

STOP 5 – Forgiven & Active in the Church: At this step, people commit to Christian activities. This includes things like attending church services, participating in studies, serving in the community, volunteering in the church, and following religious rites and traditions. Religious rites can include baptism and communion. The outward appearance at this step can be very devout.

STOP 6 – Holy Discontent: At this step, people feel uncomfortable spiritually. They may think, “I’m doing everything I’m supposed to, but I still feel so empty. Why?” They may be plagued with uncertainty about their salvation. They may notice a disconnect between what they believe and how they feel. At this step, people realize that there must be more to Christianity than what they have... and they want it... but may not know how to get it.

STOP 7 – Broken by God: At this step, people realize that they are broken. They come to the end of themselves and agonize over their own limitations. Here, there is a choice... continue to try to rely on self, or fully submit to God.

STOP 8 – Surrender & Submission: In this step people fully comprehend themselves as utterly and completely lost without Jesus. In a move of great faith, they surrender their heart to Jesus and trust Him as their Savior. There is no going back from this step of repentance; those who come here will persist in the faith until they die. The Holy Spirit indwells the believer at this point and confirms in their heart that they are children of God. They “know that they know that they know” they are saved. In this step, people begin to submit their will to God and His purposes.

STOP 9 – Profound Love for God: In this step, people begin to develop a deep, intimate, and profound love for God. They grow in loving Him with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. They grow in understanding the height, breadth, and depth of the love of God for them.

STOP 10 – Profound Love for People: In this step, after being filled with the love of God, people begin to extend God’s love to others. They begin to see others as God sees them and yearn to win hearts for Jesus out of a profound love for them. Service for others is driven by love.

Message Series: “SIMON SAYS”

August 29, 2021

Message: “The 2nd Half of the Gospel”

Pastor George Wasson

[Jesus asked his disciples] “Who do you say I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ – Matt. 16:15-16

WHO DO YOU SAY HE IS? _____

The Gospel Comes In TWO MASSIVE MOVEMENTS

- “Gospel” literally means “good news”
- Used to describe an announcement of victory or celebration
- The gospel is a Scripture-based declaration about Jesus— *who Jesus is, what he has done, how he fulfills all Scripture, and how he calls us to respond to him*

1. The 1st MOVEMENT is choosing to _____ Jesus

[Simon Peter] “There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.” – Acts 4:12

2. The 2nd MOVEMENT is choosing to _____ Jesus

“We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.” – 1 John 3:16

“Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord’s kindness.” – 1 Peter 2:2-3

Like the 1st, the 2nd MOVEMENT is a _____ and a _____

1. It begins with a gnawing _____ in the way things “are”

“The beginning of awakening in our lives is signaled by a growing awareness of the gnawing dissatisfaction in the pit of our souls... holy dissatisfaction. We are not the person we hoped we would become by now.” – JD WALT

“What do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?” – Matt. 16:26

2. It progresses as we dig _____ into our relationship with Christ

“Deeper is not another behavior or sin management strategy. Deeper takes us into the realm of our dispositions, affections, and desires. Deeper leads to the discipleship of the heart and mind.” – WALT

“If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.” – Matthew 16:25

3. _____ is the turning point in this journey of awakening

“Dependence is the fruit of trust. Dependence takes time. It takes growth. It takes healing. The way we build trust is to grow bit by bit in our dependence on Jesus.” – Walt

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” – Prov. 3:5-6

4. _____ becomes the reality of our relationship with God

“Delight is the reality of the relationship from the inside. We begin by delighting in God for what he has done for us. We grow to delight in God for what he does in us. We mature to delight in God for what he does through us. We arrive, finally, to delight in God for the sheer delight of who he is.” – Walt

“Trust in the Lord and do good. Then you will live safely in the land and prosper. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart’s desires.” – Psalm 37:3-4

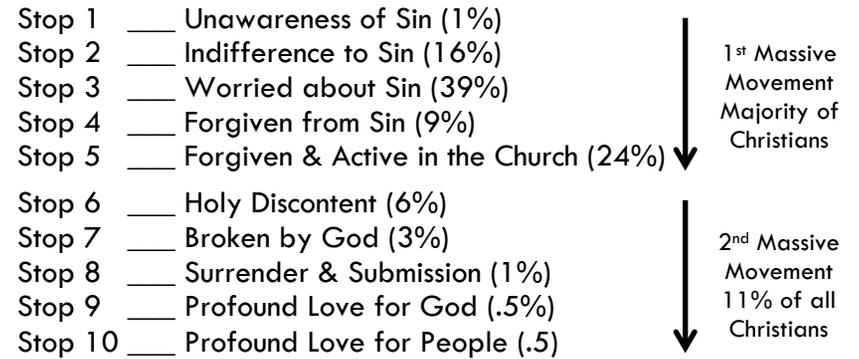
5. _____ marks our relationship with others that is characterized by a profound, ever-expanding love for others

“If delighting in God is the source of our joy, then our becoming devoted to one another is the source of God’s joy.” – Walt

“Love each other [“Be devoted to one another”-NIV] with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.” – Romans 12:10

“We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.” – 1 John 3:16

HOW GOD TRANSFORMS PEOPLE’S LIVES (GEORGE BARNA, 2011)



“While 4 out of 5 adults say they are Christian, only 1 out of 5 (20%) contends that the single, most important decision they have ever made was to invite Jesus Christ to forgive them and become their savior.” – Barna, 2011

“10 STEPS OF CHRISTIAN TRANSFORMATION”
by George Barna, 2011

The First Half of the Gospel

STOP 1 – Unawareness of Sin: At this step, people are completely oblivious to the existence of sin.

STOP 2 – Indifference to Sin: At this step, people are aware of the concept of sin, but aren’t concerned about it. They have no desire to stop sinning.

STOP 3 – Worried about Sin: At this step, people start to become concerned about sin in their lives. They realize that they have done wrong and crossed some sort of moral line. They may long to be free of certain sins or feel guilt about them. They try to overcome these sins through persistence and willpower, and may or may not be successful. They may seek counseling for guilt or addictions.

STOP 4 – Forgiven from Sin: At this step, people hear the gospel of Jesus Christ and may have an intellectual or emotional response to it. They are now aware that they are sinners and that Jesus has offered to pay the price for their sin.