# **Formation Stages**

Inconclusive Summary

Stage One
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Inexperienced

Undeveloped Spiritual Senses

Yet to dedicate whole heartedly to God.

Have not confessed, repented, and completed amends.

Yet to know the purpose of purifying and cleansing.

Knowledge is based upon reading, listening, and observations.

Draw conclusions about many things without experience or testing.

# **Stage Two**

In the process and learning.

Praying, meditating, trusting God, completed steps 4-8 and some of 9 or more.

Living life based upon service to God.

Daily self-examination for sincerity, truth, and service to God.

Sense the spiritual good in humbly serving others.

Learning about love, forgiveness, truth, mercy, and justice through doing it.

Praying for direction, listening, and getting it.

Enhanced spiritual senses of right and wrong, love and peace.

Knowledge is based upon new learnings of experiential application of God's character limited to the amount given in Spiritual Growth Formula.

# Stage Three

Complacency

After a some years we can begin letting go of our diligence to trust and rely upon God.

We may skip prayer, meditation, self-examination, and working with others.

We may be focussing much of our efforts on other things instead of spiritual development.

Our investment in the Spiritual Growth Formula diminishes.

We may practice dishonesty, false-flattery, self-seeking, selfish-ambition and insincerity.

Learning emptiness and loneliness grows as a result of our choices.

### Stage Four

Recommit

We return to the basics of daily meditation, prayer, and trusting God.

We humbly and sincerely do God's will again and regain a new spiritual experience. We feel connected again.

Living by God's character we feel complete, content, and fulfilled again.

Knowledge of getting a spiritual experience and the necessary invisible work involved, losing spiritual connection as a result of idolatry, and regaining that spiritual connection again resulting from applying one's self with the Spiritual Growth Formula.

### **Stage Five**

Perseverance & endurance

We maintain our commitment through self-discipline and helping others find God.

We continue to grow inwardly and outwardly with love and peace.

We set new goals seeing how to grow more and more in God's character for an even deeper spiritual experience.

We grow more in patience, peace, love, and gentleness.

We demonstrate God's good.

Others around us witness our growth.

# What to do?

### Inconclusive Summary

Stage	1
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Can't really see or hear

Commit and act

Go through the 12 steps & gain a spiritual awakening.

Clean house, trust God, & help others.

Find the similarities between the 12 steps and the Bible. Look for the similarities, not the differences.

Rid self of self-seeking, blaming, resentment, dishonesty, pride, and fear.

Daily pray, meditated, and do God's will.

### Stage 2

Learning to see and hear

Follow God more

Continue to practice the principles to know them better.

Learn more through experience God's good character.

Improve and grow humility, willingness, and honesty in all things. Try to keep everything spiritual.

Investigate God's spiritual good each day in self and others.

When unwilling, pray for willingness.

Work with others spiritually.

# Stage 3 & 4

**New Beginning** 

Get off the fence. Make a decision. Commit with action. Our actions prove our decisions.

Get fully involved with a formation group and serve God there.

Wake up with God and end the day with God. Do God's will to grow in it each day.

Continue to find character to improve. Set goals to grow God's character more and sense the good in it.

Pray for help with defensiveness, resentments, fear, entitlements, and self-seeking. Humble self & serve.

Get connected.

Be seen and known by others.

Know the power of love through more experience in it.

### Stage 5

Persevere & Endure

Years of continued growth in God's Character.

Demonstrate, guide, encourage, and teach.

People at this stage have been through the other stages and can help others see the next steps to improve and because they have experienced the other stages long enough, they can teach it with confidence and certainty.