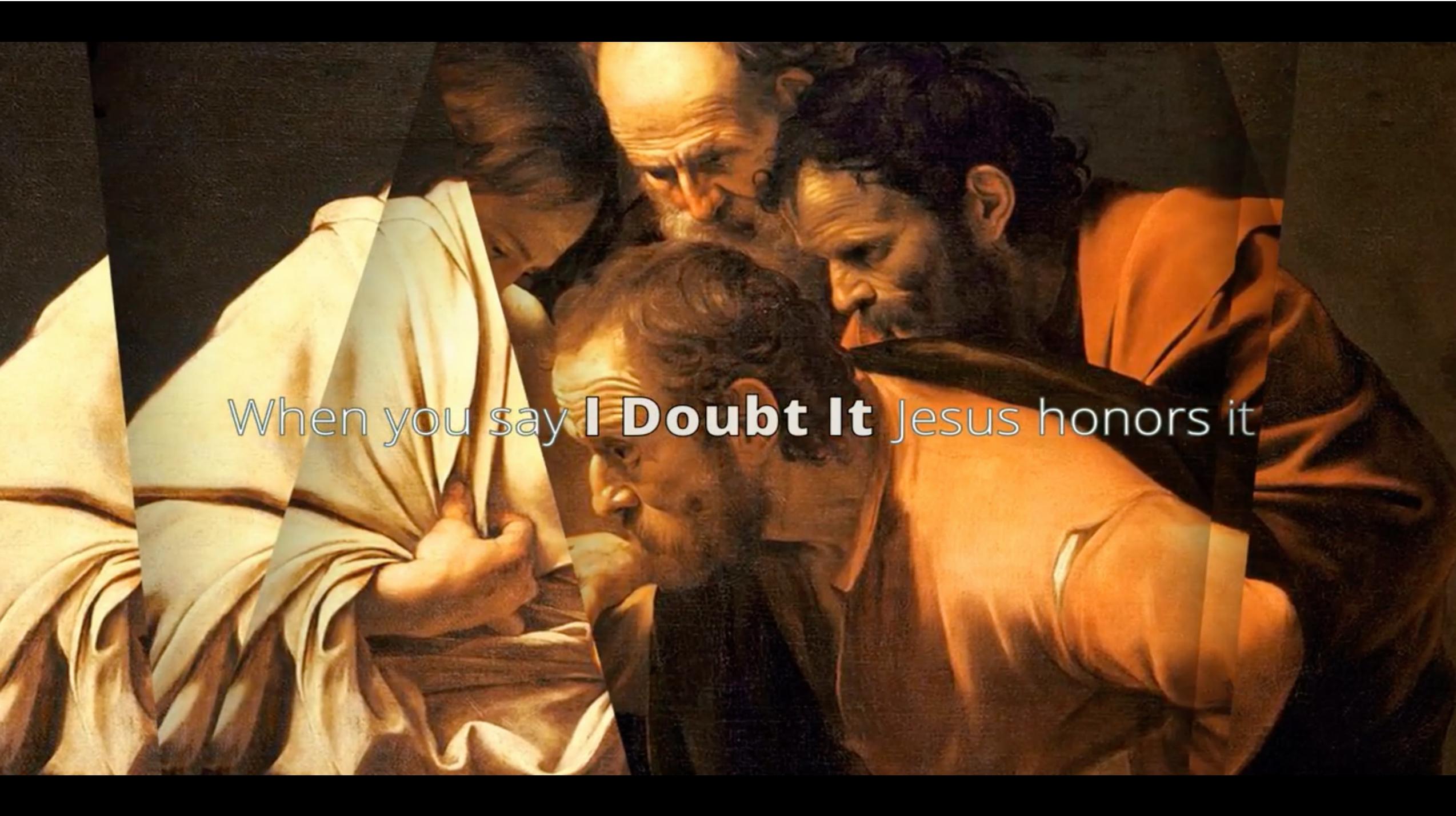


I Doubt It

Midweek 4-20-22

Presented By Mark Shaw

A dramatic painting depicting Jesus Christ in the center, surrounded by his disciples. The scene is lit with warm, golden light, creating a sense of intimacy and focus. Jesus is shown with a serene expression, looking towards the right. The disciples around him exhibit various expressions of concern and devotion. One man in the foreground is looking intently at Jesus, while others in the background are engaged in conversation or looking towards the central figure. The composition is tight, emphasizing the physical and emotional closeness of the group.

