



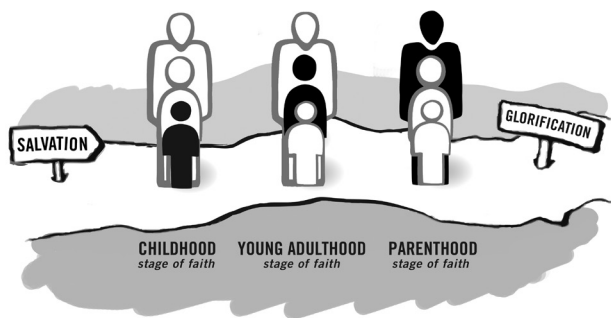
# STAGES *of* FAITH

*Spiritual Guidance. Lifelong Transformation.*

“It’s time for a change in the way we think about spiritual growth and the way we guide others in the faith. Today, spiritual growth is too often talked about in terms of more—more study, more commitment, more memorization, more service, more witness, more attendance. This focus on external behavior and performance leads to discouragement and disillusionment. *Stages of Faith* research has developed an unprecedented way to think about spiritual growth and an innovative way to guide others.”

~ Don Willett, Ph.D.

The pioneering contribution of *Stages of Faith* is that it has mapped a biblically-based and developmentally-informed path to guide the believer’s journey. Don’s research, based on the apostle John’s three stages of spiritual growth—Childhood, Young Adulthood, and Parenthood in 1 John 2:12-14—has isolated eight Milestones, and the essential building blocks of the believer’s spiritual life.



When you understand the three dynamic Stages and the eight Milestone markers, you are peering into the very core—the DNA code—of the spiritual life. It is a fundamental tenet of *Stages of Faith* that we have identified the primary issues that either catalyze or delay ongoing growth. Knowing that, we can then influence these three Stages and Milestones, targeting the most primary issues that effect our transformation. With this crucial breakthrough, you can now partner with God’s agenda for your growth so that fractured and misshapen lives can be reformed.



Don Willett researched and developed the *Stages of Faith* model, including the *Spiritual Growth Profile*® to measure your progress. Don has over 25 years of experience teaching *Stages*, leading *Stages* small groups, and coaching individuals in *Stages*. He is the author of both *Stages of Faith: 8 Milestones That Mark Your Journey*, and *The Path: How to Understand and Experience Authentic Spiritual Growth*.

## *Coaching for your Journey*

You need more than a map to follow. You need a personal, seasoned Coach. Customized, one-on-one Coaching will help you get in optimal spiritual shape. Relying on his *Stages of Faith* model, Don provides you with skilled support, challenge, and vision for your spiritual growth. His guidance gives you a seasoned accountability partner so you can go farther on your journey toward authentic Christlikeness and transformation.



Don has developed a unique and refreshing model of spiritual growth that is biblical, simple yet comprehensive, and transformative. After a compelling lesson on *The Journey According to John*, the *Stages of Faith* workbook includes:

- 5 lessons about the Childhood stages of faith,
- 4 lessons on the Young Adulthood stage of faith, and
- 2 lessons on the Parenthood stage of faith.

### **How will Coaching help me?**

1. In each lesson you will think differently about how spiritual growth really happens. Following John's road map, you can then expect to:

- Locate how far you have come on the journey of faith, and how far you have yet to go
- Identify the obstacles that delay your progress
- Chart steps to get optimally spiritually fit
- Learn how you can be different and make a difference

Know that it won't be long before you see noticeable progress.

Follow-up: you'll receive year-long supplements to support your fitness after Coaching is completed.

2. Confidence: Be assured that the path we will follow is thoroughly biblically grounded in 1 John 2:12-14 and its stages of Childhood, Young Adulthood, and Parenthood. That's how the apostle John was transformed from his reputation as "a Son of Thunder" to the Apostle of Love. *Stages of Faith* is not another trendy quick fix—but a tested and reliable path to follow that will last a lifetime.

3. Clarity: *Stages of Faith* clears away confusion about the process of sanctification, *how* spiritual growth occurs. You can expect to become more Christlike, whole, and fully alive—whereby weaknesses and injuries that detain progress can be restored. And be assured there is never a hint of the standardized prescription of More.

4. Convenience: Fourteen 60-minute sessions via video conference or phone. We can meet anywhere in the world.

5. Coaching with Dr. Don will equip you with an unrivaled tool to serve others more effectively. You can be different and make a difference. You will get acquainted with a strategy—a coherent plan for discipleship and spiritual growth—to help other believers become transformed rather than merely informed.

# Coaching Guidelines

Following are a few guidelines to make our working relationship as productive as possible. We will review these, and any other concerns, in our first video conference meeting.

## *Scheduling*

Fourteen, 60-minute sessions by video conference or phone, and a customized schedule that works best for you. Determine a time convenient for your schedule, and whether you prefer every week calls, or every other week calls. You will initiate the calls.

We agree to be diligent and punctual for our sessions so we can make the most of our time together. We will try not to cancel or reschedule out of respect for each other's schedules. If it is necessary to reschedule, we will give one another at least 24 hours notice.

Extra time: You are encouraged to contact me between scheduled sessions by e-mail or 'spot calls' with questions, struggles, thoughts, praise reports, or just to touch base. I enjoy providing this extra level of connection. I will make every attempt to respond to e-mail within 24 hours, with an e-mail or short phone call.

## *Fitness Goals*

As you face challenges from each of the eight Milestones and three Stages, like a good Coach, I will provide feedback, support, challenge, vision, and supplemental resources for you. To get in optimal spiritual shape, we will customize an *Optimal Spiritual Fitness Plan*—measurable action steps—which you can begin to immediately implement and see the results, and we finalize at the conclusion of the sessions.

## *Preparation*

You will complete each lesson in *Stages of Faith* before the Coaching session. You can expect to do in the neighborhood of two hours in preparation. Weekly supplements will stretch and strengthen your fitness at each lesson. Be sure to take time to let the material sink in and address you personally. Allow the Holy Spirit to affirm areas of progress and to highlight areas needing to be strengthened.

## *Participation*

Being "real"—faults and all—precedes being transformed. In each Coaching session, let's meet in the gym, diligently work out, to get in better spiritual shape for your journey ahead. Let's learn from your unique life experiences, and any shortcomings of previous efforts to get spiritually fit, as well as your personal discoveries in *Stages of Faith* and God's Word.

## *Confidentiality*

Be assured that all Coaching conversations are strictly confidential. Dr. Don will not share anything from our private conversations. Without your trust, transparent communication will be obstructed, your renewal delayed, and my effort to Coach you will be ineffective.

I'm looking forward—actually excited—to join you in this effort to understand and experience personal spiritual renewal and growth. First, I compliment you for your uncommon sacrifice of time and effort to prioritize "following Christ more fully." May you find this relationship with me and Him revitalizing and refreshing! Frankly, I am privileged to be in the role of providing direction and impetus for your way forward. But, please know that I expect to be mutually blessed in this relationship with you. We can capitalize on this opportunity to go farther and higher on the journey together.

*Coach Don*