

Stages of Faith Workshop

For Base Camp 2

Silvia Purdie

What is really interesting about growing in faith ... !!

1) it is a journey FROM God, WITH God, and INTO God

Life is gift. We are created beings. *"All that we have is yours and of your own we give you"*

Life is shared. God is with us every step (even when we don't see/feel him), and God gives us each other.

Life is calling. Christ is leading us, and we grow in faith to look like him more.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

What words might you pick to describe where/who God is for you this year?

2) It's the dedicated work of the Holy Spirit to grow us up

Big theological words like 'sanctification' mean that we are works in progress. We never 'get there' this side of heaven but God's in the people-changing business and he's working on you every day!

1 Corinthians 13:8-13 2 Corinthians 5:15-18

3) We don't leave things behind, we just repack them

We build new layers on top of old foundations. We relate to God and to others as babies, kids, teens, and add new tasks of adulthood – being held, being playful, being independent, being in love, getting stuff done. (Psalm 131, Matthew 18:3)

We circle around through life. Stuff we thought we'd dealt with comes back at you. Old hurts, deep longings, losses and regrets ... healing is carrying these lightly and learning from them, not dumping them.

What takes you back to being a kid again with God? ... for good or bad?

4) Growing up hurts

The interesting thing about the theories is the bits between stages. That is when ideas and feelings clash. Stuff does not make sense any more. Sometimes we get thrown into this by tragedy, sometimes it just grows and grows inside us until we can't ignore it.

Sometimes it confronts us with tough choices (Colossians 3:1-10)

A key way God changes us is through Confession and Repentance (2 Corinthians 5:18-21)

Galatians 2:19-20

Philippians 2:5-9 ... 3:7-11

What do you find hard? What used to be tough that isn't any more?

5) We need each other desperately

Healthy faith requires three roots: solitude, friendship and community. (People in ministry pay good money for relationships in which they can just be themselves!) The Christian faith is one we thrash out together as well as alone.

1 Corinthians 12

Who is there for you? Who are you supporting?

6) Each step forward is also a giving outwards

Really, it's not about me. God grows us up so that we can be more useful. The goal is to be more like Jesus, which means also claiming more of his power, his mission, his servant heart, his compassion.

Ephesians 2:8-10

2 Corinthians 8:7-11

How is God working through you for others?

7) God loves you Utterly Passionately Wonderfully Incredibly ... and won't let you go

The more we let in the love of God into our hearts and minds and actions, into all our memories and needs and all that makes us who we are, the more we grow in faith. Trust God for the adventure - there'll be surprises along the way!

Jesus is *"the way we need to follow and the truth we need to know"*

Ephesians 3:14-21