When you say **I Doubt It** Jesus honors it

24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." 26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27 Then Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." 28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

When you say
I Doubt It
Jesus honors it

- **Jesus** (John 20:24-29) -
(New International Version)





— “ —

²⁷ Then Jesus said to Thomas, “For crying out loud, how many times do we need to talk about this? Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

- Jesus (John 20:24-29) -
(Today's Paternal Frustration Version)

When you say
I Doubt It
Jesus honors it

“

27 Then Jesus said to Thomas, “Seriously? Come On!!!! Fine. Whatever. Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

- Jesus (John 20:24-29) -
(Dave Bruce Version)

When you say
I Doubt It
Jesus honors it





²⁷ Then Jesus said to Thomas, “Bro! Doubting is wrong. I am going to use this as a teaching moment. You just need to have faith. So, I am NOT going show you my side or my hands. I am NOT going to say, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side.”

- Jesus (John 20:24-29) -
(Tough Love Version)



When you say
I Doubt It
Jesus honors it



When you say
I Doubt It
Jesus honors it



²⁷ Then Jesus said to Thomas, "Really! You're gonna go there!? YOU are gonna give ME an ultimatum? I can't even... right now. You watched me die, and now YOU are gonna challenge ME --- in front of everyone? And unless I cave, you are just gonna quit? Dude!"

- **Jesus** (John 20:24-29) -
(Gonna Go There Version)

When you say
I Doubt It
Jesus honors it

Introduction



Acts 15:28

“It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following three requirements...”



The Apostles made it simple for people

In Acts 2, over 3,000 “strangers” got baptized

1 Peter 3:15



“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”



Give an answer ≠ Refute

It is noble to know why you believe what you believe.

My Goal (for this series)



I want to honor your doubts. This is a safe place to express your doubts. You are not weird. You are not weak or faithless. You are not alone.



Principles of understanding the Bible

We will cover numerous principles of interpreting, of understanding, of viewing, of reading the Bible.

Museum Curator



I am constantly updating my collection of art.

There are many apologetics that I have welcomed into my museum. Some I have later thrown out. Others I have welcomed, placed into storage and am pondering if and when to bring them out.



I am a curator of the art of the Bible

I find art and exhibit it. I have created a few stick-figure drawings myself though. But only a few.



PLAYLIST

sunflower

rex orange county, summer salt, girl in red, daniel caesa
eilish, the beatles, cavetown, clairo, peach pit, tyler the

Created by mhl343 • 186 songs, 10 hr 45 min

PLAY

FOLLOWING



Filter

TITLE

ARTIST

ALBUM

+ Drop the Guillotine

Peach Pit

Sweet FA

+ Wine and Roses

Peachy!

Floral EP

✓ summer depression

girl in red

summer depre...

