



THE JOURNEY OF FAITH

VISION SERIES

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith...

Hebrews 12



ABOUT THIS SERIES

Faith in God is not a destination; it's a journey! A journey of following and being transformed by Jesus. The way we say it around here is *Broken and vulnerable people experiencing life in Christ...* But what does that *look like*?

Over the coming weeks, we'll explore that question and seek to identify the invitations of Jesus to each of us as we strive to experience life in Him. There is no more worthwhile pursuit! I am eager to see how God uses this exploration to deepen our experience of life in Him, both individually and collectively as a church.

Matt

Lead Pastor





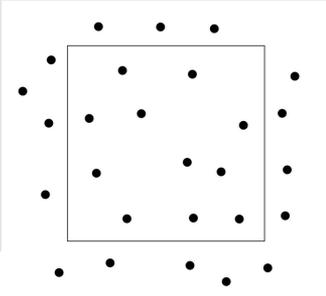
The Journey of Faith

Part 1: The Call to Follow

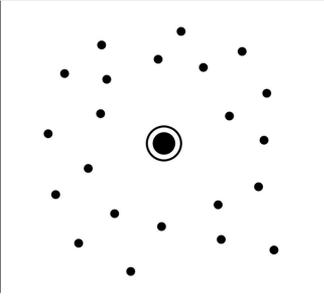
OUR VISION

_____ AND _____ PEOPLE
EXPERIENCING LIFE IN CHRIST

Two Types of Churches...



_____ Set



_____ Set

Notes:

What is the church and who is it for?

- The church is a community of _____ for _____ people formed around _____.
- The church is for _____!

How do we move closer to the _____?

- Faith is not a _____ but a _____.

²⁷ My sheep _____ to my voice; I
know them, and they _____ me.

John 10:27



Notes:

Caveats and Clarifications:

- One of the problems with sequential models of spiritual growth is _____ numbers sound “_____.” They’re not.
- Spiritual formation is dynamic! The stages on the journey are _____ and we can experience _____ _____ at a time.
- Tools like this are very helpful for _____ *your* stage and identifying the invitations of Jesus to *you*. But very unhelpful for _____ other people.

¹ The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you..." ⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him...

Genesis 12

Stage 1 – _____ of God

Faith looks like recognizing God.

Notes:

Characteristics of Stage 1:

- Sense of Awe and / or Need
- Experiential _____ of God
- Greater _____ in Life

Notes:

Stuck at Stage 1:

- Feelings of _____
- _____

Notes:

² Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

1 Peter 2

Stage 2 – The Life of _____

Faith looks like _____ about God.

Notes:

Characteristics of Stage 2:

- Experience of _____
- _____ Found Primarily Through _____
- Sense of _____ and Security

Notes:

Stuck at Stage 2:

- _____ in Righteousness
- We _____
- Perpetual _____

Notes:



¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2

Stage 3 – The _____ Life

Faith looks like _____ for God.

Notes:

Characteristics of Stage 3:

- _____ and Dynamic
- Experience Growth through _____
- Personal _____

Notes:

Stuck at Stage 3:

- Overly _____
- _____ - _____ and Pride
- Weary in _____

Notes:

Questions to Consider:

- Where am I on the journey?
- Where am I _____?
- How is Jesus inviting me to _____ Him?

Notes:



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Part 2: Into the Woods

¹ How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? ² How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart?

Psalms 13

Stage 4 – The Journey _____

Faith looks like _____ God.

