 Powerlessness



2. LIFE OF DISCIPLESHIP
 Power by Association



3. PRODUCTIVE LIFE
 Power by Reflection



4. JOURNEY INWARD
 Power by Reflection



THE WALL
 Inner Choices



5. JOURNEY OUTWARD
 Power By Purpose



6. LIFE OF LOVE
 Power by Wisdom

LIFE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL, 126 EHS

A greater level of brokenness, *Matthew 5:3, Luke 18:9-14*

In the name of standing for truth, we can become horribly judgmental. But those who have been through the wall see their own arrogance first. "Before we go through the Wall, we prefer to exercise the right to determine good and evil rather than leave this knowledge to God" (EHS, 127). Now we know better.

The Beatitudes, Matthew 5:3 - Blessed are the poor in spirit, stripped of elevating themselves above others.

Freed from judging others

All cultures, all backgrounds, get core identity in the kind of judgment which is sinful—distorting and devaluing fellow Image Bearers.

Greater Appreciation of _____
Exodus 3:2, 13:21, Psalm 18:11.

To explore: Apophatic theology

A Deeper _____
Psalm 27:14, 130:5-6, Numbers 12:3, 1 Samuel 16 - 2 Samuel 1, Luke 4:14

Greater _____ *1 Corinthians 7:29-31*
 "Am I free?" is more important than "Am I happy?"

LANDING AND NEXT STEPS