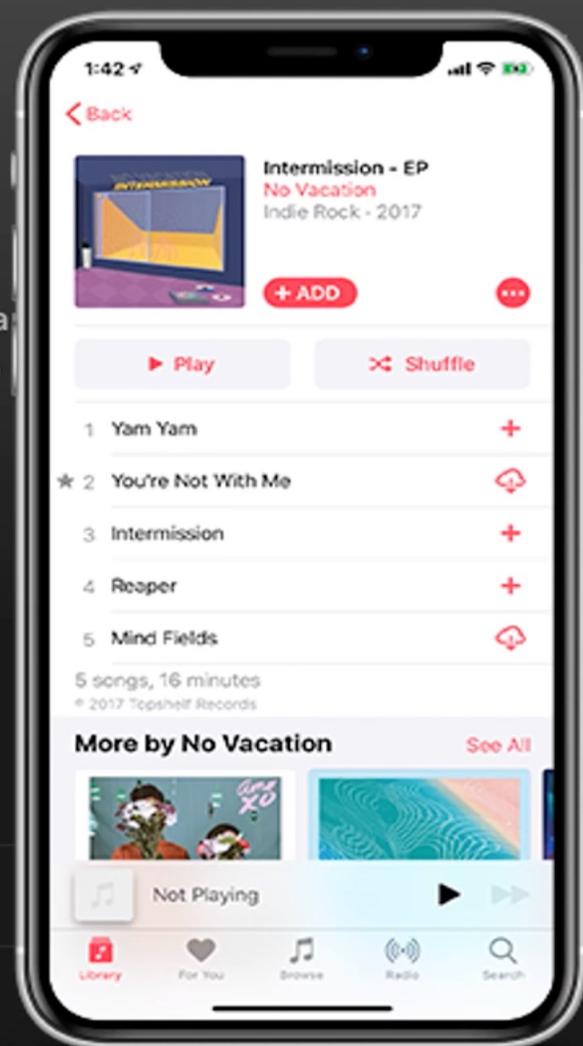
2018-07-23

+ Me and We and I

The Frights

Me and We and I

2018-07-23



Questions You Might Have?



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Agenda

4
Stages
of Faith



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Agenda

**Making
sense of
it all**





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Agenda

Cultural Contextualization

Agenda

Principles of Interpretation



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da

Translators and Translations



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enda

Translators and Translations



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What is Morality

da

Approaches to the Bible



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Agenda

**My
personal
"Starting
Point"**



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Agenda

Spiral Dynamics



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agenda

**Eastern
vs
Western
Mind**



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enda

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**Bible
Math vs
Unfolding**

da

Irresistable



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Agenda

**Everything
is
Spiritual**

Agenda

Language & Idioms



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enda

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**Something
BIG
happened**

da

The Sin of Certainty



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enda

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**Science
vs
the Bible**

Agenda

Archeology



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24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." 26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 27 Then Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." 28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

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- Jesus (John 20:24-29) -
(Today's Paternal Frustration Version)

