

Spiritual Formation and Spiritual Temperaments

A very important part of our spiritual formation in Christ is to come to know ourselves better. In other words, the more we see and understand that our identity is in Christ, the more we become in tune with the reality of who we were created to be. We have been created with different bodies, personalities and temperaments--all uniquely designed by our loving God. David makes this clear in Psalm 139:13-16 where he says, "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

Whether we realize it or not, we all have spiritual temperaments that are indicative of the way or ways that we most favorably relate to God. The Spiritual Temperaments Inventory below can help you to either discover or to understand more clearly what your particular temperament or temperaments are like. No one way is better than another. Jesus, in his humanity, displayed a perfect balance in all human temperaments.

The Inventory is not a perfect measure—we are all too complex to be boxed into any one category of personality or temperament—but it can give you an indication of the way that God has "wired" you for worshipping Him and giving Him glory. This knowledge will help you to be prepared for the Spiritual Formation retreat in which we will intentionally position ourselves to seek the Lord's Presence, and be found by Him (Jeremiah 29:12-13). When we have an encounter with our triune God through Christ, we are, in our own unique way, "being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." (2 Corinthians 3:18)

THE SPIRITUAL TEMPERAMENT INVENTORY¹

As you read the following statements, please circle the number that most closely reflect how you feel and think. There are no right or wrong answers, so please be as honest as possible. Usually the first answer that comes to mind is the most accurate response. If one part of a question is strongly true for you, but another part is not, mark one of the answers in the middle.

4 = Very true
 3 = Often true
 2 = Sometimes true
 1 = Rarely true
 0 = Never true

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| 1. Taking a stand for what is right in this world and opposing what is wrong causes me to draw closer to God, therefore, I think it's important to stay current on issues and urge others to do so also. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 2. I would enjoy having several hours to spend alone in silent prayer | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 3. I sense God's pleasure when I am caring for others, e. g. helping a friend who is in need, giving a ride to someone without a car, or working in the soup kitchen in my community faith. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 4. I would enjoy reading about or talking with someone who knows God deeply so that I could learn how to have a more intimate friendship with Jesus. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 5. I would like to go to a workshop that teaches how to worship God through dance or how to praise Him at home through music. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 6. I think is imperative to Christians to study the essential doctrines of the faith, while letting their feelings and experiences with God be a peripheral matter. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 7. I usually feel closer to God when I am out in nature than when I spend time indoors in church. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 8. I find pleasure in worshipping God as I gaze at a beautifully translucent stained-glass window in a church where some aspect of my Lord is depicted. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 9. I would enjoy following a Christian calendar with my family during our prayer times, or even using the Book of Common Prayer. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 10. The suffering and evil in this world really bother me, and I feel strongly that the apathy of the masses must be challenged. | 4 3 2 1 0 |

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| 11. Praying alone or worshipping God in silent is usually more meaningful to me than seeking Him in a group setting | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 12. Being a caring servant of God who puts faith into action is very important to me. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 13. I feel close to God when He speaks words of love to me as if He were my dearest friend. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 14. God is an awesome God, and during worship at church, we need to express our enthusiasm in song as opposed to sitting uninvolved as if we were bored, reading the church bulletin, or just passively watching others as they sing. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 15. I buy a lot of Christian books because I appreciate thought-provoking reading that challenges me to think more deeply and broadly about aspects of my faith. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 16. I derive great joy from praying or communing with God as I sit beside a brook, walk outdoors, or see His handwork in nature. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 17. When I enter a stunningly beautiful church, just the loveliness around me lifts my heart to God, increasing my passion for Him. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 18. The Christian faith—rooted in centuries of Godly tradition—must continually find its expression in the corporate life, which always takes precedence over individualized worship. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 19. When I see or read about someone who is confronting evil or taking positive action to change the unjust conditions in the world, my love for God is stirred. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 20. When I am alone with God, I feel closer to Him, since I can most readily focus on His presence in quiet settings. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 21. I am not pleased when I see Christians who love God yet, walk right past a sick neighbor or a family in need without helping them. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 22. I would enjoy having uninterrupted time each day to sit alone with Jesus, gazing into His face, listening to His voice, or simply basking in the warmth of His love. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 23. I would like to learn more about how God uses dreams to lead His people. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 24. Knowing the truth and having a mind ordered by “right thinking” is very important to me. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 25. I would be thrilled if our church held a service on the beach or in a wooden glen—somewhere outside in God’s creation. | 4 3 2 1 0 |

