



STAGES *of* FAITH

Spiritual Guidance. Lifelong Transformation.

It is widely attested that we in ministry could do better in making and maturing full-grown followers of Christ. What follows are the tragic indictments of three respected leaders who boldly call attention to these serious shortcomings and defects.

You can be on the cutting-edge of reversing these tragic indictments.

#1. George Barna

~ author of *Maximum Faith*

“Even among the born-again population, only a tiny proportion get beyond their profession of faith to experience the more robust and significant outcomes that are made available by Christ to His followers.”

“A major reason why few of us experience the richness of the Christian life is because we do not know what to do beyond reading and memorizing more verses, attending church services more consistently, donating larger sums of money to worthy causes, volunteering a few hours at church, and discussing our faith in Jesus with family and friends...”

“In all likelihood, an objective assessment would label that relationship ‘active but stalled.’”

Barna’s indictments:

- Only a tiny proportion get beyond salvation, the beginning of the journey.
- Believers are busy, informed, but stalled.

Imagine being on the cutting-edge of reversing Barna’s tragic indictments!

#2. Dallas Willard

~ author of *The Spirit of the Disciplines*

“In our immediate past, worldwide evangelism has been strongly emphasized and also quite successful. Perhaps this has been the main task of the church during the last three centuries. We can be happy and thankful for the expansion of the church, both geographically and numerically. But our very zeal and success in this area may deflect us from an adequate emphasis upon the understanding and practice of growth in Christ-likeness after conversion. Have we done what is necessary to bring the earnest convert into his or her possession as a child of God, as a brother or sister of Jesus Christ in the new life?”

“Unfortunately, the answer to this question must be a clear no. It is not an exaggeration to say that this dimension of practical theology is not even taken as a matter of great seriousness by most of our teachers and leaders, probably because it doesn’t seem imperative to succeed in doing so immediately. So we can only describe the phrase, ‘teaching them to do all things whatsoever I have commanded you,’ as the Great Omission from the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20.”

Willard’s indictments:

- Leaders are distracted from an adequate emphasis on genuine spiritual growth.
- Bringing followers of Christ to maturity is not taken seriously.

Imagine being on the cutting-edge of reversing Willard’s tragic indictments!

#3. Richard Foster

~ author of *Celebration of Discipline*

“Superficiality is the curse of our age. The doctrine of instant satisfaction is a primary spiritual problem. The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, nor gifted people, but for *deep* people.”

Foster’s indictments:

- We’ve relied on misleading markers to measure spiritual growth and fitness.
- The desperate need is for *deep*, genuinely transformed believers.

Imagine being on the cutting-edge of reversing Foster’s tragic indictments!

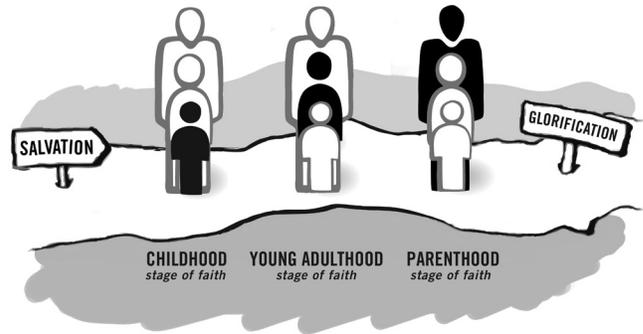
Reversing the indictments

I have taken note of the shortcomings and defects identified by George Barna, Dallas Willard, and Richard Foster. *Stages of Faith* has developed a one-of-a-kind solution—a unique approach that can reverse these tragic indictments.

“It’s time for a change in the way we think about spiritual growth and the way we guide others in the faith. *Stages of Faith* research has developed an unprecedented way to think about spiritual growth and an innovative way to guide others.”

Stages of Faith—a compelling solution

The pioneering contribution of *Stages of Faith* is that it has uncovered a biblically-based path to guide the believer’s journey to Christlikeness and wholeness. Based on the apostle John’s three stages of spiritual growth—Childhood, Young Adulthood, and Parenthood in 1 John 2:12-14—*Stages of Faith* has isolated eight milestones, 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. With this crucial breakthrough discovery, you can now partner with God’s agenda for your growth so that injured and misshapen lives can be transformed.



You can expect to become more whole, fully alive, transformed, and Christlike. And you will rely on an unrivaled model of spiritual growth to reverse the tragic indictments—and guide others more effectively. With *Stages of Faith*, you can be different and make a difference.

Don Willett, Ph.D.

Find out how far you have come in your spiritual growth, and identify your strengths and weaknesses in the three stages and 8 milestones by taking the “Spiritual Growth Profile” at www.stagesoffaith.com.

Don Willett, author of *Stages of Faith: 8 Milestones That Mark Your Journey*, and *The Path: How to Understand & Experience Authentic Spiritual Growth*.