When you say
I Doubt It
Jesus honors it

Agent

**What
is
the
Bible?**



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Agenda

**Led by the
Spirit
(aka TBD)**



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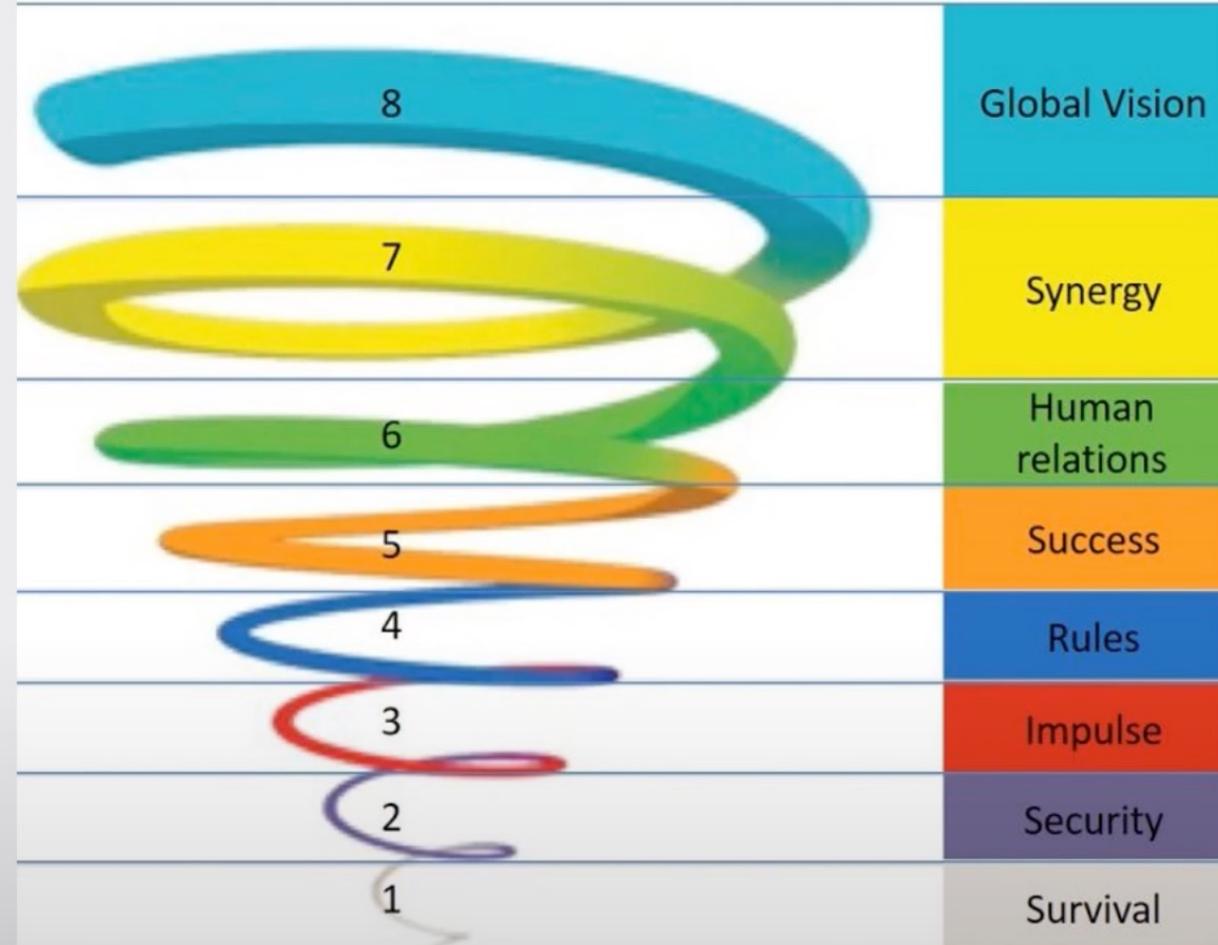
A group of people, including men and women, are holding hands in a circle. The image is overlaid with several large, semi-transparent, diagonal geometric shapes in shades of blue and grey. The background is softly blurred, showing more people in the same circle.

4 Stages of Faith

Doubt is not the Enemy

Spiral Dynamics

“ **Spiral Dynamics**, developed by Clare Graves & Don Beck, is a **holistic model** of human growth in awareness and values over time. This applies to cultures/societies as well as individuals.

