

ACTIVIST

Loving God Through Confrontation

Who We Are:

Activists are spiritually nourished through the battle and confrontation

Prayer for them is to fight for others and to provide justice through action.

A true activist lives for God and for his love alone

The fear involved in confrontation creates a certain dependence on God that isn't normally there. Facing this fear, stepping out in faith, and finding God faithful as He meets you, can bring deeper intimacy with God.

Cautions:

- Seeing issues as too much black and white
- Rushing ahead of God

Suggestions:

- John 4:34 "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."
- Psalm 7:6-7 "Arise, Lord, in your anger; rise up against the rage of my enemies. Awake, my God; decree justice." Let the Lord judge the peoples. Vindicate me, Lord, according to my righteousness, according to my integrity, O Most High."

ASCETICS

Loving God in Solitude and Simplicity

Who We Are:

- Gravitates toward solitude, simplicity, and deep commitment.

Cautions:

- Not seeking community- Be intentional to seek out other Christians with whom to fellowship.
- Overemphasizing personal piety- We still must reach out to others
- Seeking to gain God's favor- remember that we cannot win God's approval through our own holiness. There is nothing we can do to make God love us more.

Suggestions:

- Create a space in your home where you can spend time with God
- Wake up early one day/week to spend time with God
- Take personal retreats for several hours, an afternoon, a day or for a weekend.
- Simplify your life- clean a closet, organize books and papers, or have a yard sale

CAREGIVERS

Loving God by Loving Others

Who We Are:

- Caregivers serve God by serving others. Their faith is built by interacting with other people.
- Giving isn't a chore; it's a form of worship.
- Showing mercy to those around them.

Cautions:

- Serving ourselves through serving others- may feel a need to serve others for self-validation.
- Neglecting those closest to us- don't neglect your family while you try to save the world.

Suggestions:

- Visiting the elderly
- Helping a neighbor with errands
- Caring for someone with sickness

CONTEMPLATIVE

Loving God Through Adoration

Who We Are:

The contemplative seeks to perform the first work of adoring God.

They want to enjoy God and learn to love him in ever deeper ways.

Contemplatives remind us of a startling fact: There is one thing that each individual Christian can do that nobody else can: give our personal love and affection to God.

Healthy contemplatives will understand that rich human relationships are a way to enjoy God's love also, just as is solitary and intimate prayer.

Contemplatives enjoy practicing the presence of God. To cultivate intimacy through rest and sabbath strengthen and renew their love for God.

Cautions:

- Seeking solidarity instead of community
- Not moving beyond meditation to action
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Suggestions:

Psalm 63:1 "You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water."

ENTHUSIASTS

Loving God with Mystery and Celebration

Who Are We?

Enthusiasts enjoy celebratory worship as well as many of the more supernatural forms of faith. People with this spiritual temperament like to let go and experience God on the precipice of excitement and awe. Celebration has a wide background in Scripture. Remember, celebratory worship must still include reverence.

What Are Our Pitfalls?

- Seeing experiences for experience's sake
- Being too independent
- Equating "good feelings" with "good worship"

Suggestions for the Road:

- For some who have lost their ability to celebrate, spending time with children might be a good way to recapture the joy and wonder of your faith.
- Expect God to give you specific answers to specific prayers.
- Step out in faith. Whether it's building a business, writing a poem, planting a garden, painting a picture, creating something can be a profoundly holy experience.

INTELLECTUALS

Loving God with the Mind

Who We Are:

- Fall more in love with God as they understand something new about God and His ways
- Believe that conforming our thoughts to the thoughts of God enables right living

Cautions:

- Focusing too much on being right
- Knowing rather than doing
- Being proud

Suggestions:

- Pursue further study of God- take a seminary class or do a personal Bible study
- Listen to sermons
- Read books that help you to understand what scripture says

NATURALISTS

Loving God Out of Doors

Who Are We:

We find God in His “cathedral” - the out-of-doors.

“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the works of his hands.” Psalm 19:1

Creation teaches us of God’s beauty and also of His power and judgment.

Jesus sought lonely places to pray and be replenished. He taught his disciples to do the same.

Cautions:

- Individualism – using nature as an escape
- Idolizing Nature

Suggestions:

- Fully commit your life to Christ. The more you appreciate the Creator, the more you will appreciate His creation.
- Consider the greatness of creation – mountains, sky, and oceans all portray the immense power, wisdom and goodness of God.
- Consider the abundance of creation - count stars in sky, sand on shore, trees in forest. We serve a God of plenty whose love and mercy are inexhaustible.

SENSATE

Loving God with the Senses

Who We Are:

- Drawn to the liturgical, majestic, and the grand.
- Want to be lost in the awe, beauty, and splendor of God.

Cautions:

- Use discernment when listening to beautiful music, looking at beautiful art, participating in sensually fulfilling worship. Not all that is beautiful is of God.
- Don't deprive yourself of corporate worship just because the building or music or form of the service isn't beautiful to you.

Suggestions:

- SMELL: Burn incense or light a candle.
- SIGHT: Check out the religious art of Rembrandt and others.
- TASTE: Taste some salt as you pray for your influence in a non-Christian environment.

TRADITIONALIST

Loving God through Ritual and Symbol

Who We Are:

- Fed by the historic dimensions of faith: rituals, symbols, sacraments, and sacrifice.
- Have a need for ritual and structure.
- Tend to have a disciplined life of faith.

Cautions:

- Don't let the form of your worship become an idol.
- It is not enough for us to cultivate holiness; we must reach out and minister to others.

Suggestions:

- Select a Psalm to say every morning and one for each evening.
- Practice liturgical prayer (see Book of Common Prayer).
- Fasting during Lent.