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**Spirituality** - the process of developing the life of the human spirit in its openness to ultimate meaning, truth, and goodness.

**Christian Faith** - openness to and entrusting belief in the providential care and guidance of God as revealed and mediated through the Person of Jesus Christ.

**Christian Spirituality** - spiritual development in the context of Christian faith.  
- explicit reference to Jesus Christ  
- intentional practices to cultivate relationship with Jesus through the modes of his presence to us

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## FSS and Spirituality

- "Salvation by works" even in the religious realm.
- Ego knows itself more in terms of self-image than through realization of Self and consciousness of grace.
- Vulnerability to evil spirit.
- Enmeshment in "the world."
- Idolatry of attachments and addictions.

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### *What do we mean by faith?*

- ☛ Exercising the human spirit to open the mind and will to the influence of grace.
  - Preserves dignity of human consciousness.
- ☛ Openness to relationship with God.
- ☛ Entrusting one's life to God's providential care.
- ☛ Entails belief and surrender.
- ☛ A gift from God. Not possible to experience without God's offer of relationship.

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Faith Level	Call	Response
<i>Humanistic</i>	<i>To growth, wholeness</i> - Suffering, discontent - Wonder, mystery - Voice of conscience	<i>Openness to change, grow.</i> - Search for truth, meaning. - Fidelity to conscience
<i>Theistic</i>	<i>To belief in Creator</i> - Ultimate Cause - Transcendence - Order of universe	<i>Belief in God</i> - Meditation, study - Humility, worship - Moral living
<i>Theotic</i>	<i>To inner transformation</i> - New life - Dying to false self	<i>Letting go</i> - Attachments, addictions - Growing in Spirit

## Is it possible . . .

- ☛ to be into humanistic growth to the exclusion of theistic and theotic?
- ☛ to be into theistic growth to the exclusion of humanistic and theotic?
- ☛ to be into theotic transformation to the exclusion of theistic and humanistic?

## Dynamics of Religious Faith

- ❖ Consent of the Intellect - belief.
  - corresponds to Step Two of 12 Steps
  - theistic faith
  - know what one believes, and why
  - importance of study (e.g. images of God, theodicy)
  - informs the movement of the will
- ❖ Consent of the Will - surrender
  - corresponds to Step Three of the 12 Steps
  - theotic faith
  - being-in-relationship

## Coming to Faith . . .

- Once-born types
  - healthy-minded souls
  - gradual faith development
- Twice-born types
  - Humpty-Dumpty syndrome
  - reintegration of Ego through faith
- Ongoing consent of intellect and will essential for both.
  - Ongoing conversion.

