

WE'RE GOING ON A DEEPER LIFE HUNT

We going on a deeper life hunt

We're going to find a good one

What a beautiful day

We're not scared

Uh-oh – a wall, an enormous overwhelming one

We can't go over it, we can't go under it, we can't go around it,

Oh no, we've got to go through it



WHAT IS THE 'WALL'?

Mark 4 v37 – the disciples found out what they couldn't do!

Often an external or internal crisis that turns our world upside down

We question ourselves, God, the church, our existence

We have more questions than answers

We don't know where God is, what he is doing, where he is going

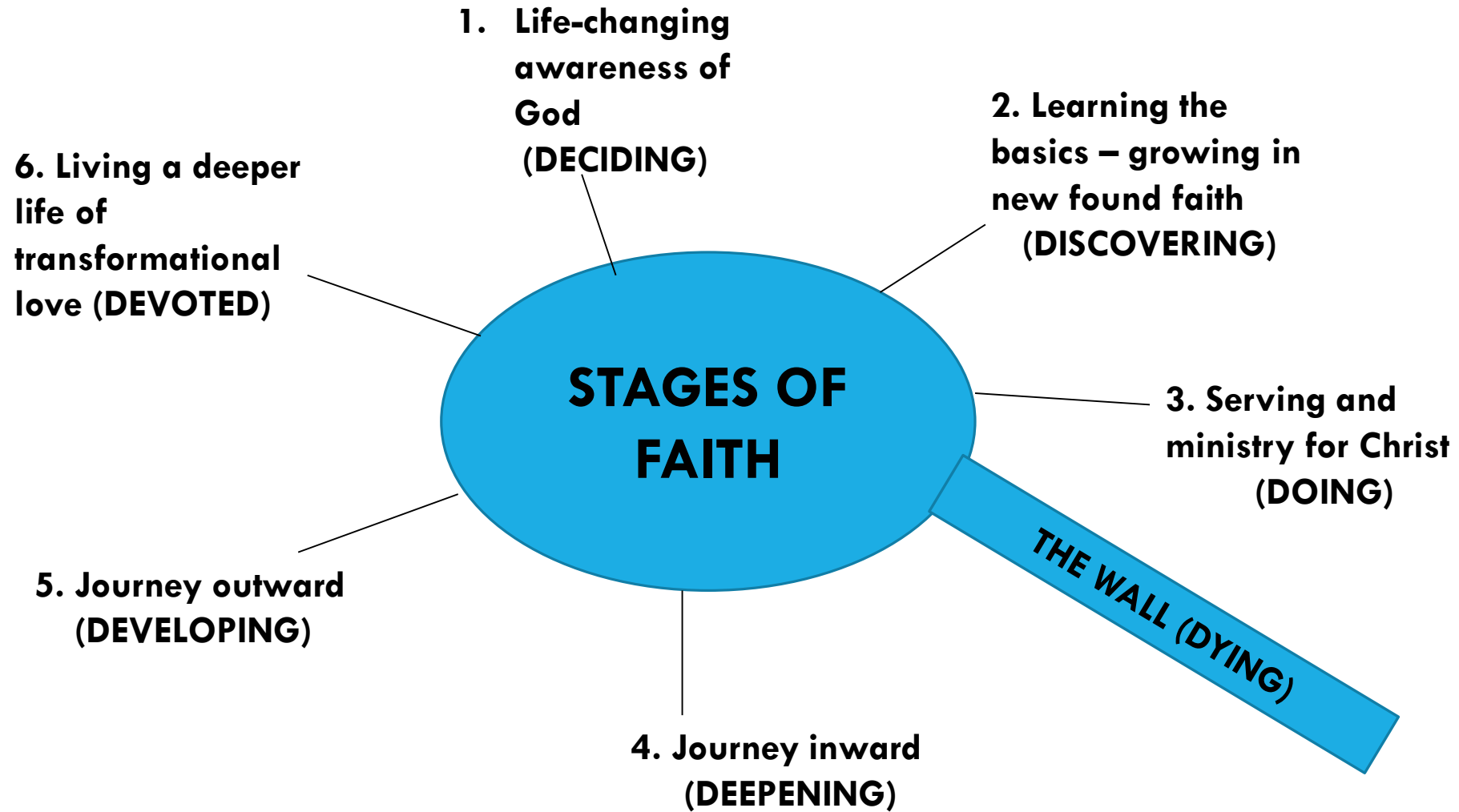
Our faith or spiritual disciplines don't appear to 'work' like they did

