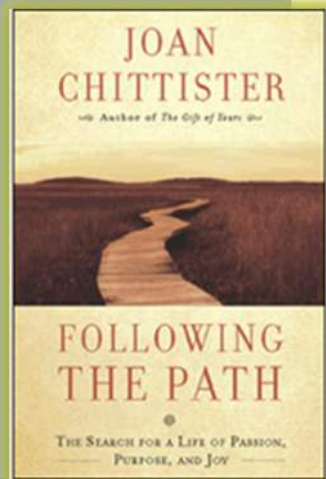




The Search for Faith

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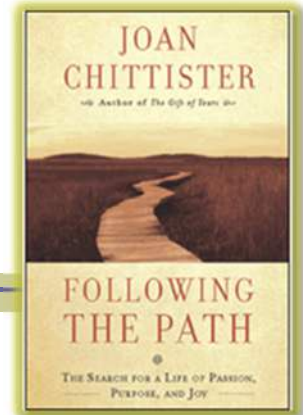
Due End of Week 15

Lewis University – Fall 2021
November 22, 2021 – December 12, 2021
(Reflection #5)

This PPT “package” introduces the Course Reading for Reflection #5.



The Search for Faith Reading & Reflection #5



This PPT module addresses:

1. Introduction to Reading #4, Joan Chittister's *Following the Path: the Search for a Life of Passion, Purpose, and Joy*
2. Description of the Quaker Clearness Committee which is a major component of Reflection #5.
3. An overview of the instructions for the Reflection. The complete instructions are in Blackboard (see *Reflection Instr & Links*).
4. Video recommendations are included for Chittister's book & the Quaker Clearness Committee process.



DISCOVER YOUR DIRECTION

Undergraduate Weekend Workshop

1 credit hour

Register through MyLewis CRN 11728 COMM 30402.002

Friday, April 12, 2:30 to 8:00 p.m. AS157A

Saturday, April 13, 9:00 to 4:00 p.m. AS157A

This 'vocational' workshop is the type of self assessment encouraged by Chittister's "Following the Path."

THIS WORKSHOP WILL HELP YOU

- Identify strengths and weaknesses
- Explore desires for work and living
- Enhance emotional intelligence
- Identify career paths
- Cultivate greater self-confidence
- Create career action plans



ONLINE REGISTRATION

www.mylewisu.edu



CONTACT

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Bavarokr@lewisu.edu
Lisa Groeper
Groepeli@lewisu.edu

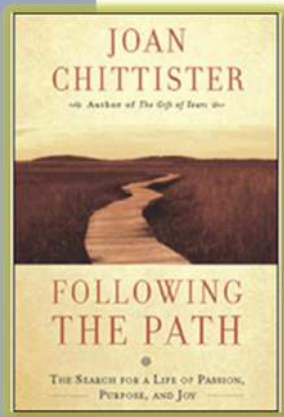
The Search for Faith

- Focus of this Chittister reading is aligning one's vocation with one's 'gifts' & opportunities.
- The reflection includes personal & communal discernment process used in Quakerism.
- The process can clarify one's goals, sense of self, & spirituality using different philosophies & faith traditions.



It's never too early, or late, to clarify real options for your purpose and career.

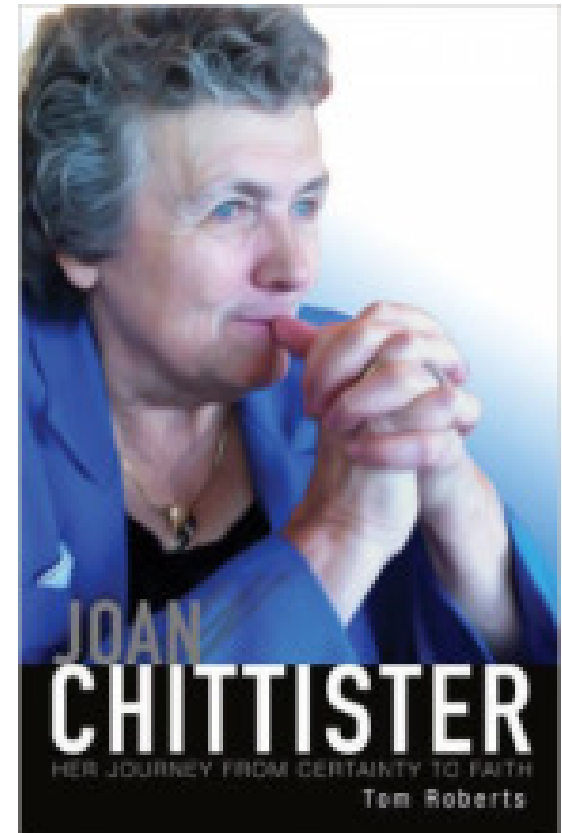




Reading: *Following the Path* “Joan Chittister, O.S.B.”



