

GATEWAY ALLIANCE CHURCH

Spiritual Pathways

Assessment

*Modified from the Gateway Church Sacred Pathways Test,
Gary Thomas' book "Sacred Pathways", and churchsource.com*

Discover Your Spiritual Pathways

Step One: Respond to the spiritual pathways statements on the next couple of pages by writing down the number that indicates how much the statement describes you in the blanks alongside the sentence:

- 0 - Never True
- 1 - Seldom True
- 2 - Sometimes True
- 3 - Often True
- 4 - Very Often True

Take as much time as needed to answer all the questions before moving on to the next steps

Step Two: Add the values from each line onto the chart on page 27. Add up each line of the chart and place the totalled number in the “Total” column.

Step Three: Identify your highest totalled numbers and the spiritual pathway it represents (listed on the pages following the assessment).

Step Four: Read about your pathways!

Spiritual Pathways Test

Scoring Key: 0 = Never 1 = Seldom 2 = Sometimes 3 = Often 4 = Very Often

- _____ 1. I feel closest to God when I'm surrounded by what He has made - mountains, forests, oceans.
- _____ 2. I'd have a difficult time worshiping God in a church building that is plain and lacks a sense of awe or majesty, or worshiping while listening to second-rate music.
- _____ 3. Participating in a formal liturgy (tradition) and following a Christian calendar as a family are activities I would enjoy.
- _____ 4. I feel close to God when I participate in an uninterrupted time of study - reading God's Word, listening to good teaching, or enjoying good Christian books.
- _____ 5. Taking an overnight retreat by myself where I could spend large amounts of time alone praying, studying God's Word and fasting are all activities I would enjoy.
- _____ 6. I would really enjoy having 30 minutes of uninterrupted time each day to sit in quiet prayer and enjoy His presence.
- _____ 7. I would love to nurse someone to health, sit with someone in need, or help repair someone's house.
- _____ 8. I would rather stand in the rain to confront an evil in society than sit in a room by myself to pray, take a walk, or spend an hour reading a book.
- _____ 9. I believe God is exciting, and we should be excited about worshiping Him! I don't understand how some Christians act like they're at a funeral when at a church.
- _____ 10. I would rather worship God by spending an hour beside a small brook than by participating in a church service.
- _____ 11. I'm naturally drawn to museums and concerts that stimulate my senses more than I'm inclined to take a walk in the woods, work in a soup kitchen, or read a book by myself.
- _____ 12. The words "tradition" and "history" are very appealing to me.
- _____ 13. 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.
- _____ 14. I would enjoy reading a book about Silence and Prayer.
- _____ 15. The most difficult times for me are when I can't feel God's presence within me.
- _____ 16. I feel closest to God when I am helping the needy, the poor, the sick and the imprisoned.
- _____ 17. I get very frustrated if I see apathetic Christians who don't become active in helping others.
- _____ 18. I feel closest to God when my heart is sent soaring and I feel like I want to burst. Celebrating God and His love is my favorite form of worship.
- _____ 19. If I could escape to a garden to pray on a cold day, walk through a meadow on a warm day, or take a trip by myself to the mountains, I would be very happy.

- _____ 20. I think spending time drawing, dancing, playing music, or having music playing in the background to improve my prayer life.
- _____ 21. I feel closest to God when I'm participating in a familiar form of worship that has memories dating back to my childhood.
- _____ 22. I get frustrated when the church focuses too much on feelings and spiritual experience. I think proper doctrine about Christian faith is more important.
- _____ 23. I feel closest to God when I am alone and there is nothing to distract me from focusing on His presence.
- _____ 24. 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.
- _____ 25. I sense God's power when I am counselling a friend who has lost a job, preparing meals for or fixing the car of a family in need, or spending a week at an orphanage.
- _____ 26. I feel closest to God when I am standing up for His justice: writing letters, protesting injustice, or becoming informed about current issues.
- _____ 27. I would enjoy attending a workshop on learning to worship through dance, or attending a worship service with modern music.

Spiritual Pathways Score Chart

Add the values from each line onto the chart into the grid below. Add up each line of the chart and place the totalled number in the "Total" column.

