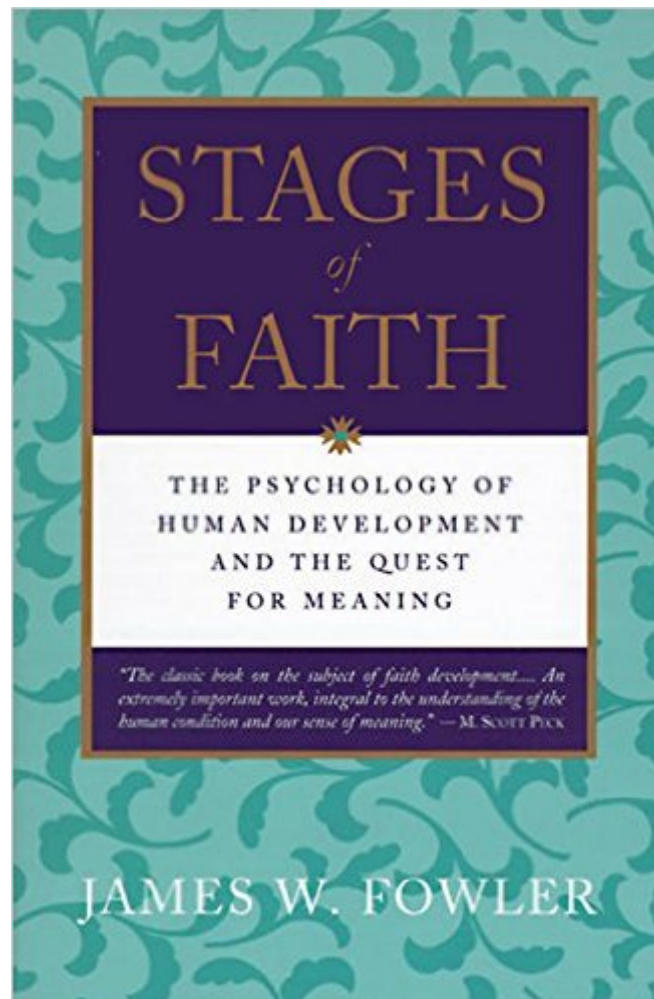# Stages Of Faith: The Psychology Of Human Development And The Quest For Meaning

Synopsis

Dr. James Fowler has asked these questions, and others like them, of nearly six hundred people. He has talked with men, women, and children of all ages, from four to eighty-eight, including Jews, Catholics, Protestants, agnostics, and atheists. In many cases, the interviews became in-depth conversations that provided rare, intimate glimpses into the various ways our lives have meaning and purpose, windows into what this books calls faith. Faith, as approached here, is not necessarily religious, nor is it to be equated with belief. Rather, faith is a person's way of leaning into and making sense of life. More verb that noun, faith is the dynamic system of images, values, and commitments that guide one's life. It is thus universal: everyone who chooses to go on living operated by some basic faith. Building on the contributions of such key thinkers as Piaget, Erikson, and Kohlberg, Fowler draws on a wide range of scholarship, literature, and firsthand research to present expertly and engagingly the six stages that emerge in working out the meaning of our lives--from the intuitive, imitative faith of childhood through conventional and then more independent faith to the universalizing, self-transcending faith of full maturity. Stages of Faith helps us to understand our own pilgrimage of faith, the passages of our own quest for meaning and value.

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Customer Reviews

Shortly after this work was published in 1981 I was engaged in a summer school graduate course on human development at Rollins College. The adjunct professor, an elementary school principal, was highly conversant with the schools and theories discussed by James Fowler in this work at hand. During a break in the ungodly four-hour night class, a student asked the professor if, given the

chance to do it over, she would have focused her doctoral efforts in another direction. Without batting an eye, the professor shot back: "Oh yes. Pharmacology." To say that a few somnolent students snapped to attention would be a profound understatement. Her message was clear enough: when studying human development, psychological theory is only one leg of the stool."Stages of Faith" is the first and perhaps best known work of James Fowler, who is particularly remembered in Roman Catholic circles for his influence upon the structure and content of religious education programs and study books for the young. Fowler himself appears to have been profoundly influenced by the study of Paul Tillich and particularly Richard Niebuhr, about whom the author would produce another book years later. Fowler credits both theologians for their seminal systematic work on the distinction between personal spiritual experience and cultic religious belief. [I did find Fowler's omission of Rudolf Otto's groundbreaking work on religious experience from his primary sources as curious.]The scholarly quest for systematic recognition of personal religious experience was a new venture for mainstream Protestant and Roman Catholic academics. The established theories of human development-notably Piaget and Erikson-provided theologians with something of a language for further theorizing.

Stages of Faith: The Psychology of Human Development and the Quest for Meaning Psychology: Social Psychology: 69 Psychology Techniques to Influence and Control People with Communication Tricks, NLP, Hypnosis and more... (Psychology, ... NLP, Social Anxiety, Cognitive Psychology) How To Analyze People: Body Language and Human Psychology Guide to Mastering Analyzing (Analyze People, Body Language, Human Psychology, How to Analyze People) Faith, Physics, and Psychology: Rethinking Society and the Human Spirit A Life Worth Living: Albert Camus and the Quest for Meaning Quest on the Thorny Path: A True Caribbean Sailing Adventure (Quest and Crew Book 2) The Archer's Tale (The Grail Quest, Book 1): Book One of the Grail Quest Quest: A Guide for Creating Your Own Vision Quest Mind Control Mastery 4th Edition: Successful Guide to Human Psychology and Manipulation, Persuasion and Deception! (Mind Control, Manipulation, Deception, ... Psychology, Intuition, Manifestation,) Can I Ask That?: 8 Hard Questions about God and Faith [Sticky Faith Curriculum] Student Guide BOOKS: HOW TO PRAY WITH FAITH AND GET YOUR ANSWERS IMMEDIATELY:: FAITH FOR ANSWERED PRAYER :PRAYER PATTERN FOR CHANGING SITUATIONS: FINANCIAL MIRACLE PRAYER: PRAYER OF ABUNDANCE: PRAYER OF HEALING: Sticky Faith: Everyday Ideas to Build Lasting Faith in Your Kids Faith Books & Spiritual Journaling: Expressions of Faith through Art (Quarry Book) Me of Little Faith: More Me! Less Faith! Android: App Development & Programming Guide: Learn In A Day! (Android, Rails,

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