- Influential religious & social leader
- Over 40+ years, a passionate advocate for peace, human rights, women’s issues, & (Catholic) Church renewal.
- Well known speaker & counselor
- Best-selling author of 50+ books, hundreds of articles, an online column, & a blog
- Member of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, PA., Executive Director of Benetvision (a web based movement sharing Benedictine spirituality with contemporary seekers).

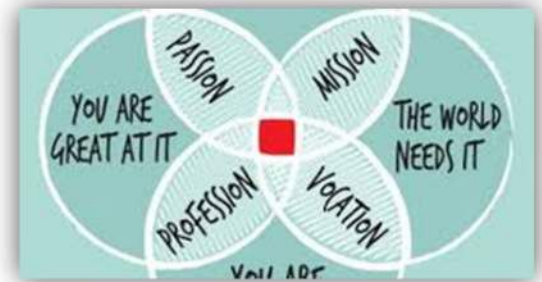


Joan Chittister O.S.B. (b.1936)





The Search for Faith Following the Path



Week 12

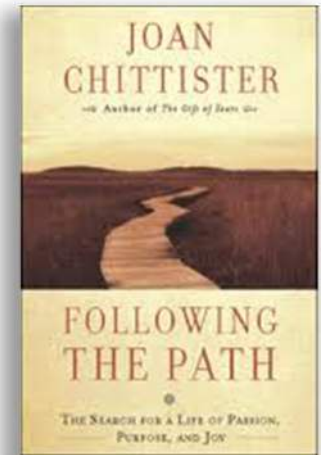
- Introduction & Chapters 1 – 5 (39 pgs.)
- Happiness, Meaning, Vocation-Call, Discernment

Week 13

- Chapters 6 – 10 (37 pgs.)
- Purpose, Passion, Patience, Gift

Week 14

- Chapters 11 – 12 (30 pgs.) – *Chaps. 13, 14, 15 optional*
 - Nature of Call, Discerning the Right Call
- Chapters 16, 18, 19, 22 (42 pgs.) – *Chaps. 17, 20, 21 optional*
 - Spiritual Dimension of Call, Testing My Call



Reflection #5 – Due at the end of Week 15, Sunday, December 12, 2021



The Search for Faith Joan Chittister on Purpose



- “We have to **learn .. to weigh** our gifts against our opportunities, our needs against our demands, our emotional dreams against our material expectations.
- “We need **1st** to find out **who we are**, what are our talents & where do we find the sacred ecstasy of the soul. .. **2nd** We must find the **work, the life, the activities that fit it.**”
- “One thing we know .. **gifts will out**. Whether we acknowledge them or not, whether we develop them or not, whether we honor them in our daily lives or not. **They [gifts] simply emerge in us.**”
- “The fact is **every one of us has a life to live that is right for us & a light to others** ... Sometimes our jobs & our gifts come together; sometimes we work to live at one & live to work at the other.”

“Let Your
Life Speak”
Quaker
Saying



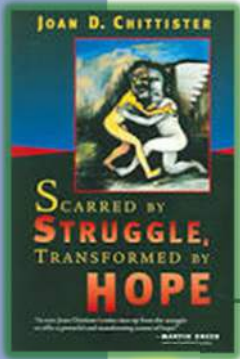
The Search for Faith Joan Chittister on Call



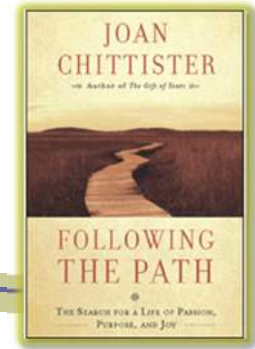
Part 1: *Following the Path*, Watch the video & listen for:

- Goals: Purpose, Meaning, Direction
- Happiness: 'Enjoyment' vs. 'Happiness'
- The Call: More fulfillment than sacrifice
- Gifts: Unique to the individual & essential to one's identity
- Moral Responsibility: To 'build up' one's community
- Passion: The full realization & commitment of one's gifts
- Aristotle's definition of happiness (Gr., living well) = "Virtuous Activity"

This is the 1st of 4 videos Chittister produced on her book. The web links for all 4 videos are provided on an upcoming slide.