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| 26. A High Church service with formal Communion or the Eucharist is something I would enjoy. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 27. I value greatly the idea of having a prayer ritual (or rule), especially as it connects me with other believers who are observing the same practice. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 28. It is essential that injustice and the status quo be confronted and it's the Lord who compels me to take action when it comes to poverty, prostitution, slavery, the conditions in our local schools, or the neglect/oppression of the aged. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 29. I would enjoy reading about the monastic life and learning how God calls some of His people to live a very simple life for His glory. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 30. When I am helping those in need, I experience God's love, whether they are weak, poor, sick, or imprisoned. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 31. In my heart, I desire for God to be my closest friend and most intimate companion. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 32. I like listening to worship music at home or in my car, because almost nothing brings life to me like praising God. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 33. My love for God grows when I take an extended period of time to study His Word using rich sourcebooks, such as well-documented commentaries. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 34. If I could go to a garden or a lake to be with God, I would be very happy. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 35. How I wish I could have experienced the wonderfully sensuous Old Testament style of worship, with its poignant smells and colorful regalia. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 36. A seminar describing the meaning of symbols and liturgy in the church is something I would enjoy attending. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 37. I can't identify with Christians who lack compassion or fail to take action when they see wrong occurring in their immediate contexts. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 38. The thought of spending a few days at a monastery to pray and meditate upon the Lord in solitude sounds delightful. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 39. I feel like I am showing my love for God when I am helping "the least of these" by meeting practical needs, e.g., fixing a meal or helping with a household repair. | 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 40. When I am with God, I tend to picture Him as my Shepherd, Abba, or Friend. | 4 3 2 1 0 |

41. When I worship God in the congregation, my heart is so filled to overflowing with love for Him that I just want to stand up, clap, or raise my hands. 4 3 2 1 0
42. Hearing a renowned speaker present solid research about historical, biblical truth would really interest me, and it would be delightful to discuss this content with a group of informed thinkers. 4 3 2 1 0
43. When I am in the beauty of God's creation, I find myself spiritually refreshed because being with the Lord in the outdoors is so inspiring. 4 3 2 1 0
44. I love being in a church where all my senses come alive so that I can almost see, smell, hear, taste, and touch the majesty of God. 4 3 2 1 0
45. One of the best parts of my relationship with the Lord is worshiping Him in a familiar ways, using the meaningful traditions that I remembered from my childhood. 4 3 2 1 0
46. A presentation by Gary Haugen on "God's Heart of Justice: Why Do Bad Things Happen and Good People just Watch!" is something I would like to attend. 4 3 2 1 0
47. Living an ordered life that utilizes the spiritual disciplines is very important to me. 4 3 2 1 0
48. I would like to improve my skills in lay counseling to be better equipped to help those in need. 4 3 2 1 0
49. When spending time with God, I enjoy contemplating His love and affection. 4 3 2 1 0
50. Praising God is meant to be a joyous and jubilant experience! 4 3 2 1 0
51. Many of my closest moments with God are when I'm learning something new or my mind is stimulated about some important aspect of His Kingdom. 4 3 2 1 0
52. I would be delighted to see a picturesque movie in church entitled Worshiping God through Creation. 4 3 2 1 0
53. I like the thought of using art or drawing in my worship of God or when I journal or pray. 4 3 2 1 0
54. The history of the faith and its age-old rituals move me greatly. 4 3 2 1 0

YOUR SPIRITUAL TEMPERAMENT SCORES.

Now that you've taken the Spiritual Temperament Inventory, tally the numbers you recorded for each of the following answers to find your spiritual temperament.

