

The theoretical basis of Stages of Faith.

Name of Stage	Description	Age range	Transition out
1 Intuitive Projective	Unrestrained fantasy with first self-awareness with taboos and possible terror	3 to 7 years	Concrete operational thinking
2 Mythic Literal	Absorbs stories anthropomorphically and beliefs of the community with literalism and surface meaning of symbols	Broad school age	Story conflict
3 Synthetic Conventional	New significant others going beyond the family force conformity, ideology and authority	Teenage into adult	Clashes in authority
4 Individuative Reflective	Faith moves beyond significant others with confidence in the self whilst ideological constructs remain unintegrated for the world beyond	Young adulthood to middle age	One's own critical system pluralises and self-history impedes
5 Conjunctive	The self and ideology join up as do symbols and concepts where paradoxes and opposites are accepted so that transcendence and relativity run together	After mid-life	Recognition that the world is untransformed even if the vision is integrated
6 Universalising	The self transforms itself by incarnating into fully inclusive universalising love (yet seen outside as a threat to systems)	After mid-life if at all	No further transition

(Fowler, 1995, 133-134, 149-150, 172-173, 182-183, 197-198, 200-201)

Fowler, J. W (1995), *Stages of Faith: The Psychology of Human development and the Quest for Meaning*, New York: HarperCollins