

Flood Gates: Holy Momentum for a Fearless Church

Sue Nilson Kibbey

Flood Gate #5 – Conflux Moments

"The important thing is to be able at any moment to sacrifice what we are for what we can become." – Charles Dubois

A conflux moment represents a combustive, synergistic intersection – a living encounter – between you and the heart of God. It's a converging moment of new, divinely communicated clarity, a mini or major breakthrough, that can be almost visceral. Some conflux moments, your encounters with God's presence, result in small yet clear shifts of your spiritual landscape, pushing or leading you forward a step or more along your discipleship continuum of spiritual maturity. Other conflux moments may rive soul and spirit deeply with such motivating conviction that a whole chunk of immediate inner spiritual transformation follows.

Examples of Conflux Moments

- Cognitive learning
- Intellectual insight
- Heart Conviction
- A Spiritual Nudge

A conflux moment is a momentum-creating God encounter **that must be additionally fueled** in order to continue moving you along the path of spiritual maturity.

Conflux Moments: Beginning with Yours and Mine

Think back along your own personal life history. Where and how did a few of your own spiritual conflux moments from the past arise?

How about most recently?

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What was the outworking of the spiritual momentum of each that God brought you?

Did your spiritual maturity momentum roll to a stop between those conflux moments, or have you learned to intentionally position yourself spiritually to respond, allowing God to continue to fuel your growth with successive and ongoing conflux moments?

If you have kept your spiritual maturity momentum rolling, what have you done to continue forward momentum and personal spiritual growth?

What have been those spirit-combustive moments in which God's Spirit converged with yours, and you said yes to God in a new and deeper way?

Did they occur when circumstances were out of your control, or did they arise because of choices you intentionally made or faced at forks on your life path?

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A conflux moment is a living, God-confluence occurrence of any proportion when your spiritual earth shifts beneath you, a small or large part of your old paradigm splinters and falls away, and you are set in motion to think, act, and move forward differently in your faith. A conflux moment provokes the next phase of your spiritual growth toward maturity.

Reflection/Journal/Discussion Questions: Personal Conflux Moments

Either personally journal, or discuss with your ministry partners or team, the following questions.

- How (or how often) has God's Spirit converged with yours over your life thus far?
 - a. Constantly.
 - b. Occasionally.
 - c. I haven't really ever noticed.
 - d. Like a two-by-four.
 - e. Other.
 - f. Give a specific example for your answer.
- Would you say you have or have not consistently taken advantage of the momentum flares that your conflux moments have provided you? Why or why not?
- When you have not taken advantage of the momentum flares, what happened? What did it take to get your spiritual maturity progressing again?
- Would you describe yourself right now as "spiritually asleep," "half-awake," "moving forward," "pushed into new and unfamiliar spiritual territory," "jumps and spurts," or other term? What do you need most right now spiritually to get or keep yourself moving and growing in your faith?

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Conflux Moments in the Lives of Your Members

When leaders begin to practice the art of consistently creating environments for conflux moments to occur and then be fueled, ripples of spiritual growth momentum and change begin to move across a complacent, dormant congregation of people who had previously seemed content with only routine, Sunday worship attendance.

Take a look at the environment for conflux moments in your church. Is that environment supportive for the occurrence of conflux moments and for fueling the momentum?

If not, what needs to be done differently or what changes need to be made?

Contagious Ministry Movement

- *Prospectors*: new or potential visitors;
- *Regular Attendees*: those who attend worship or other church events on, by their own definition, a “regular” basis;
- *The Engaged*: those who have assumed some level of service or leadership responsibility;
- *The Invested*: leaders who are deeply disciple and completely sold out for the mission of Christ.

Take a look at your own congregation. Are people progressing from one category to another? What category does the largest segment of your congregation fall under?

Do an honest examination of your church. Courageously evaluate your worship services, your church activities, what happens at the committee meetings, and any other current ongoing occasions for involvement or activity in your church’s name. *A Conflux Moment Worksheet/Discussion Guide is supposed to be available on the Flood Gates website for this purpose, however it does not appear to be available at this time. Jeff has reached out to see if he can get a copy and will pass it along as soon as possible.*

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Making It Personal

Here are steps that fearless churches have taken to furnish those whom God has led through their doors with skills to multiply the spiritual benefits of conflux moments.

1. *Define and explain conflux moments frequently to the congregation, so they both understand what they are and learn to recognize when they occur.*
2. *Involve as many individuals as possible in a Breakthrough Prayer Initiative.*
3. *Provide personalized opportunities for individuals to learn daily “North Star Strategy” skills.*
4. *Create a culture where conflux moments are shared, acknowledged, and celebrated.*
5. *Connect individuals who have experienced similar conflux moment shifts.*
6. *Conflux Moment Sponsors: a new prayer partner paradigm.*

Conflux Moments in Worship

Are members of your church lackluster in their spiritual passion, apathetic about volunteer roles, resistant to changes, and critical of one another?

Are they stuck in the regular attendees category, uninterested in assuming leadership responsibility and “too busy” for larger investments in serving?

Does your congregation seem to be drifting off to “spiritual sleep”?

Those are all symptoms of a church without effective and ongoing spiritual conflux moments, especially via weekly worship. Changing it will require a willingness to ruthlessly evaluate every aspect of your worship service and either eliminate or reshape each accordingly, if you want to provide a worship milieu conducive to authentic connection between the Holy Spirit and your members or visitors that triggers new spiritual conviction and momentum.

Take a look at the examples on page 100 and 101 of common things people have complained about regarding worship services. What may be stealing away any spiritual momentum from any conflux moment that might happen during your church service?

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Worship is the one regular occasion when your attendees are together. It's too important to treat casually, or ignore your responsibility to thoughtfully choreograph your worship service so it provides an arena for God's supernatural activity. If you are careless and allow the worship service to become filled with distractions, you steal God's opportunity for connection.

Examine the core worship service essentials on pages 101 and 102. Does your church incorporate these into your worship service? If not, why?

*Conflux moments in worship produce crucial crevices in the human heart through which the Holy Spirit can speak and move. It's a nonnegotiable, if you are committed to especially helping the "regular attendees" move out of passivity and further into divine engagement. **But conflux moments in weekly worship alone aren't enough.** Think bigger – to how opportunities for spiritual conflux moments can be woven through the whole of all that your church or ministry is about.*

Final Questions

1. Do you think that this flood gate is open or closed at our church(es)?

2. If closed, why? What is keeping the gate closed?

3. What steps can we make today to open this flood gate (or keep it open)?