

Stages of Faith Development

Faith grows and develops by stages:

The three main stages through which our faith passes in its growth process are:

Childhood stage	Cultural Faith	born into, later will reaffirm or reject it
Adolescence	Transitional faith	separates from the parents; begins to live own spiritual life
Adulthood	Convictional faith	decision is made, follows faith of their own choosing

The adolescent stage is the most critical and the most painful.

- * Critical because at this time in our lives we begin the important transition from being a Christian by **culture (physical birth)** to being a Christian by **conviction (personal choice)**.
- * Painful because our childhood faith us die in order that our adult faith can be born.
- * The dying is what causes all our pain.

Changes from being a cultural faith to being a convictional faith.

It is a process that is never fully complete. It goes on all our lives.

What is Faith?

1. Faith involves belief in someone, not something.
2. Faith involves belief in what Jesus tells us (He died for us). We trust him.
3. Faith involves belief in what Jesus tells us about God (his father).
4. Faith involves entering into a relationship of friendship with Jesus.

Faith = Jesus, his teachings and his friendship.