Notes:

Characteristics of Stage 4:

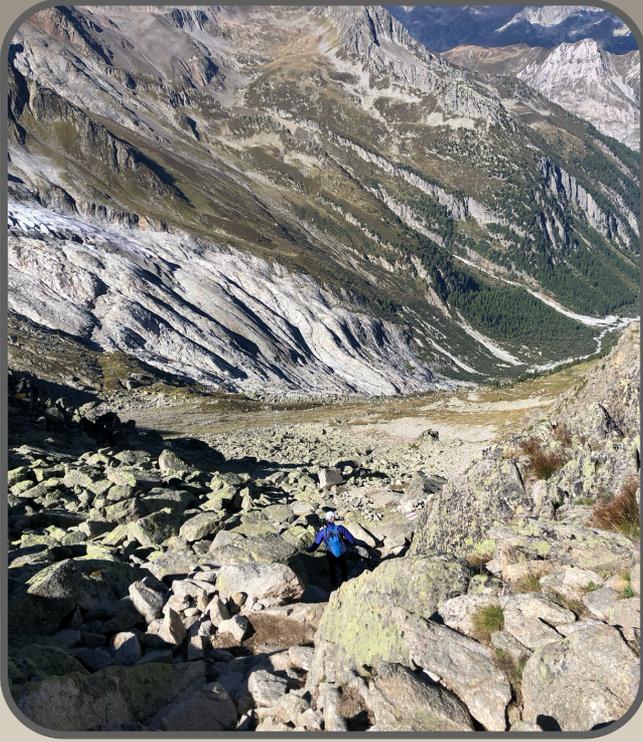
- Life or Faith _____
- Loss of _____
- Feelings of _____

Notes:

Stuck at Stage 4:

- Refusal to Journey Into the _____
- Unwillingness to _____ God from Box.
- _____ by Search for Self

Notes:



The Wall

A life-altering _____ that you
can't get _____, only through

When You are in the Woods...

- There's nothing _____ with you.
- Don't go it _____.
- _____ God is at work, even if you can't see it.
- _____ with God in the _____ - _____.

Notes:



The Journey of Faith

Part 3: Becoming Broken

"My sacrifice, O God, is a
broken spirit; a broken and
contrite heart you, God will
not despise."

Psalms 51

Notes:

Characteristics of Going Through the Wall:

- Discomfort
- Resistance
- Solitude
- Surrender

Notes:

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2

Stage 5 – The Journey _____

Faith looks like _____ to God.

Notes:

Characteristics of Stage 5:

- Holistic Transformation
- Deep Awareness of My _____ and God's _____
- _____ and Focus on _____
- Deep Sense of Calm or Stillness

Notes:

PROUD & DEFENSIVE

1. I am guarded and protective about my imperfections and flaws.
2. I naturally focus first on the flaws, mistakes, and sins of others.
3. I give my opinion a lot, even when I am not asked.
4. I have to be right in order to feel strong and good.
5. I am highly self-conscious and concerned about how others perceive me.
6. I focus only on the "positive," strong, successful parts of myself.
7. I am highly "offendable" and defensive.
8. I don't get close to people.
9. I keep people from really seeing what is going on inside me.
10. I like to control most situations.
11. I blame others.
12. I often hold grudges and rarely ask forgiveness.
13. When I am offended, I write people off.
14. I deny, avoid, or withdraw from painful realities.
15. I give answers and explanations to people in pain, hoping to fix or change them.
16. I have to prove I'm right when wronged.
17. I am demanding.
18. I see people as resources to be used for God.