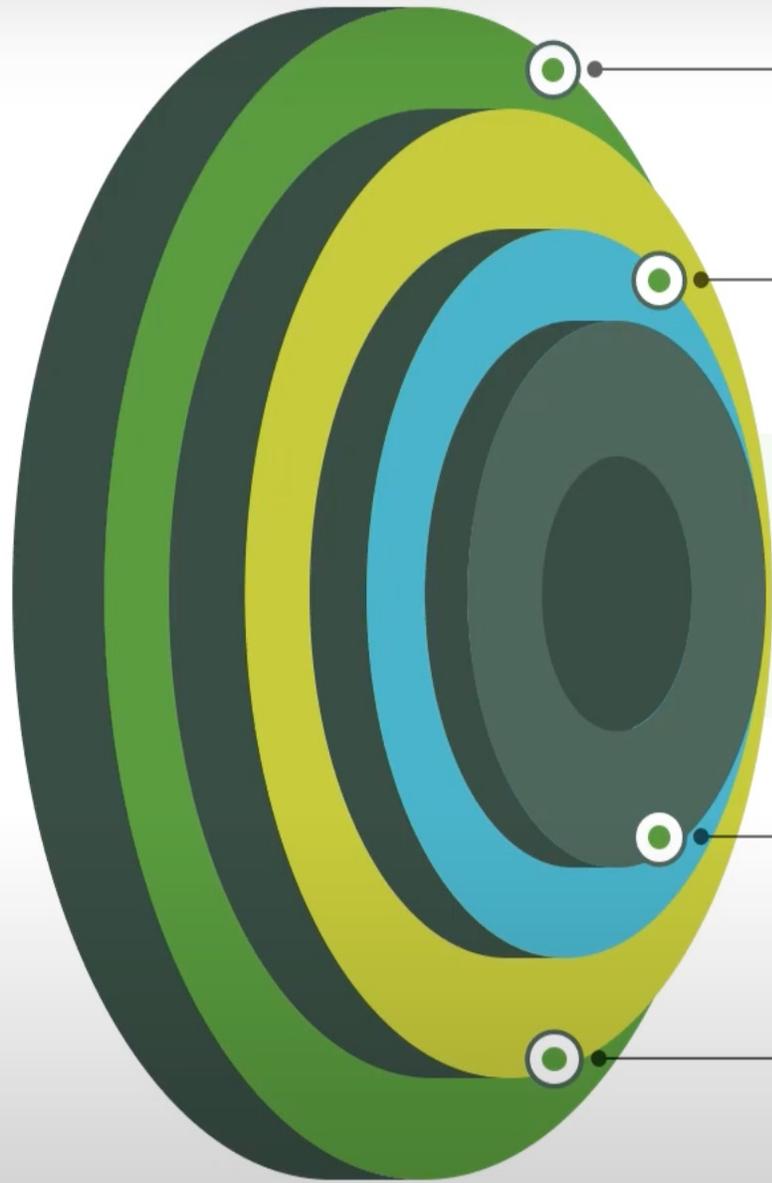


Spiral Dynamics

“ **Spiral Dynamics**, developed by Clare Graves & Don Beck, is a **holistic model** of human growth in awareness and values over time. This applies to cultures/societies as well as individuals.

The **4 Stages of Faith** is an attempt to streamline and spiritualize **Spiral Dynamics**.





1. Simplicity

3. Perplexity

Four Stages of Faith

4. Harmony

2. Complexity

Stage 0

(Egocentric)



God is...

The Genie, the Magic Lamp,
Santa Clause, Vending Machine



Moral Question...

Does it make me feel good
or bad?



Connections...

Connections are built on
MY needs

1. Simplicity (Dualism)

*aka
Clarity*

Simplicity

aka Clarity

Dualism

Right vs Wrong, Good vs Bad
You're either for us or
against us.

Life

Life is a war.
It's all or nothing.

% Believers

50%-70% of believers in Stage 1
Majority of churches

Identity

Identity is found in the
leader or group

Knowledge

Everything is known or knowable
There are easy answers to every
question

Strengths

Highly committed;
Willing to sacrifice and suffer

Authority

God = Ultimate Authority
Motivated to please authority
figures

Weaknesses

Willing to inflict suffering.
Arrogant, judgmental,
intolerant



2. Complexity (Pragmatic)



Complexity

Pragmatic

Effective vs Ineffective.
Success vs Failure
What works vs what doesn't?

Life

Life is much more complicated than I thought

% Believers

80-90% of believers in Stage 1/2
Most churches in Stage 1/2

Identity

Identity in "my cause" or "my achievement"

Knowledge

Most things are known /knowable
The Bible is more complicated than I thought

Authority

God = ultimate Guide/Coach
Authority is a very good thing

Strengths

Enthusiasm
idealism,
action

Weaknesses

Superficial, naïve,
overly pragmatic



Pastor's typical approach: Bro, your questions are confusing some others. So, let's just focus on what we know, like loving each other and evangelizing. And let's wait till we all meet Jesus to ask about all that deep theology stuff.

3. Perplexity **(still unsatisfied)**

aka
Deconstruction



Perplexity

Authenticity

Authentic vs Masked
Honesty vs Dishonesty

Life

Life is very gray,
not black/white.

% Believers

5-10% of believers in Stage 3
Few churches in Stage 3
Many believers leave church.

Identity

Identity in solitude, or
among a small band of
similarly alienated friends

Knowledge

Few things are known /knowable
Everyone has an opinion. Who
knows what is right?