			Total	Pathway
1. _____	10. _____	19. _____	_____	Nature
2. _____	11. _____	20. _____	_____	Senses
3. _____	12. _____	21. _____	_____	Tradition
4. _____	13. _____	22. _____	_____	Intellect
5. _____	14. _____	23. _____	_____	Solitude
6. _____	15. _____	24. _____	_____	Contemplation
7. _____	16. _____	25. _____	_____	Serving
8. _____	17. _____	26. _____	_____	Activism
9. _____	18. _____	27. _____	_____	Worship

Understanding Your Spiritual Pathways

Congratulations on discovering your spiritual pathways! God uniquely created you and gave you this passion to connect with Him in these ways for a reason. Your next step is to learn how you can use these pathways to build your relationship with Him.

PATHWAY OF WONDER:

These are individuals who draw near to God and grow to love Him more when they are in awe and amazed by who God is, what He does, and all He has made

Nature - “Let me be outdoors”

These individuals find it easiest to draw near to God through spending time in God’s creation. Suggested activities: read the bible outside, take a prayer walk, take a spiritual retreat to a beautiful location, worship God while watching the sun set.

Psalms 23, 84; Isaiah 41:17-19; Romans 1:20

Senses - “Let me experience God”

These individuals find it easiest to draw near to God through their five senses. They want to be lost in the awe, beauty and splendor of God through intricate architecture, beautiful music, formal language, or art. Suggested activities: listen to good worship music; read the bible out loud; create a beautiful worship space in your home; vary your posture while praying.

Psalms 45:1, Ezra 1:1-3, Luke 7:36-38

Tradition - “Let me remember”

These individuals find it easiest to draw near to God through ritual and symbol. They typically enjoy structured worship services, liturgy, and religious rituals. Suggested activities: read your bible aloud; select a psalm to say every morning and evening; practice liturgical prayer daily (see Book of Common Prayer); follow the church liturgical calendar.

Genesis 12:7-8; Exodus 25:40; 1 Timothy 4:1-5

PATHWAY OF CONTEMPLATION:

These are individuals who yearn for quiet. Their soul connects to God in spaces where they can reflect, find solitude, and dig into the depths of their emotional world.

Intellect - “Let me think”

These individuals find it easiest to draw near to God through spending time learning about God, studying His word, and understanding doctrine. Suggested activities: spend time studying the bible or a specific book/topic in-depth; read a book about theology or church history; work through a systematic theology textbook.

Deuteronomy 33:10; 1 Kings 4:29-34; Matthew 22:34-40

Solitude - “Let me be alone”

These individuals find it easiest to draw near to God through time spent alone in God’s presence. Suggested activities: find a daily quiet time to worship God/study the bible/pray; set aside quiet time to spend with God & listen to His voice; remove distractions from your worship time.

Matthew 4:1-2, 6:6, 14:13, 26:36-39

Contemplation - “Let me feel God”

These individuals find it easiest to draw near to God through personal adoration and heartfelt devotion, spending time sitting in God’s presence and surrendering their all to Him. Suggested activities: meditative prayer (reflecting on a biblical passage or theme); sit in God’s presence in silence; write down things you are thankful for; praise God for what He has done in your life.

Psalms 63; Luke 10:38-42

PATHWAY OF ACTION:

These are individuals who have energy and a desire to do things for Jesus. These people feel the pleasure of God and grow in their faith when they are doing something for God.

Serving - “Let me help for others”

These individuals find it easiest to draw near to God through caring for and helping others. For these people, helping others is a tangible way for them to show their love for God and grow in their love for God. Suggested activities: volunteer at a church or inner-city aid organization; mentor someone who is struggling; build deep relationships with individuals over a long time; take prayer walks to pray over your community.

Ezekiel 16:49; 1 John 3:11-16

Activism - “Let me fix this problem”

These individuals find it easiest to draw near to God through engaging in social justice and calling people to stand against evil. Suggested activities: prayer walks to pray over your community; spend extended time in prayer for the needs of others; lead an outreach group.

Psalms 7; 68; Ezekiel 33:1-20; Matthew 23:23

Worship - “Let me celebrate the Lord”

These individuals find it easiest to draw near to God through joyful celebration, dance, worship and shouts. They don’t want to just know concepts, but to experience them, feel them, and be moved by them. Suggested activities: spend time listening to God and write down what you hear Him saying; spend time singing and dancing to worship music; spend time each day writing down and celebrating a list of everything you are thankful for.

1 Chronicles 13:8; Luke 19:37-40; Ephesians 5:18-19