

# sacred pathway self-assessment

Adapted from *Sacred Pathways: Discover Your Soul's Path to God*, by Gary Thomas

**For each of the five questions, score yourself as follows:**

**2** (really applies to me)

**1** (somewhat applies)

**0** (not me at all!)

**Your pathway total scores will indicate your inclinations.**



## naturalists

I often am made aware of spiritual truths by observing God's creation on display.

A book called *Nature's Sanctuaries: A Picturebook* would be appealing to me.

I feel closest to God when I'm surrounded by what he has made - the mountains, the forests, or the sea.

If I could escape to a garden to pray, walk through a meadow, or take a trip to the mountains I would be very happy.

I feel cut off if I have to spend too much time indoors. Nothing makes me feel closer to God than being outside.

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## sensates

I feel closest to God when I'm in a church that allows my senses to come alive—when I can see, smell, hear, and almost taste His majesty.

I would really enjoy using drawing exercises or art to improve my prayer life.

The words *sensuous*, *colorful*, and *aromatic* are very appealing to me.

I'd have a difficult time worshiping in a church building that is plain and lacks a sense of awe or majesty.

Beauty is important to me—I have a difficult time worshiping through second-rate Christian art or music.

## traditionalists

The words *tradition*, *history*, *symbols*, and *anniversary* are very appealing to me.

I enjoy church traditions celebrating Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas Eve, Lent, Passover, Easter, etc.

I would enjoy reading biographies of Christian heroes and how they practiced their faith.

I feel closest to God when I'm participating in a familiar form of worship that has memories dating back to my childhood. I get bothered when the church is too contemporary.

I feel that Individualism within the church is a real danger. Christianity is a corporate faith which needs corporate expression rooted in tradition.

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## ascetics

A meaningful worship experience for me could involve spending a whole night in prayer, fasting for one or more days, or giving away something that I had treasured.

The words *silence*, *solitude*, *discipline*, *sacrifice*, and *hardship* are very appealing to me.

Adhering to strict personal goals characterizes my life.

I am bothered by the materialism and addiction to comfort and the *meism* I see in America.

I feel closest to God when I am alone in a small room and there is nothing to distract me from focusing on His presence.

## activists

I would like to awaken the church from its apathy.

I feel closest to God when I'm standing up for His justice, writing letters, picketing, or urging people to vote.

The book written by Frank Schaffer, *A Time for Anger*, would be an appealing book for me to read.

The phrases "courageous confrontation" and "social activism" and "political action" appeal to me.

I get very frustrated if I see apathetic Christians who don't become active. I want to drop everything else I'm doing and help the church overcome its apathy.

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## enthusiasts

People would say I am physically expressive in my worship.

The words *celebration*, *joy*, and *excited* appeal to me.

I spend more money on music and worship music than on books.

I feel closest to God when my heart is sent soaring and I feel like I want to burst with joy. Celebrating God and His love is my favorite form of worship. I expect that God is going to move in some unexpected ways.

God is an exciting God, and we should be excited about worshipping Him.

## contemplatives

The most difficult times in my faith are when I can't feel God's presence within me.

When I think of God, I think of love, friendship, delight, and adoration more than anything else.

I would enjoy reading *Friendship With God*.

I feel closest to God when my emotions are awakened, when God quietly touches my heart, tells me that He loves me, and makes me feel like I'm His closest friend.

I really enjoy having thirty minutes of uninterrupted time a day to sit in quiet prayer and "hold hands" with God, writing love letters to Him and enjoying His presence.

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## intellectuals

I feel closest to God when I learn something new about him that I didn't understand before. It's very important to me that I know exactly what I believe.

The words *concepts* and *truth* are very appealing to me.

I get frustrated when the church focuses too much on feelings and spiritual experience: the “dumbing down” of our faith. Of far more importance is the need to understand the Christian faith and have proper doctrine.

I spend more money on books than music.

I feel close to God when I participate in several hours of uninterrupted study time—reading God's Word or good Christian books and then perhaps having an opportunity to teach or participate in group discussion.

## caregivers

I sense God's power when I am counseling a friend who has lost a job, preparing meals for someone, fixing a computer, or spending a week at an orphanage in Mexico.

A book entitled *99 Ways to Help Your Neighbor* would be very appealing to me.

I grow weary of Christians who spend their time singing songs while a sick neighbor goes without a hot meal or a family in need doesn't get help fixing their car.

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I feel closest to God when I see Him in the needy, the poor, the sick, and the imprisoned. You can count on me to offer to help someone in need

The words *service* and *compassion* are very appealing to me.



MY SACRED PATHWAY

Want to discover more about your Sacred Pathway? Visit

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