

Major Life Questions and Christian Spirituality

A Road Map for the Wind: Thinking Concretely about Christian Spirituality

Spiritual Formation

The process of being conformed into the image of Christ for the sake of others.

-- M. Robert Mulholland

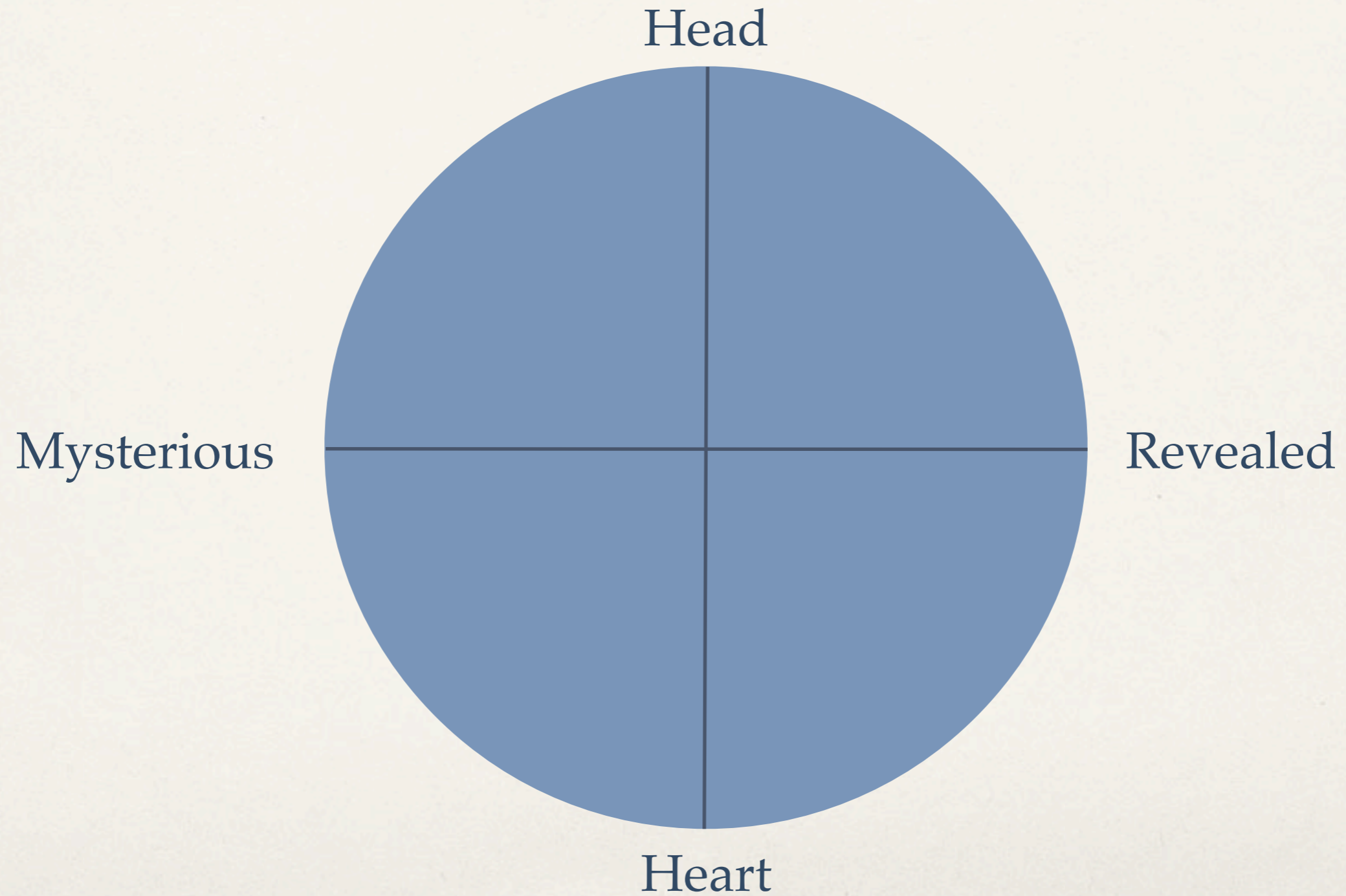
Engagement and Empowerment

- ❖ God is always at work in all things and all times for our good and development; sometimes we join Him in the work He is doing in us
- ❖ Time with God is transformative - we engage with God and He changes us
- ❖ Forming habits of engagement prepares us for troubled times