						Total	H M L
Activist	1	10	19	28	37	46	_____
Ascetic	2	11	20	29	38	47	_____
Caregiver	3	12	21	30	39	48	_____
Contemplative	4	13	22	31	40	49	_____
Enthusiast	5	14	23	32	41	50	_____
Intellectual	6	15	24	33	42	51	_____
Naturalist	7	16	25	34	43	52	_____
Sensate	8	17	26	35	44	53	_____
Traditionalist	9	18	27	36	45	54	_____

Write today's date here to remind you of when you first took the Spiritual Temperament Inventory: _____

Now look at your scores. Write an **H** (or **high**) by those scores that fall between 18 and 24. These are your strongest or most **passionate** spiritual temperaments. How many **passionate** spiritual temperaments do you have? _____

Write an **M** (for **moderate**) by those scores that fall between 12 and 17. These are your moderate or **pleasurable** spiritual temperaments. How many **pleasurable** spiritual temperaments do you have? _____

Write an **L** (for **Low**) by those scores that fall between 0 and 11. These are your least developed or **potential** spiritual temperaments. How many **potential** spiritual temperaments do you have? _____

Now Review the Spiritual Temperament Characteristics information below to understand a little more about your personal Spiritual Temperament. Please be encouraged to talk to the Lord about what you have discovered, and ask Him to reveal to you ways that you may more effectively relate to Him in the unique way that He has created you.

SPIRITUAL TEMPERAMENT CHARACTERISTICS²

Jesus, Our Perfect Example

“A look at the life of Jesus reveals not only breadth and depth but a multiplicity of styles in expressing His love for His Father: Jesus often chose silence and solitude to be alone with God; He demonstrated consistent adoration and love for His Abba; He knew how and when to gather with others and enter into celebration; and Jesus also used ritual and symbol in worship. The Savior often went outdoors to be with His Father and, using spittle and mud to make clay for a blind man’s eyes, employed the sensory as part of His ministry. Christ obviously used his intellect to study and utilize Scripture, and He actively confronted evil and injustice with power. Jesus readily cared for others through a life of continued service. Hence, the breadth and depth of Jesus’ spiritual life is indeed a model for us in all aspects of our faith.”³

Growth Through Temperaments

Although we have been created with certain dominant spirituality temperaments, if we seek to become like Jesus, then we can learn from and grow in our less dominant ones as well. Kenneth Boa, in *Conformed to His Image*, says that, “It is wise and spiritually healthy to identify your opposite preference, type, and temperament and to engage in the discipline of stretching yourself by trying an approach you would normally not pursue. Deliberate participation in a style or facet of spirituality that you are ordinarily inclined to avoid can be a significant source of spiritual growth and greater balance.”⁴

Activist: “Loving God Through Confrontation with Evil”

- * Bold in desire to see evil confronted and good prevail.
- * Often gets involved in spite of personal costs (Mat. 5:10).
- * Being well thought of is not as high of a priority as standing up for those in distress (James 1:27).
- * Energized and rejuvenated by courageously coming against evil and rallying for the good.
- * When confronting wrong, has a greater sense of solidarity and fellowship with the triune God.
- * Activism takes a different shape depending upon the particular evil being confronted. They may revel in a highly challenging environment that pushes them to the very edge of their potential. This is when they feel closest to God.
- * “We owe a lot to Activists. Many of the people who have started ministries or currently direct a Christian organization have an Activist temperament. Their

² Adapted from Myra Perrine, *What’s Your God Language?: Connecting with God through Your Unique Spiritual Temperament* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2007), 39-95.

³ *Ibid.*, 42.

⁴ Kenneth Boa, *Conformed to His Image: Biblical and Practical Approaches to Spiritual Formation* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001), 480.

vision, tenacity, drive, and vigor keep them moving forward without a lot of affirmation; indeed, they are able to progress even in the midst of antagonism.”⁵

Biblical Examples: Moses (Ex. 2:11-12); Elijah (1 Kings 18); Habakkuk (Hab. 1-2); Nehemiah (Neh. 1); Amos (Amos 5:24); Jesus (Isa. 11:4-5, 16:5; Mat. 23).

* “If you are an Activist, thank God now for the gift He has given you of displaying His heart of justice and righteousness to a world that things of Him as absent and indifferent, even tolerant of evil. Thank Him, too, for the gift you are to Him and to others.”⁶

Ascetics: “Loving God Through Solitude and Simplicity”

* The life of an Ascetic is very much “internal” and he/she works hard to develop the inner life.