The Search for Faith Christian Spiritual Concepts



Human
Agency

- Human Will: “Implies a self, autonomy, agency, goals, & energy. . Constitutes agency whereby the self interacts & cooperates with others for the sake of predetermined goals . . *It is a form of appetite.*” NDCS HCEC
- Human Free Will: “The human faculty to choose among courses of action.”

Cosmic
Design

- God’s Will: “God’s infinite capacity to desire the good.” (“*Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven*”, Mt 6:10) HCEC AHCD

Human
Thought
&
Judgment

- Discernment: The act / process of exercising keen insight & good judgement.
- Discernment of Spirits: “The prudent evaluation of the presence or absence of God, or the presence of an evil spirit, in making decisions & carrying them out.” HCEC

Acronyms refer to quote sources

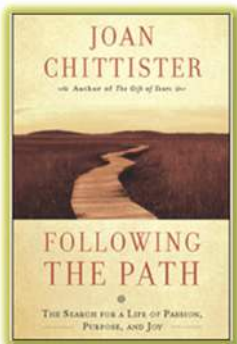
The Search for Faith
Video Clips: *Following the Path*

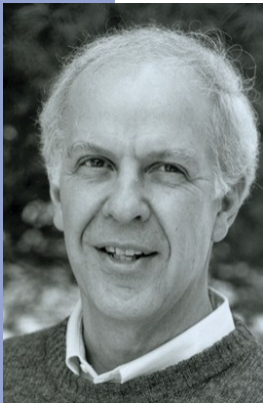


Joan Chittister discusses her book in the following videos.

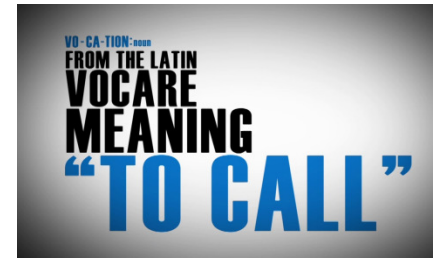
Following the Path: The Search for a Life of Passion, Purpose, and Joy

- Part 1: Following the Path 9:38 m
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KG55gnkFWpk>
- Part 2: Following the Path 11:34 m
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EvyT4YBfVK8>
- Part 3: Following the Path 11:40 m
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUxYXdBpDSI>
- Part 4: Following the Path 10:51 m
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eqoZiPIUwog>





The Search for Faith Parker Palmer on Vocation



Question

- “[There are] moments when it is clear .. that the life I’m living is not the same as the life that wants to live in me. In those moments I .. catch a glimpse of my true life, a life hidden like the river beneath the ice. And . . . I wonder: *What am I meant to do? Who am I meant to be?*”

Response

- “I ran across the old Quaker saying, “**Let your life speak.**” I found those words encouraging, & I thought .. they meant: “*Let the highest truths & values guide you. Live up to those demanding standards in everything you do.*” . . .

Reality

- “Let your life speak” means to me . . . : “*Before you tell your life what you intend to do with it, listen to what it intends to do with you. Before you tell your life what truths and values you have decided to live up to, let your life tell you what truths you embody, what values you represent.*”





How to Have a Clearness Committee

The Search for Faith

The “Clearness Committee” – 1

Decision Making Process

- Lacking formal leaders within their communities, Quakers developed a decision-making process melding personal & communal resources in a structured discussion called a “Clearness Committee.”
- The Problem-Need: How to best address roadblocks encountered in facing life’s critical choices & dilemmas – both internal & external
 - This approach is not appropriate for extremely delicate or fragile individuals or situations; rather it is support for individuals capable of managing their situation.
- The “Truth” = Everyone possesses an “inner teacher” – an internal source of guidance & direction to address their challenges
- The Solution: The Clearness Committee, a means to explore, clarify the issue, as well as affirm the “Focus Person”





How to Have a
**Clearness
Committee**

The Search for Faith

The “Clearness Committee” – 2

■ Committee: Composition & Characteristics:



Committee
Goals &
Structure

- The approach is private, confidential, non-invasive.
- Totally in service for & devoted to the “Focus Person”
- Members are selected for their ‘best fit’ with the “Focus Person.
- Members are confident the “Focus Person” can meet their personal challenges with the appropriate support-assistance.
- Post-meeting ‘discussions’ are at the sole discretion of the “Focus Person”





How to Have a Clearness Committee

The Search for Faith

The “Clearness Committee” – 3

■ The Discernment Process (~2 hours in total):

1. The “Focus Person” opens the discussion by: *(in first ~15 m)*
 - Concisely stating their concern or issue
 - Providing necessary & relevant background factors
 - Stating any relevant ‘hunches’ or preferences
2. In response, committee members ask “real, honest, open questions” – *‘aimed at helping the focus person rather than satisfying a member’s curiosity.’* Questions are offered respectfully, sensitively, & gently.
3. The focus person responds to questions as they wish (including not responding). The dialogue proceeds at its own pace. Silence is respected, when it occurs. The session employs the full two hours.