Models of Spirituality

- ❖ There are no rules that govern the Spirit of God
- ❖ God is infinitely specific: He is big enough to be with each unique person according to that person's life history, personality, flaws and troubles, strengths and so forth just as that person needs
- ❖ Models that describe the relationship between God and His people are always general and necessarily false

Circle of Sensibility



Johari Window

	Open to Self	Closed to Self
Open to Others	Open	Blind
Closed to Others	Hidden	Mystery



Bi-Modal Consciousness

ACTIVE MODE	RECEPTIVE MODE
Logic	Association
Control	Surrender
Analysis	Intuition
Prediction	Surprise
Operating in a world of sign, concept, and system	Operating in a world of symbol, ritual, and story
Establishes boundaries and limits for consciousness and possibilities	Defuses the boundaries and limits of consciousness and possibility
I seek God by actively pursuing Him and trying to find Him	I seek God by surrendering to Him and allowing myself to be found

Phasic Spirituality

Vital Phase

Functional Phase

Transcendent Phase



Gordon MacDonald's Major Life Questions

Gordon McDonald's Life Questions

- ❖ People at different phases of life have different spiritual needs
- ❖ They are asking different spiritual questions because developmentally they are facing different challenges
- ❖ These questions point to the very places to “be” with God

The Twenties

- ❖ Who am I as a man/woman and how am I different from my family of origin?
- ❖ What will I do with my life?
- ❖ Can I love? Am I lovable? Am I worthy of love?
- ❖ What parts of me need correction? How do I need to change from what I have been given?
- ❖ Around what person or idea will I organize my life?

The Thirties

- ❖ How do I prioritize the demands being made on my life?
- ❖ How far can I go in fulfilling my ambitions?
- ❖ Who is a part of my primary community?
- ❖ What does my spiritual life look like? Do I even have one?
- ❖ Why am I not a better person?

The Forties

- ❖ Who was I as a child? What influences have formed me?
- ❖ Why do some people seem to be doing better than me?
- ❖ Why am I so disappointed in myself and in others?
- ❖ Why are limitations beginning to outnumber options?
- ❖ Why does life seem to be so full of uncertainties that I must face?

The Fifties

- ❖ Why is life moving so fast?
- ❖ Why is my body so unreliable?
- ❖ How do I deal with my failures and my successes?
- ❖ How do my spouse and I adjust to the changes in our marriage?
- ❖ Who are these young people who want to replace me?
- ❖ What do I do with doubts / fears?

The Sixties

- ❖ When do I stop doing the things that have defined me?
- ❖ Who will be with me when I die? How will I die?
- ❖ Why do I feel ignored by a large part of the population?
- ❖ What is my spiritual legacy?
- ❖ What is yet to be accomplished?
- ❖ What does old age look like? Am I ready for it?

The Seventies and Eighties

- ❖ Does anyone know who / what I once was?
- ❖ How much of my life can I control?
- ❖ What can I contribute? What will I be allowed to contribute?
- ❖ Why do I have so much anger / irritability
- ❖ Is God there for me?
- ❖ Am I ready to face death?
- ❖ Will I be missed?

A Spirituality of My Age

- ❖ If I am seeking the same spiritual experiences I had at an earlier stage of life, I may have stagnated
- ❖ Sometimes, people are taught and encouraged to stagnate by the group of which they are a part - one “age” of spirituality is affirmed as normal and others discouraged or rejected