* For ascetics, silence is a gift and they sometimes see words as burdensome and a distraction from giving total attention to God.

* Ascetics love stillness and tranquility (Isa. 30:15).

* Simplicity in living conditions and environment is highly valued.

* Enduring hardship, suffering, self-denial and hard work are considered means to loving God.

* All work done unto the Lord is considered worship.

* Food is mostly considered as a means of sustenance and not pleasure. Going without, including fasting is seen as a means of nurturing a greater hunger for God.

* “They are people of obedience, because for them, submission prevents self-indulgence while also assaulting human pride. In this rebellious world, the Ascetic believes that respect for human authority demonstrates an ultimate respect for God’s authority.”⁷

* “The church owes a lot to those with Ascetic temperaments. Many of our spiritual disciplines have been made accessible through the writings of Ascetics who take the quest for godly transformation seriously.”⁸

Biblical Examples: John the Baptist (Mat. 9); Daniel (Dan. 9); Joel (Joel 1-2); Jesus (Mat. 4:1-2, 8:20, 14:23; Luke 6:12; Heb. 5:8; 1 Peter 2:23).

* “If you are an Ascetic, thank God now for the gift He has given you of seeing Him in the midst of simplicity. Thank Him, too, for the grace to be committed to careful obedience in a world where defiance, greed, and self-indulgence are the order of the day, and for the gift you are to Him and others.”⁹

⁵ Perrine, 46.

⁶ Ibid., 47.

⁷ Ibid., 50.

⁸ Ibid., 51.

⁹ Ibid., 52.

Caregivers: “Loving God Through Serving Others”

- * Caregivers discern practical needs and move to address them.
- * They are hands-on servants and doers of the Word.
- * They feel most alive and close to God when in volunteer service to others, knowing that in this way the work of the Kingdom is being advanced.
- * “Though many people feel close to God (and others, for that matter) when they are doing something for Him, for Caregivers these times markedly increase their awareness of God’s presence. They also experience shouldering the burdens of others as a form of prayer.”¹⁰
- * Biblical Examples: Mordecai (Est. 2:7); Ruth (Ruth 1-2); Women who came to the tomb after Jesus’ resurrection (Luke 24:1); Jesus (Mat. 4:23-24, 9:35-36; John 13:4-12).
- * “Caregiving is clear evidence that God is in the house. Those with Caregiver temperament are wearing signs around their necks that read, ‘Come watch God at work as I care for people.’”¹¹
- * “If you are a Caregiver, thank God now for the gift He has given you of displaying His heart of compassion and kindness to a world that views Him as aloof and too busy for them. Thank Him, too, for the gift you are to Him and to others.”¹²

Contemplatives: “Loving God Through Adoration”

- * Contemplatives enjoy in spending extended periods of time simply delighting in the warmth of God’s presence and love.
- * All of life is about developing greater intimacy with Jesus.
- * Contemplatives feel right at home with spiritual mystery.
- * Contemplatives are often the ones who compose heart-stirring songs or write deeply insightful books about God.
- * “Immature leaders usually think that contemplatives are wasting time with all their deep thinking. ‘Get busy!’ they want to say. ‘There’s a hill to take. Let’s go.’ But mature leaders understand that contemplatives need to spend considerable time outside the mainstream. They need to protect their thought life. Eventually their reflections will lead to something wonderful that will bless the whole church. Leaders whose primary pathway is contemplative need to give themselves an extra measure of grace. They need to give themselves permission to spend long hours in quiet reflection, even if others view it as inappropriate or strange, because for them that’s the door that opens into the presence of God.”¹³
- * Biblical Examples: John the Beloved; Mary of Bethany (Luke 10:38-42; John 7:1-7); Jesus (Mat. 3:17; John 17:23-26).

¹⁰ Ibid., 54.

¹¹ Ibid., 56.

¹² Ibid., 57.

¹³ Ibid., 61.