Strengths

Depth, honesty, sensitivity to
suffering, perhaps ironic humor

Authority

Authorities are the enemy,
controllers, trying to use or
impose easy answers on the naive

Weaknesses

Cynical, uncommitted,
withdrawn, critical,
depressed, elitist



Pastor's typical approach: Bro, I love ya, but I am gonna have to ask you to stop talking about your doubts with others, because you're hurting their faith. Otherwise, it may be best for you to find another congregation.

A background image showing a group of people holding hands in a circle, symbolizing unity and harmony. The image is slightly blurred and has a soft, warm light. A large, semi-transparent number '4' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

4. Harmony

(Love rules Rules)

aka
Humility

Harmony

Tension-able

Answers vs Trust
Love vs Rules
There is no “them”
Patience with everyone

Life

Life is a quest to follow the **1 New Commandment**

% Believers

< 5% of believers in Stage 4
Few churches in Stage 4
Few believers in a church.

Identity

Identity in bearing the image of God and in “you are always with me and everything I have is yours”.

Knowledge

I won't know all the answers.
Some things are known, many are mysteries. The Bible isn't perfect, and that's okay.
The best thing to know is love.

Authority

Authorities are imperfect like me, sometimes doing their best, at times dishonest, at times misguided



Strengths

Stability, endurance, wisdom, grace.
Everything can be handled by one question: What does love require of me?

Weaknesses

May display weaknesses of earlier stages

Pastor's typical approach: Bro, I love you. I trust you. But I am not sure how to lead a group of people that include people in all 4 stages of faith. So, can you please be very prudent with how much you say... or find a church that fits you?

Observations – stage 1

Stage 1

Life was short... and busy

Few people had the energy and ability to seek for deeper meaning & answers.

Families were like tribes

Families were like businesses. Many kids.
Marriage was arranged; not romance
High mortality rates for infants & mothers.

Information

Information came verbally from parents, peers, priests, village elders, travelers, and so on.

Young (Grand)-Parents

Parents at age 15-20
Grandparents at age 35-40
Life expectancy: 35 (45 for wealthy)

Literacy (11% in Europe in 1500AD)

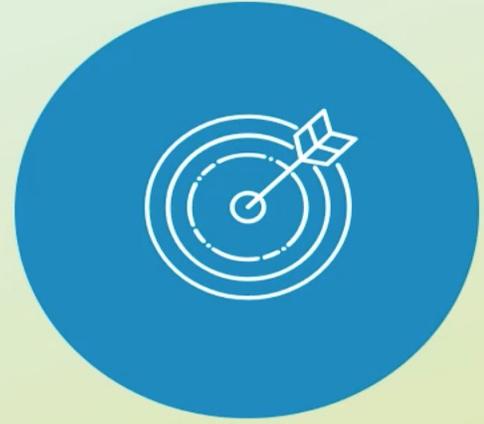
Literacy was extremely rare. Mostly just wealthy men.
Access to books was rare.
Synagogues were lucky to have 1 scroll.

99% of History across the planet

The vast majority of people of all mankind has stayed in level 1. It worked for them. Stage 2 was for the true philosophers. Stage 3 and 4 were almost non-existent



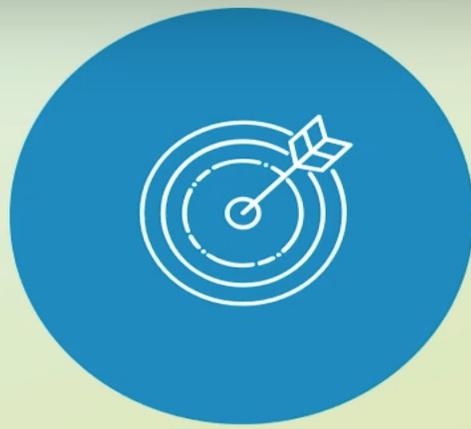
Observations - general



Pastors

It is nearly impossible to find examples of churches that help people in all 4 stages.