BROKEN & VULNERABLE

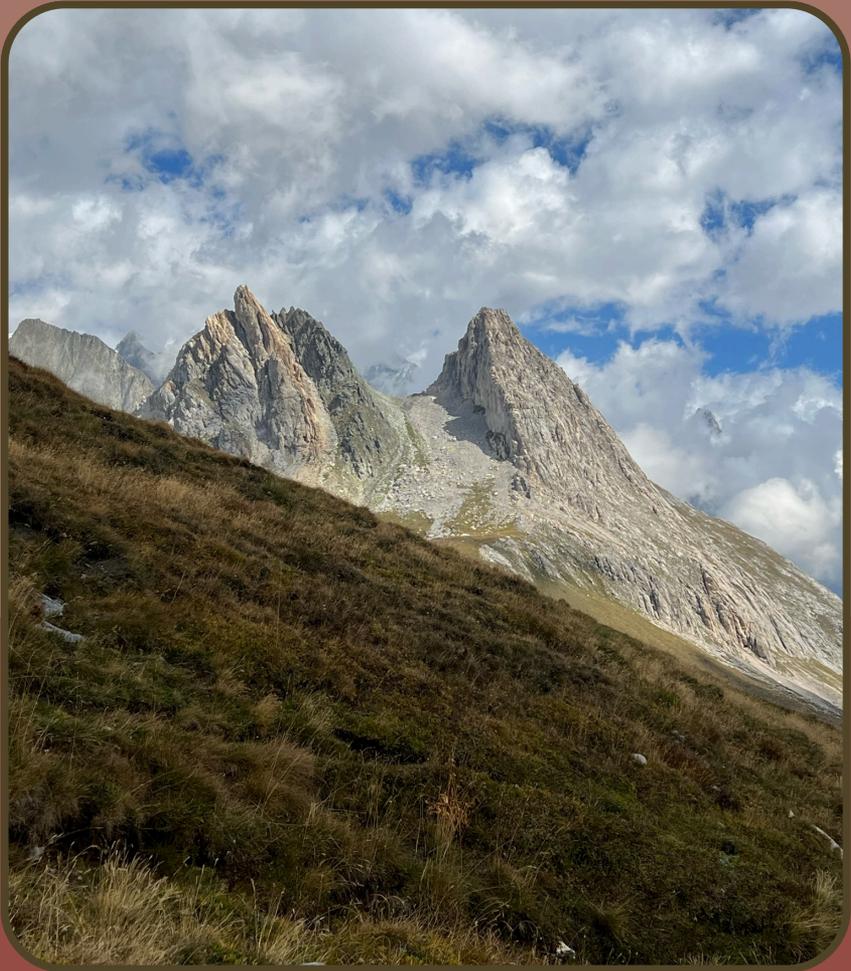
1. I am transparent about my imperfections and flaws and disclose them to appropriate people.
2. I am aware first of my own brokenness, and when I see the brokenness of others, I have compassion and am slow to judge them.
3. I am slow to speak and quick to listen.
4. I understand that God's strength reveals itself in admitting mistakes, weakness, and statements like "I was wrong."
5. I am more attuned to God and others than the impression I am making.
6. I am aware of the weak, needy, limited parts of who I am and I freely admit to failure.
7. I am approachable and open to input.
8. I am open and curious about others.
9. I delight in showing vulnerability and weakness, so that Christ's power is seen.
10. I can let go and give people the opportunity to earn trust.
11. I take responsibility for myself and speak mostly in the "I," not the "you" or "they."
12. I don't hold people in debt to me, and I am able to ask others for forgiveness as needed.
13. When I am offended, I ask questions to explore what happened.
14. I honestly look at the truth underneath the surface, even when it hurts.
15. I am present with people in their pain and am comfortable with mystery and with saying, "I don't know."
16. I can let things go.
17. I assert myself respectfully and kindly.
18. I see people as gifts to be loved and enjoyed.

¹⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

2 Cor. 12

Notes:



The Journey of Faith

Part 4: The Telos of It All

²...if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing... ¹³these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13

Stage 6 – The Life of _____

Faith looks like _____ God.

Notes:

Characteristics of Stage 6:

- Christ-like Living in Total _____ to God
- _____ for Others
- _____ from Things and _____
- Lack of Regard for the _____ of _____

Appearing Stuck at Stages 5-6:

- Out of _____ with
_____ Concerns
- _____ about “Important”
Things
- _____ Ourselves or
Wasting Our Lives

Notes:

_____ is the _____ of the spiritual journey.

- Make _____ the measure of _____.
- Make _____ God's _____ a daily _____.
- Get around _____ who _____ you _____ God more.