* “Contemplatives are passionate lovers of God.”¹⁴

* “Contemplatives astound us with their freedom to draw close and experience the God who comes near (see Psalm 34:18, receiving the affection of the One whose love is better than wine (see Song of Songs 1:2).”¹⁵

* “If you are a Contemplative, thank God now for the gift he has given you of displaying His heart of affection and nearness to a world that thinks of Him as cold and distant. Thank Him, too, for the gift you are to Him and to others.”¹⁶

Enthusiasts: “Loving God Through Mystery and Celebration”

* Loving God with gusto, they are cheerleaders for the faith, rarely shy in expressing their love for God publicly.

* They feel close to God when they gather people to sing and worship.

* They express love to God in open displays of affection in congregational settings.

* Like contemplatives, they also feel right at home with spiritual mystery and welcome supernatural works of the Holy Spirit.

*Biblical Examples: King David (2 Sam. 6:21); Miriam (Ex. 15); Samaritan Leper Luke 17:15-16); Children (Mat. 21:14-16); Jesus (Luke 19:38).

* “The world has been given a marvelous gift through those with Enthusiast spiritual temperaments. Not only do they give us wonderful worship music, they also add a sense of fun, optimism, and zest to any group. These faith-loving, glass-half-full types remind us of what heaven will be like when all the saints meet at the throne to adore the triune God. They help us get our eyes off ourselves and onto Jesus.”¹⁷

* “If you are an Enthusiast, thank God now for the gift He has given you of displaying His joy and celebration to a world that thinks of Him as a straitlaced killjoy. Thank Him, too, for the gift you are to Him and to others.”¹⁸

Intellectuals: “Loving God Through the Mind”

* Though not necessarily highly trained academically, they love God best through using their minds to deeply think and study about Jesus and Truth.

* “By understanding Scripture and being involved in all forms of cognitive activity, they see faith as something to be understood as much as experienced. For them, right thinking is essential, and they love learning new things about God and His Kingdom. In fact, they get bored when their minds are not stimulated.”¹⁹

¹⁴ Ibid., 62.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid., 63.

¹⁷ Ibid., 67.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid., 69.

* “Just as the Ascetic needs extended periods of solitude and silence and the Contemplative needs time to rest in the Father’s arms, so the Intellectual needs to come to God with an inquiring mind.”²⁰

* Biblical Examples: Solomon (1 Kings 4:29-34); Paul (Rom. 12:2); Gamaliel (Acts 5:34, 22:3); Apollos (Acts 18:24-25); Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:25-26); Jesus (Mark 1:22, John 18:33-38).

* “Just as Jesus told us to love the Lord our God with all our minds and strength (see Luke 10:27), God has also given the Intellectual spiritual temperament as a gift to the body of Christ. The church has been greatly enhanced by those who are willing to study for long seasons in order to write a commentary, prepare a lecture series, or expound on the essential doctrines of the faith.”²¹

* “If you have an Intellectual spiritual temperament, thank God now for the gift He has given you of loving truth, and for your commitment to relentlessly hold on to the God of the Bible, who is both reasonable and rooted in history. Thank God, too, for your part in displaying His truth to a world that believes in a deity who can be morphed into anything humankind imagines him or her to be, and for the gift you are to Jesus and to others.”²²

Naturalists: “Loving God Through Experiencing Him Outdoors”

* Naturalists come alive and experience a great awareness of God when surrounded by the splendor of His creation (Rom. 1:20).

* “God’s creation is like that; it reaches down into the soul of the Naturalist, becoming a classroom to teach about God’s rhythm, timing, and the seasons of life and death.”²³

* Biblical Examples: David (Psa. 19:1-2; 121:1; 23:1-2); Isaiah (Isa. 42:5); John the Baptist (Mark 1:3-6).

* “If you have a Naturalist spiritual temperament, thank God now for the gift He has given you of loving the outdoors and seeing His hand in the smallest detail of what He’s created. Thank Him, too, for fashioning you to call others to slow down and notice His handiwork. . . . Thank Him, too, for the gift you are to Him and to others.”²⁴

Sensates: “Loving God Through the Senses”

* “Those with sensate spiritual temperaments use all their senses—taste, touch, smell, sound and sight—to focus more fully on Jesus. Easily lost in the awe and splendor of God, Sensates find themselves particularly drawn to God when they are in the presence of beauty, such as intricate architecture, classical music, formal language, incense, icons

²⁰ Ibid., 70.