Observations - general



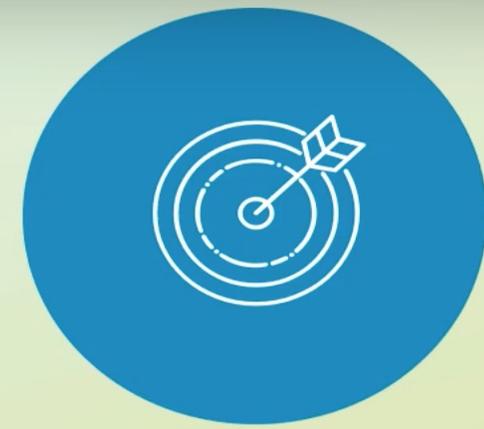
Pastors

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Leaders

Leaders can seldom lead people in a stage beyond their own.

Observations - general



Pastors

It is nearly impossible to find examples of churches that help people in all 4 stages.

Leaders

Leaders can seldom lead people in a stage beyond their own.

Threenagers

Stage 3 is tough on everybody, both leaders and followers

Observations - general

Jesus
Jesus models working with people in each stage, and he always brings them farther on their journey.



Pastors
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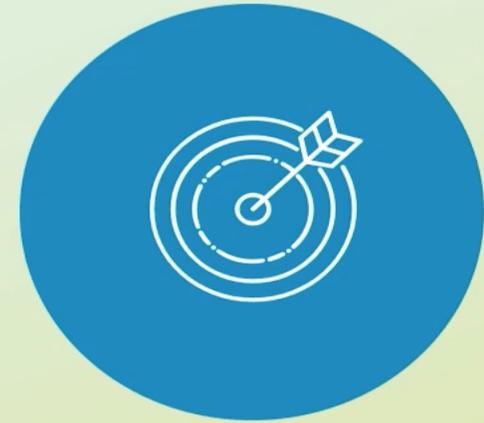
Observations - general

Jesus' Method

Aim to observe/explore Jesus as a teacher;
not just in content, but also in method.

Jesus

Jesus modeled walking with
people in each stage
and he always did so with
a fatherly or motherly gentleness.



Pastors

It is nearly impossible to find examples of
churches that help people in all 4 stages.

Leaders

Leaders can seldom lead people
in a stage beyond their own.

Threenagers

Stage 3 is tough on everybody,
both leaders and followers.

Observations - general

Patience and Grace

You are in the midst of a process.
Be patient with yourself and with your pastors too.
And have grace with those who may not yet have eyes to see

Jesus' Method

Aim to observe/explore Jesus as a teacher,
not just in content, but also in method.

Jesus

Jesus models working with
people in each stage,
and he always brings them
farther on their journey.

Threenagers

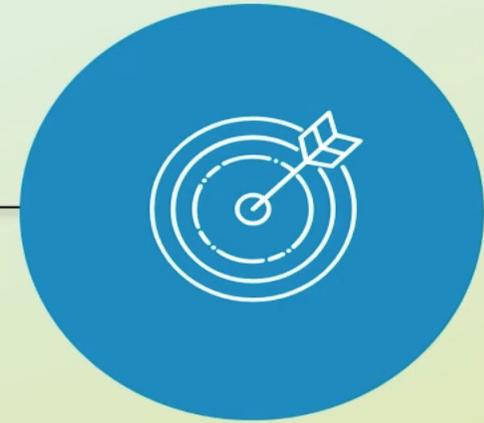
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Leaders

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Pastors

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Communicating with people who are in different stages

★ Matthew 7:6

Do not give what is holy to dogs - they will only turn and attack you. Do not throw your pearls in front of pigs - they will only trample them underfoot.

When dogs are hungry, they don't value candlesticks made of gold.

Hungry pigs aren't feeling how deeply you sacrificed as you tossed them grandma's pearl necklace.



If you love someone, set them free... by entrusting them to the Lord.

Common Sense Calculator

73%

Jesus Alignment Calculator

38%

★ 2 Timothy 2:23-24

Don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people.

This passage describes how Jesus dealt with difficult people.

“Winning” is not one of Jesus’ frequently discussed attributes.



Thanks
for participating

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