

“Called to Holiness”

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Our Lady of Sorrows
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Introduction

- **The timely “Convergence of Three”**
 - Christmas season (Epiphany—manifestation of Christ)
 - Feast of the Baptism of our Lord
 - New Year’s (resolutions?)
- **Why are you here tonight? What do you want from God?**
- **Holy Spirit’s Role and Your Role**
 - He desires to draw you close to Himself
 - Need to have proper disposition and LISTEN

Discipleship

The Catechism states that disciples...

- Pray (§2601, 2612)
- Abide in the Word (§2466)
- Witness to Christ and work using the gifts received from God, in ecclesial and temporal affairs (§1319, 2427)
- Imitate Jesus (§2347, §2470)
- Profess, spread, and live the faith of the Church (§1816)
- Establish habits befitting a disciple of Christ (§1494)
- Are initiated and nourished by the Eucharist (§1275)
- Respond to Jesus' invitation to enter His kingdom (§546)

discipleship as transmitted by the Church is:

- an active response
- for everyone
- personal (yet in community)



FORMING
INTENTIONAL
DISCIPLES

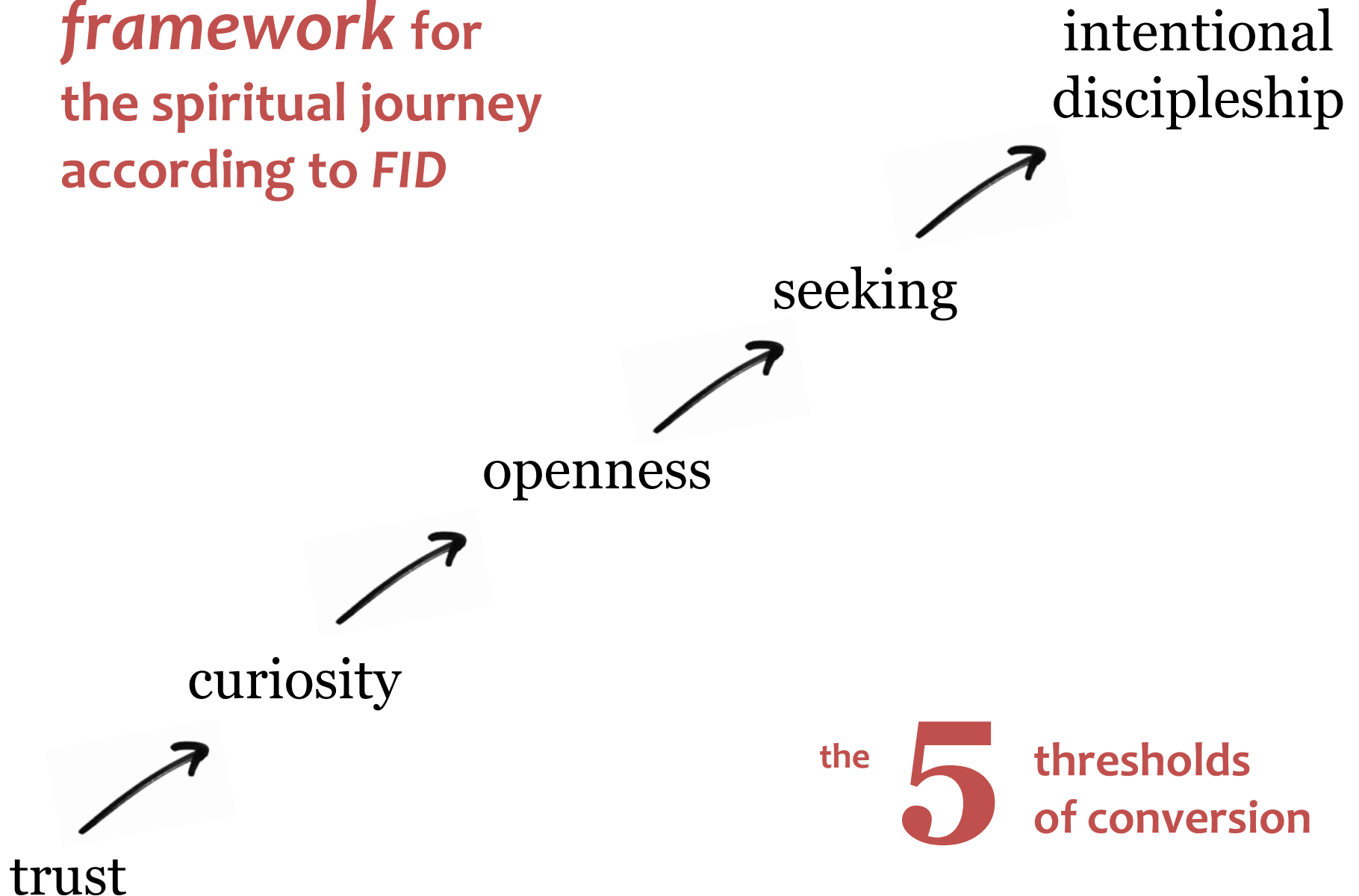


The Path to Knowing
and Following Jesus

Sherry A. Weddell



framework for
the spiritual journey
according to *FID*



Five Stages of Spiritual Growth in *FID*

- *Initial Trust*
 - Able to have a positive association with Jesus Christ, the Church. Not the same as an active, personal faith. Without trust, no ability to move closer to God.
- *Spiritual Curiosity*
 - Intrigued by or desiring to know more about Jesus or some aspect of the Christian faith. Ranges from awareness to intense and proactive. Is essentially passive, but more than trust. Not yet open to personal change.

Five Stages listed in *FID* cont

- *Spiritual Openness*

- Critical point when a person acknowledges to him/herself and God that he/she is open to personal and spiritual change. One of the most difficult transitions as it can feel dangerous, crazy and out of control. Not a commitment to change, but an openness to the possibility of change.

- *Spiritual Seeking*