We don't know when or if this will ever end

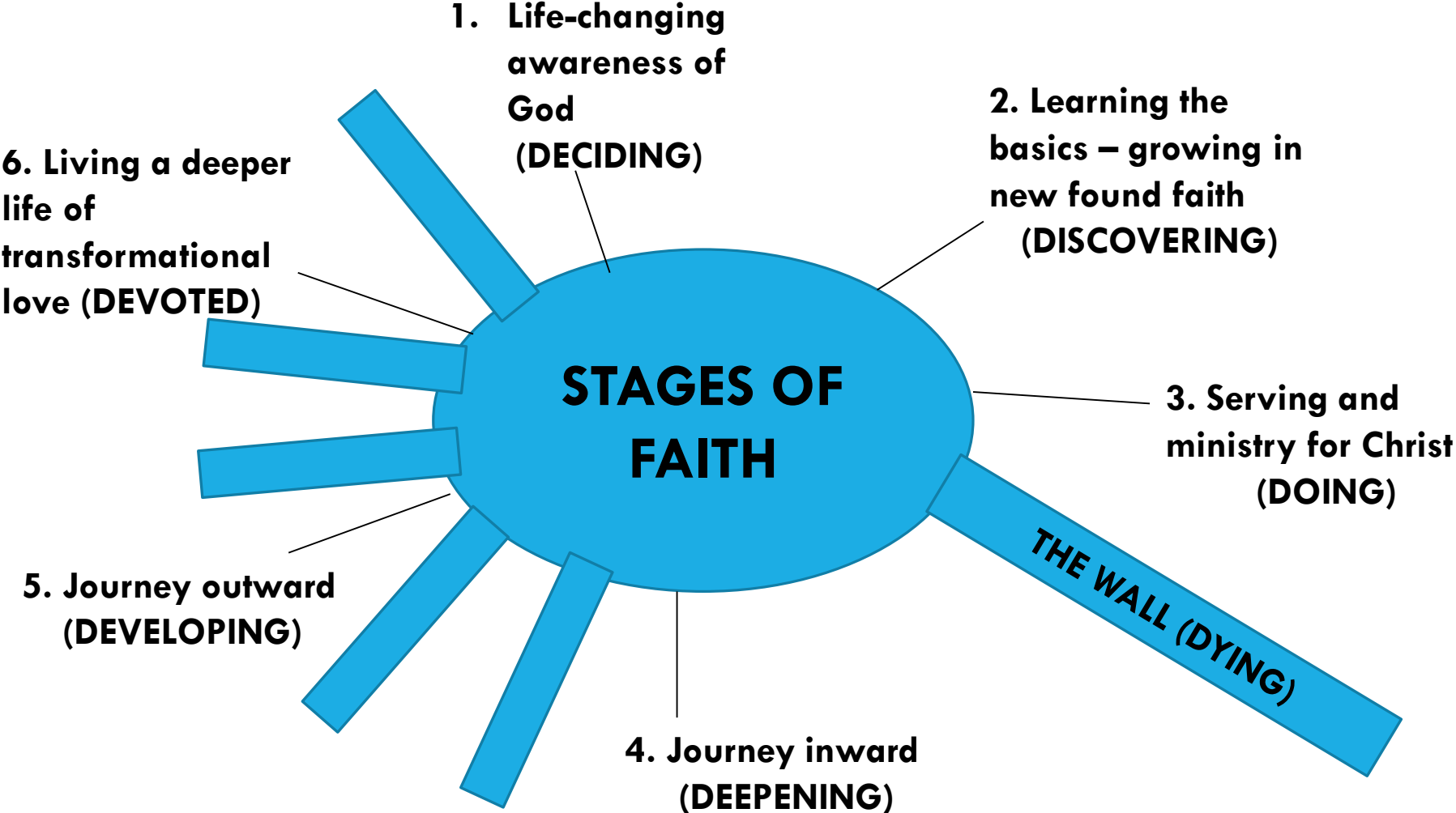
We may experience depression and a loss of motivation to serve Christ

It is a time of darkness, helplessness, weariness, a sense of failure, dryness or defeat





The Wall is revisited



'QUESTIONS' AT THE WALL

'My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?' (what are you doing?)

Why do I feel so bewildered, angry, lost and hurt?

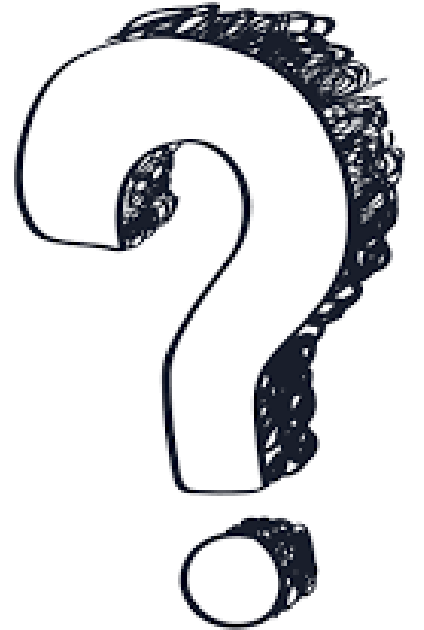
What is wrong with me? (Moses asks God: 'Who am I?' 'Who are you?')

Self-doubt: I was doing so 'well' – why can't I get through this?

I feel so distant from God and everything to do with God

I feel numb (but need to appear to be ok in the eyes of others)

I am afraid that I will never get 'through' the wall



WAITING AND 'DYING' AT THE WALL



BROKENNESS AT THE WALL

Matthew 5 v3: the prodigal son

The wall shows us who we are - we die to judging others or defending ourselves

We are humbled by the truth about ourselves and our weaknesses. Instead of clinging to a security based on our own 'accept – ability' in the eyes of others we became aware of the unconditional acceptance of the Father (our 'acceptinability')

We rest in acknowledging ourselves as cracked and broken pots made beautiful by the loving craftsmanship of God



MYSTERY AT THE WALL

1 Corinthians 13 v12 'Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known'

We are not in control of God and cannot understand all of His ways (in an age and society that demands knowledge and control)

Isaiah 55 v8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord, "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts"

'there are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy' - Shakespeare





WAITING AT THE WALL

So often we run ahead of God.

The wall slows us down, sometimes painfully, to reflect, review, re-evaluate and trust in God's timing

Psalm 27 v14 'wait for the Lord, be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord'

King Saul did not wait for Samuel and in his impatience went ahead of God – he was afraid because the men were scattering, he was afraid of the enemy, he was afraid that Samuel would not come and God would not bless.



‘DETACHING’ AT THE WALL

Life is hard;

You are not that important;

your life is not about you;

you are not in control;

you are going to die (Richard Rohr)

We all have idols that we need detaching from & high places that need destroying

Hezekiah in 2 Kings 18 v3 25 year old king ‘removed the high places’

those things we rely on and have become attached to (what are they?)