

FMHF Annual Retreat Serving God Through the Stages of our Lives

Dr. Bill Morehouse - September 20, 2019

Tonight's topics

A. Where are we?

B. Stages of Life

C. My testimony

D. Family and Career

E. Graduating into Retirement

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A

Where are we?

We've been called together as born again believers from evangelical backgrounds to grow in our care for our LORD, each other, and the afflicted.

Many of us are Free Methodists based in a reformation movement who are committed to personal sanctification, holiness, and the witness of godly living.



Your decrees are very trustworthy; holiness befits your house, O LORD, forevermore.

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

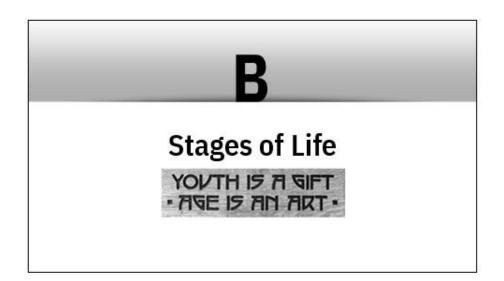
Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the LORD.

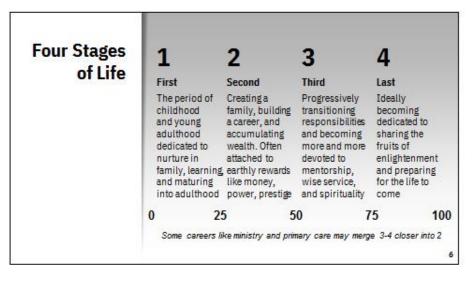
Psalm 93:5

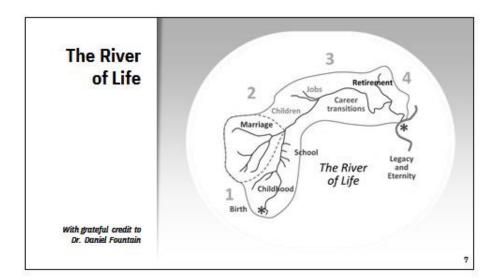
Isaiah 64:6

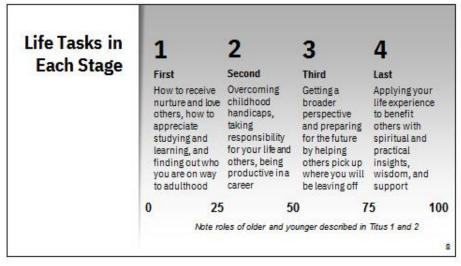
Hebrews 12:12-14

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My testimony

Called a "conversion narrative" by Puritans "to draw a distinction between easy self-righteousness and the new birth of saving grace." The following descriptions are from Puritan pastors Thomas Hooker (1586-1647) and Thomas Allen (1608-1673).

Hooker's Six Essentials

1. Contrition Man should look into Conviction of the Law of God* and conscience by which make an examination seeker realizes that he of self and other of his life and state is under sin according to the Law.

2. Humiliation

3. Vocation Despair of salvation, in respect to strength creatures

4. Implantation

True humiliation of heart, grief and fear because of sin. Confession.

5. Exaltation 6. Possession First entrance into the Awareness of

state of saving grace. presence of faith.

* "Law" of God = Biblicalteaching

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Allen's **Synopsis**

Note similarity to Revivals of faith over the centuries as well as 12-Step and Celebrate Recovery

- Agitations of the soul lead to the sinner's deep sense of concern and humiliation at his condition.
- The stricken sinner attempts to redress the wrongs he has done through "legal obedience" by turning to good works as a remedy, but this effort fails and he is brought to deeper despair.
- The sinner experiences worsening despair and misery. He sees all his efforts as vain and inconsequential before a perfect God.
- a At the most abject moment of despair, the soul bottoms out, begins to understand God's grace, and is elevated to an appreciation of it.
- Gratitude causes the sinner to live a new life of obedience and thanksgiving, although human nature and pride may cause him to backslide and to rely on his own will and works once again.
- Because of this temptation, individuals must continually monitor. their spiritual state and repeat the process of conversion if necessary.

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Revival Cycles

Revivals of faith, from Old Testament times to the present, historically come in cycles.

- A. First disunity and social and moral decay set in leading to a growing sense of emptiness, hunger and yearning for better times.
- B. This is followed by a renewed sensitivity to spiritual matters and rediscovery of the power of the Word of God, leading into a rising time of inspired revitalization of human ideals and values.
- C. The result is a groundswell of conviction and repentance that produces a host of positive, godly moral and social endeavors, after which the community drifts into an ebbing time, becomes less cohesive, and settles back into more conventional social patterns.
- D. Finally disunity and social and moral decay set in again and reach a point where the cycle starts over, each time building on advances that have been made in the past.

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D

Family and Career

Training, early practice, reexamination after conversion, sense of calling, marriage, family and church life, dedicated career serving the disadvantaged in Jesus' Name

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The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God. They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green, to declare that the LORD is upright; He is my Rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

Psalm 92:12-15

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E

Graduating into Retirement

Preparation, mentorship, progressively passing the baton, leaving a legacy, investing in extended family, focusing on building in His broader Kingdom

Graduating into Retirement

- Five F's: Faith, Family, Finances, Fitness, and Fruitfulness
- · Preparation and mentorship
- · Progressively passing the baton
- · Investing in extended family
- · Focusing on building in His Kingdom
- · Leaving a legacy

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