²¹ Ibid., 72.

²² Ibid., 73.

²³ Ibid., 75.

²⁴ Ibid., 79.

or stained glass. Just as the Naturalist enjoys God’s creation in the outdoors, so the Sensate enjoys the splendor of what humankind—made in the likeness and image of God—creates to reveal and illustrate God.”²⁵

* “For the Sensate, visual imagery has become a mediator of the invisible Kingdom of God.”²⁶

* Biblical Examples: God (Num. 13; Ex 24:16-17, 40:34; 2 Chron. 7:1-3; Lev. 3:5; Deut. 33:10; Ex. 35:31-35; Psa. 150; Ezek. 1:4, 1:26-27, 3:1-3, 3:12-15); Jesus (John 9:6; Mat 8:3, 9:29; Rev. 1:10-16).

* Sound:

In the Old Testament Scripture was read out loud—said to be “spirated” or God-breathed. “Martin Luther argued that Scripture was meant to be heard, not just silently read, and that listening to the Bible long with the music of Bach or Handel was a great spiritual experience. Handel himself talked of ‘transcendental keys,’ any signature with five to eight sharps, which he associated with heaven.”²⁷

*Touch:

“Orthodox worship includes a cross, an altar, a holy instrument, and frequent kissing.”²⁸ Biblical references include: Romans 16:16; 1 Cor. 16:20; 2 Cor. 13:12; 1 Thes. 5:26.

*Taste:

Biblical references to “taste” include: Psa. 34:8; Mat. 5:13, 26:26-28; John 21:13; Rev. 22:17.²⁹

*Sight:

The Incarnation—Jesus permits us to see God. Creation. Great works of art.³⁰

*Smell:

The sense of smell enhances life experiences. Our minds are psychologically sharpened when smelling incense, for example (Mal. 1:11).³¹

*Kinesthetic:

For many, being physically active and on the move helps to connect with God. Note the example of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus in Luke 24. For some, movement becomes a “sacred space.” Examples: Driving, running, walking, jogging, working with the hands, sports activity.³²

²⁵ Ibid., 81.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid., 82.

²⁸ Ibid., 82-83.

²⁹ Ibid., 83.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid., 83-84.

* If you have a Sensate spiritual temperament, thank God now for the gift he has given you of creating and appreciating beauty and form. Thank Him, too, for the part you play in displaying to a world that overemphasizes the cognitive just how important it is to worship God with our whole bodies by using all the senses, and thus for the gift you are to Jesus and to others.”³³

Traditionalists: “Loving God Through Ritual and Symbol”

* “Traditionalists enjoy worship, prayer, Communion, Bible reading, and other faith practices when they are done in familiar ways, realizing that these rituals help them join hands and hearts with the saints of old. Something about continuity and sameness ushers in the presence of God for the Traditionalist.”³⁴

* Church and family customs, rituals, traditions or symbols repeatedly experienced help us to remember. “The word remember is used 170 times in the Bible, and whether we are Traditionalists by spiritual temperament or not, we are commanded to recollect the acts of God on behalf of His people (see Psalm 105:5, 143:5). Because our God is the same yesterday, today, and forever (see Hebrews 13:8), His character and goodness can still be trusted today.”³⁵

* Biblical Examples: Abraham (Num. 15:37-40); Moses (Num. 21:9); Ezra (Ezra 7:16-17, 8:21); Disciples (Acts 2:42-47; 1 Cor. 11:17-34); Jesus (Luke 4:16, 24:30).³⁶

* “If you have a Traditionalist spiritual temperament, thank God now for the gift of grace He has given you to embrace ceremony and hold tightly to the community of faith that is grounded in centuries of well-established practices. Thank the Lord, too, for the part you play in displaying the ageless One to a world that values the new and novel, and for the gift you are to the Lord and to others.”³⁷

³³ Ibid., 86.

³⁴ Ibid., 88.

³⁵ Ibid., 88, 92.

³⁶ Ibid., 91-92.

³⁷ Ibid., 94.