

A Place to Explore

The Three Streams of Faith Discovery

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Today, we are going to turn our conversation to the question “How do people come to faith?” We know for certain that the path to faith is in the end mysterious.

Mark 4:26-27, This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. (NIV)

John 3:7, The wind blows where it wants to and you hear the sound of it, but you don't know where the wind comes from or where it is going. It is the same with every person who is born from the Spirit. (NCV)

At the same time, as we read the New Testament, we find a model that was demonstrated by Jesus and followed by the early Christians that brought the Gospel to people's lives. Let's take a look at it.

FIVE THRESHOLDS OF FAITH DISCOVERY

From the book **I ONCE WAS LOST** by Don Everts and Doug Schaupp:

1. The Threshold of **Trust**

Moving from mistrust to trust

Meeting a Christian you can trust

2. The Threshold of **Curiosity**

Moving from complacent to curious

Our souls and our minds are built by God to be curious -- to ask questions until we find answers.

3. The Threshold of **Openness**

Becoming open to the possibility of change

This is one of the most challenging steps in the journey.

4. The Threshold of **Seeking**

Moving from meandering to seeking

You want to connect the dots and come to a conclusion.

5. The Threshold of **Faith**

Willing to turn and put your faith in Jesus

THREE STREAMS OF FAITH DISCOVERY

1. The Stream of **Hospitality**

Luke 5:27-32, Jesus saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law asked, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." (NIV)

2. The Stream of the **Gospel**

Mark 16:15, *Go everywhere and proclaim the Gospel.* (ESV)

3. The Stream of **God's Presence**

1 Corinthians 2:3-5, *When I came to you, I was weak. I was afraid and very nervous. I didn't speak my message with persuasive intellectual arguments. I spoke my message with a show of spiritual power so that your faith would not be based on human wisdom but on God's power.* (GW)

THE ALPHA COURSE

The Alpha Course is Gospel-centered, Spirit-dependent and hospitality-oriented.

It is a safe place to explore your questions about God, the Bible, and faith. It's a place to make friends. It is a place to grow in your spiritual journey.