

Which Stage Are You In?

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There are three separate stages in our relationship with God. Many may think of the words found in Romans 12:2 – *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”* This shows three distinct stages: good, acceptable, and perfect; however, I will be looking at three other words that may also be interchanged for these three. I want to focus on dependent, interdependent, and independent.

Stage 1: Dependent – We each began our life in a dependent state. As we were being formed in our mother’s womb, we were totally dependent upon our mother. In fact, we were only dependent upon one individual! We received nourishment from her. We received our breath from her. We received life through the blood from her.

Stage 2: Interdependent – Once we were born into this world we automatically became interdependent upon others. At first we were interdependent upon our mother and father and anyone else who wanted to take care of us. Some would say, ‘No, we were dependent upon them.’ I beg to differ because there were some things we did on our own. We breathed on our own. Our bodies functioned on their own although we were limited in what we could do by ourselves. Gradually we changed and could do more and more on our own; but we still remained interdependent. Growing up we needed others in our lives to help us but were constantly encouraged to move on to the next stage in life. Sad to say, many people choose to stay in this interdependent stage. Maybe they are unsure of the path to take to get to the next level; however, we need to encourage them as they grow to strive to get to the next stage.

Stage 3: Independent – We finally arrived! We can do everything on our own. We have a job, an apartment or house, a car, etc. We pay our bills on our own and are no longer interdependent upon anyone for our life source.

Spiritual Awakening

Stage 4: (Stage 3 in Reverse) Independent – It is usually somewhere in this last stage that many of us realize that something is missing in our life. We learn that even though we are independent there are some things we cannot do on our own: We can’t change our desires, wants, or actions by ourselves. We need help! So what do we do? We reach out to someone – hopefully we reach out to God!

Stage 5: (Stage 2 in Reverse) Interdependent – In this new stage where we are finding our way spiritually, we discover that along with God we need a pastor, teachers, a church, and fellow Christians to help us in our struggle to change those areas of our life that we do not like. We learn we cannot survive by ourselves. There was a popular song when I graduated from high school – ‘No Man is An Island.’ That is so true. No one can do it by themselves. We become interdependent in our spirit realm. Interdependent upon God and our fellow men and women, who are leading us toward a closer walk with God Himself.

Stage 6: (Stage 1 in Reverse) Dependent – The safest place to be in our life is to be totally dependent upon God for everything! Allow God to make His plan in our life come to fruition – that is total dependency! We can only be dependent upon one individual – God to become all that we can be in the spiritual realm. We realize that only He can make it happen. My mind goes to the best place we can find in God: “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty”. Psalm 91:1 – The perfect place to be!

The Amplified Bible reads: “He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty (Whose power no foe can withstand).” – What a wonderful, secure place to continually dwell!