

THE WAY OF VIRTUE
Spiritual Formation through the Stages of Faith

THE WAY OF VIRTUE is a wholistic, 24/7, 360° lifestyle patterned after The Way of Life of Jesus in His Life among us as described in Scripture.

The **VIRTUES** are those of Jesus, the “Faith, Hope, and Love” of 1 Cor. 13:13, described with **SYNONYMS** thru the faith stages, birth to death. Each Virtue has four **sub-virtues** and accompanying **sacramental elements**. Virtues serve as guiding stars to lead us to the goal of Christlikeness. The Holy Spirit desires to replicate Jesus’ Virtues in us so that we can live His Way in real life. See N.T. Wright, Virtue Reborn/After You Believe.

The **Vision of God** is an **Attribute of God** on which we set our sight, so as to be remade in His restored Image.

The “Spiritual Disciplines” are means of Grace for placing ourselves in a posture in which The Holy Spirit is likely to create Jesus’ Virtues and Life in us. See Adele Calhoun, Spiritual Disciplines Handbook.

The **Stages of Faith Development** are discernable styles of believing, described by John Westerhoff in Will Our Children Have Faith? and by Janet Hagberg and Robert Guelich in The Critical Journey. The styles or stages are more cyclical than linear.

VIRTUE – sub-virtue – sacramental element	Stages of Faith Development				
<i>Vision of God</i>	Experiential-child	Affiliative-Pre-Teen	Searching-Youth	Fence-Late Youth	Recognized-Stage 1
FAITH: Forgiveness - Baptism <i>Redeemer</i>	SECURITY Assurance forgiveness	BELONGING Forgiveness	DIFFERENTIATION Rite of Reconciliation	CONFUSION Compromise	NEW SELF Repentance
Acceptance – Communion <i>Friend</i>	Table Blessing	Table Fellowship	Faith Exploration	Accepting	Holy Communion
Confidence - Church <i>King</i>	Church Participation	Sunday School	Hagiography	Church History	Church Membership
Empowerment – Filling <i>Strength</i>	Singing	Group Prayer/Anoint	Confirmation Study	Blessed/Blessing	(Re)Bapt/Confirm
HOPE: Relationships - Group <i>Trinity</i>	CHOSENNESS Church Family	PRIVILEGE Making Friends	CHALLENGE Mentoring Received	DIS-EASE Focus on Mentors	SURRENDER Small Group
Reflection – Devotion <i>Eternity</i>	Attitude Check	Personal Devotions	Music/Singing	Diary-keeping	Quiet Time
Restfulness – Sabbath <i>Shalom</i>	Special Day w/Jesus	Sabbath Day Off	Sabbath fr church	Rumpspringa	Retreat
Rendering – Stewardship <i>Self-Giving</i>	Sharing	Tithing	Offering	Serving	Worship
LOVE: Compassion – Social Act <i>Justice</i>	CREATION Helping	FALL Visitation	LEARNING Mission Trip	DISCOVERY Local Outreach	REDEMPTION Pilgrimage
Curiosity – Study Conviction – Teaching <i>Truth</i>	Wonder Names of God	Bible Exploration Trinitarian Prayer	Faith Study Core Creed	Faiths Exploration Core Convictions	Bible Study Creedal Affirms
Confession / Need - Pray Confession / Faith – Witns <i>Mercy</i>	Arrow Prayer God-Sightings	Intercession Examen	Ignatian Prayer Faith Testing	Guidance Faith Releasing	Heal/Deliver Testimony
Contentment – Celebrate <i>Grace</i>	Hol(y)days	Praise Reports	Explore Mystery	Accept Ambiguity	Gratitude

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<i>Vision of God</i>	Disciplined – St. 2	Productive – St. 3	Seeking – St. 4	Wall/Dark Night	Serving – St. 5	Love Perfecting-6	Homecoming
<i>FAITH:</i> Forgiveness - Baptism <i>Redeemer</i>	REORIENTATION Self-Examination	LIFE PURPOSE Apologize	DEPTH Moral Inventory	EXPANSION Receiving Grace	INTEGRATION Reconciling	HOLINESS Covering	FAITH TO SIGHT Making Amends
Acceptance – Communion <i>Friend</i>	Eucharist Prep	Special Worship	Self-Acceptance	Love Feast	Embracing	Apple of God’s Eye	Holy Detachment
Confidence - Church <i>Emmanuel</i>	Way of Life	Ministry Discovery	Ecclesiology	Sabbatical	Re-churching	Abba/Amma	Inviting Prayer
Empowerment – Filling <i>Strength</i>	Daily Filling	Empowering	Centering Prayer	Receiving Support	Seeking Presence	Empowering Love	Anointing
<i>HOPE:</i> Relationships - Group <i>Trinity</i>	RETOOLING Life Group	TRANSFORM Ministry Team	ABANDONMENT Accountability Grp	SUFFERING Grief Group	SETTLING Community Group	SATISFACTION Mentoring Given	EXPECTANCY Heavenly Hosting
Reflection - Devotion <i>Eternity</i>	Lectio Divina	Prayer List	Journaling	Spiritual Direction	Practicing Presence	Centering	Final Examination
Restfulness – Sabbath <i>Shalom</i>	Sabbath Timing	Sabbath Justice	Inner Rest	Solitude	Sabbath Times	Peacemaking	Slowing/Retiring
Rendering – Stewardship <i>Self-Giving</i>	Control Tongue	Time & Talent	Fasting	Unplugging	Whole-Life Steward	Downsizing	Simplifying
<i>LOVE:</i> Compassion – Social Act <i>Justice</i>	CONSECRATION Mission Discernm	WORLD TRANSF Mission Project	EXPLORATION Passion Search	HUMILITY Creation Care	SANCTIFICATION Advocacy	SURRENDERING Loving the world	FINISHING Blessing
Curiosity - Study	Culture Study	Spiritual Gifts	Culture/Deculture	Comparative Relig.	Interviewing	Listening	Eschatology
Conviction – Teaching <i>Truth</i>	Theology	Apologetics	Personal Creed	Self-Care/Love	Christology	God’s Love	God’s Sufficiency
Confession / Need - Pray	Hour Prayer	Community Prayer	Support Group	Healing Memories	Breathe Holy Spirit	Contemplation	Praying for Holy Death
Confession / Faith – Witns <i>Mercy</i>	Whole Life Faith	Evangelism	Prayer Walking	Discernment	God Omnipresent	Life Service	“All shall be well”
Contentment – Celebrate <i>Grace</i>	Healthy Partying	Neighboring	Surrender Anxiety	Kenosis	Hospitality	Submission	Blessed/Blessing