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Obstacle to union



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The Basic Outline

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The Spiritual Journey

Friendship With Christ

Unitive Stage. Will and mind habitually united with God. Flowering of gifts and fruits of the Spirit.

Night of the Spirit

Illuminative Stage. Growing in grace and virtue. Will is habitually united with God. Dealing with attitudes, thoughts.

Night of the Senses

Purgative Stage. Resisting temptation. Changing playgrounds and playmates. Practicing virtue. Asceticism.

Conversion

Carnal, unregenerate, worldly life. Sinner. Will is weak. Mind deluded. False self. Addictions and attachments.

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	Purgative	Illuminative	Unitive
Theme	Reformation	Conformation	Transformation
Challenge	Discipline Passions	Clarify Attitudes	Ongoing Surrender
Work	Practice Virtue	Examen Discernment	Abiding in God
Prayer	Active Discursive	Simplified Discursive	Simplified (Contemplation)
Teresian	1 - 3	4 - 5	6 - 7
Fruit	Humility Equanimity	Recollection Authenticity	Charity Fruits of Spirit

A few notes . . .

- Stages are generalizations; overlap.
- Dark night variations.
- As one grows, the work of the lower stages becomes easier.
- Temptations and “falls” are possible all along the way.
- One’s basic temperament and natural talents are not lost.