Position

Question

Reflection





How to Have a Clearness Committee

The Search for Faith

The “Clearness Committee” – 4

■ The Committee Process (continued)

4. ~15 Minutes before the end of the 2 hour session, the focus-person is asked if they want the committee to ‘mirror back’ what they heard from & observed about the focus person.

Recap

- Again, the focus person can choose to respond or not respond.

5. ~5 Minutes before session ends, recognizing it has taken courage & trust on the part of the focus person to open this part of their life to others; each committee member is asked to verbally celebrate & affirm the strengths & virtues of the focus-person.

Affirm

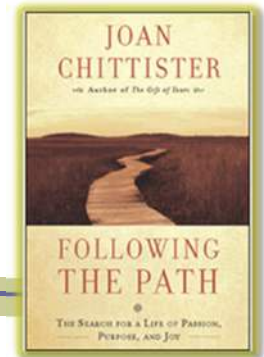




See Blackboard for the full instructions

The Search for Faith

Reflection #5 – Following the Path



Part I: Your reflection/comments on *Following the Path* in 4 areas:

1. Gifts
2. Call or Vocation
3. Purpose & Meaning
4. Happiness

Part 1: ~125 words each
= ~500 words total

1 Chittister quote
for each of the 4 items

Due End of Week 15:
December 12, 2021

Essay =
~1,000
words total
(*minimum*)

Part II: Your personal Clearness Committee

1. A vocational or professional issue of interest to you in ~150 words
2. Your personal Clearness Committee in ~200 words
3. Your strengths/abilities/gifts in ~150 words

Part II =
~500
words total

Jesus

Tilley

Moses

Chittister

Muhammad

Buddha

Luther

St. Paul

Tillich

Palmer

~5 Committee members
WITH 2 of the 5 drawn
from the course material



Part 2 of Reflection #5

Your Clearness Committee – 1

1. Reflect on your own personal goals, call, or vocation & identify an issue or challenge that you think would benefit from a Clearness Committee.

This might include:

*Your
Goals &
Intentions*

- Change of college/university major
- Change of religion, or a decision to leave or join a new religion
- Change of career direction or workplace-employer



2. “Select” a personal Clearness Committee to consider your concern:

- Name at least five people & state why you selected each member.
- Two of the five should be prominent figures discussed in this course.

*Your
Advisors*

- This could include: Terrence Tilley, Paul Tillich, Joan Chittister, Moses, Jesus, Paul, Buddha, Muhammad, Confucius, Hermann Hesse, or _____?



Part 2 of Reflection #5 Your Clearness Committee – 2

Your Advisors
Input &
Affirmation

3. Then, from the perspective of each Committee member:

IMPORTANT

- State a question they would ask you to consider (*this is likely why you choose them to be on the committee*)

IMPORTANT

- State at least one positive attribute-strength of yours, they would likely identify & want you to recognize.

For example, consider that a friend asked you to be on their Clearness Committee, you would then:

- Prepare questions you think would be helpful to your friend's decision-making.
- Be prepared to acknowledge a positive attribute-strength that you clearly see in your friend & wish to celebrate with them.





The Search for Faith Discussion Questions



- What is your impression of the Clearness Committee Process? Can you identify situations where it would be of personal benefit?
- What connections do you see between the Quaker approach to 'listening' & the personal meditation practices in other traditions?
- What questions or concerns do you have about the 4th reading, the essay on *Following the Path*, & The role of the Clearness Committee within the Essay?



The Search for Faith – Reflection #5

Video Clips – 1



- Tom Roberts on Joan Chittister, slide #4 5:04 m
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KA_troyg23k
- Parker Palmer - Spiritual Journey, slide #10 3:12 m
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pqzvfzxSCtg>
- Palmer on the Clearness Committee , slide #11 6:21 m
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_J6RE5_5R4
- Asking Helpful (Clearness) Questions, slide #13 4:18 m
<http://www.couragerenewal.org/stories/inner-voice-honest-questions>
- Conducting a Clearness Committee, slide #14 9:53 m
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kvNO4-leFOg>