

STAGES OF FAITH

The stages of faith from Brian McLaren's book, *Finding Faith*, are as follows:

	Simplicity	Complexity	Perplexity	Humility
Focus is on...	Right or wrong	Effective or ineffective	Honest or dishonest	Wise or unwise
Motive	Please the authorities, be an insider	Reach goals & be effective	Be honest & authentic	Serve, contribute, make difference
Beliefs	There are easy answers, and the right authority has them	Anything is possible...just find the best methods, beliefs, etc.	Nothing is certain. Everything is relative	There are a few basic truths, much relative, and mystery
Perceptions	Dualistic	Pragmatic	Relativistic	Integrated
Motto	You're for us or against us	Find whatever works for you	Who knows who is right	Moravians' quote
Authorities	Godlike – they help you know	Coaches – help you grow	Dishonest and controlling	People like the rest of us – some good, some not
Like/	Bold confident answers/ tentative "I don't know"	Clear instructions and motivating to action/ dogmatic or mystical (1&3)	Questioners and free-spirits/ people in phase 1 & 2	People who combine thoughtfulness with accomplishment
Dislike				
Strategy	Learn the answers and avoid the enemy	Learn the technique and give people what they want	Ask hard questions. Be ruthlessly honest	Learn all the answers & techniques you can, ask all the ?'s you can, and try to fulfill your potential with humility
Strengths	Highly committed and willing to sacrifice	Enthusiasm, idealism, action	Depth, honesty, humor or sensitivity	Earlier stages, plus stability, endurance, humility, and wisdom
Weaknesses	Simplistic, arrogant, judgmental, intolerant	Superficial, naïve	Cynical, withdrawn, elitist	Those of earlier stages
Identity	In leader or group	In a cause or achievement	In solitude, or with other alienated friends	In relationship to the whole, or to God
God is...	Ultimate Authority figure and/or Friend	Ultimate Guide or Coach	Mythical, outgrown authority, opiate of masses, or mystery I'm seeking	Knowable yet mysterious, just yet merciful, (sustaining tensions)
Transition key	Experience fallen leaders or diverse views, and shift for desire for certain knowledge to desire for accomplishments and success	Stage 1 people and their quest for truth. Stage 2 strategies that don't always work. A desire to integrate the fragmented complexities of life	Struggle between arrogance (toward 1&2) and humility. Life demands values, beliefs, etc. What CAN one hold onto?	Repeat the process in new arenas...?