

# stages of the journey

\*adapted from *the critical journey* by janet hagberg & robert guelich

STAGES OF FAITH	CHARACTERISTICS	HOW WE GET CAGED	HOW WE MOVE TO THE NEXT STAGE
<b>STAGE ONE: recognition of God “we believe”</b>	a sense of awe & need for a savior and greater meaning in life. a sense of innocence & openness	if we stick to a sense of worthlessness or ignorance and don't believe we are really worth “more”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• become part of a strong group</li> <li>• take on more significance</li> <li>• follow a charismatic leader that provides some direction</li> </ul>
<b>STAGE TWO: life of discipleship “we are learning about God”</b>	meaning comes from belonging. answers found in a leader, cause or belief system. sense of rightness & security in our faith	if we become rigid in righteousness and following the rules, develop a “we against them” attitude, keep switching churches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recognize our uniqueness</li> <li>• identify giftedness</li> <li>• recognize what we can contribute to our group, church, system, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>STAGE THREE: the productive life “we are about doing things FOR God”</b>	uniqueness in community, sense of belonging to a church and being part of the Body, greater responsibility in some areas of our lives (work, home, church)	if we become overly zealous in “our way” or become weary in well-doing. if we are self-centered or view our lives as performance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lose sense of certainty (things we thought worked don't anymore)</li> <li>• experience faith or personal crisis</li> <li>• feel abandoned by God, others</li> <li>• looking for direction &amp; seek guides</li> </ul>
<b>THE WALL “things just aren't working anymore...there's got to be more”</b>		<b>RESISTANCE AT THE WALL:</b> strong egos, self-deprecators, guilt/shame-ridden, intellectuals, high achievers, doctrine-focused, people-pleasers	<b>GOING THROUGH THE WALL INVOLVES:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• discomfort, surrender, healing, awareness, forgiveness, risk, acceptance, love, closeness to God, discernment, melting, molding, solitude &amp; reflection</li> </ul>
<b>STAGE FOUR: the journey inward “we need to figure out a new way to do this relationship with God &amp; others”</b>	life or faith crisis, loss of certainties. the things that worked aren't working anymore. search for direction, not answers. pursuit of personal integrity in relationship to God, being “doing” to “being”, God is released from the box, sometimes looks & feels like losing faith	if we always question everything and are consumed by self-assessment, become immobilized, don't keep moving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• let go of self-centeredness</li> <li>• accept God's purposes for our lives</li> <li>• seek wholeness through personal healing &amp; pilgrimage</li> <li>• be willing to commit to whatever it takes</li> </ul>
<b>STAGE FIVE: the journey outward “learning to live out of a totally different place”</b>	surrendered to God, a renewed sense of God's acceptance, a sense of deepening relationships, sense of calling, vocation or ministry. concern and focus on others' best interests. a deep calm or stillness	<b>not really caged at this stage but others can view you as:</b> seemingly out of touch with practical concerns, careless about “important” things, and not diligent in certain areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• not striving, just evolving</li> <li>• growing deeper</li> <li>• seeing God in all of life</li> <li>• being God's person</li> <li>• letting go</li> </ul>
<b>STAGE SIX: the life of love “it's all about God”</b>	living in obedience to God, wisdom gained from life's struggles, compassionate living for others, detachment from things and stress, life abandoned	<b>not really caged at this stage but others can view you as:</b>  separate from the world, that you neglect yourself and that maybe you're “wasting your life”	