- A move from being passive to being an active seeker to know the God that is calling. Is engaged in an urgent spiritual quest, seeking to know whether he/she can make a commitment to Christ and His Church.

Five Stages listed in *FID* cont

- *Intentional Discipleship*
 - This is the decision to “drop one’s nets” and make a conscious commitment to follow Jesus in the midst of His church as an obedient disciple and to re-order one’s life accordingly.

So are you a disciple?

The Strangest Way

Fr Robert Barron points out:

“Christianity is not simply a matter of articulate beliefs and organizational structures, but an entire pattern of life...Jesus wants not simply to communicate teachings and insights; he wants to share his life, his way of being...so the evangelist must learn his way before daring to speak of him.”

-Bridging the Great Divide, 267

“The entire purpose of the Christian life is to make us, not simply better people, ethically upright, but to make us divine, to conform us to a participation in the life of the Trinity. **Being holy, burning with the fire of God’s own life, is the point.**”

---The Strangest Way, 29

Getting Our Lives Straight

Thomas Merton once observed, “Once I knew that the purpose of my life was to become a saint, I realized that Christianity was not primarily a matter of getting my ideas straight, but rather getting my life straight.”

“There is no magic formula for holiness...We shall not be saved by a formula, but by a person.”

---St Pope JP II, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*

“The answer is to fall in love with Jesus Christ. Unless we have a love relationship with the Word of God, the Word cannot speak to us properly. The Word of God is a person. The Word of God is Jesus Christ.” --Fr. Dominic Borg, OCD

What exactly is Sainthood?

A saint...

- Looks upon the face of God in Heaven
 - Nothing “unclean” enters the presence of God
 - Therefore, to be with God in heaven means that we are “perfect” —free from sin, “cleansed in the blood of the Lamb”
 - HOLY
- What is holiness?
 - Transforming union with God

Therefore, to become saints, we must become holy.

Growth in the Spiritual Life as taught by the Church—St Teresa of Avila

