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## Sacred Pathways Quiz

### *Discover Your Soul's Path to God*

*Taken from the book by Gary Thomas*

**Evaluate each statement on a scale of one to five; one being not true at all and five being very true.**

1. a. \_\_\_\_\_ I feel closest to God when I am surrounded by what he has made – the mountains, the forests or the sea.
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ I feel cut off if I have to spend too much time indoors, just listening to speakers or singing songs. Nothing makes me feel closer to God than being outside.
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ I would prefer to worship God by spending an hour beside a small brook than by participating in a group service.
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ If I could escape to a garden to pray on a cold day, walk through a meadow on a warm day. And take a trip by myself to the mountains on another day, I would be very happy.
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ A book called *Nature's Sanctuaries: A Picturebook* would be appealing to me.
- f. \_\_\_\_\_ Seeing God's beauty in nature is more moving to me than understanding new concepts, participating in a formal religious service, or

participating in social causes.

**Total score: \_\_\_\_\_**

2. a. \_\_\_\_\_ I feel closest to God when I am in a church that allows my senses to come alive – when I can see, smell, hear and almost taste his majesty.
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ I enjoy attending a “high church” service with incense and formal Communion or Eucharist
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ I’d have a difficult time worshiping in a church building that is plain and lacks a sense of awe or majesty. Beauty is very important to me, and I have a difficult time worshiping through second-rate Christian art or music.
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ The words sensuous, colorful, and aromatic are very appealing to me.
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ A book called *The Beauty of Worship* would be very appealing to me.
- f. \_\_\_\_\_ I would really enjoy using drawing exercises or art to improve my prayer life

**Total score: \_\_\_\_\_**

3. a. \_\_\_\_\_ I feel closest to God when I’m participating in a familiar form of worship that has memories dating back to my childhood. Rituals and traditions move me more than anything else.
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ Individualism within the church is a real danger. Christianity is a corporate faith, and most of our worship should have corporate expression.
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ The words tradition and history are very appealing to me
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ Participating in a formal liturgy or prayer-book service, developing symbols that I could place in my car, home or office, and developing a

Christian calendar for our family to follow are activities that I would enjoy.

e. \_\_\_\_\_ A book called *Symbolism and Liturgy in Personal Worship* would be appealing to me.

f. \_\_\_\_\_ I would really enjoy developing a personal rule (or ritual) of prayer.

**Total score: \_\_\_\_\_**

4. a. \_\_\_\_\_ I feel closest to God when I am alone and there is nothing to distract me from focusing on the presence

b. \_\_\_\_\_ I would describe my faith as more “internal” than “external”

c. \_\_\_\_\_ The words silence, solitude, and discipline are very appealing to me.

d. \_\_\_\_\_ Taking an overnight retreat by myself at a monastery where I could spend large amounts of time alone in a small room, praying to God and studying his Word, and fasting for one or more days are all activities I would enjoy.

e. \_\_\_\_\_ I would enjoy reading the book *A Place Apart: Monastic Prayer and Practice for Everyone*.

f. \_\_\_\_\_ I would really enjoy spending time on a night watch taking a short vow of silence, simplifying my life.

**Total score: \_\_\_\_\_**

5. a. \_\_\_\_\_ I feel closest to God when I’m cooperating with him in standing up for his justice: writing letters to government officials and newspaper editors, picketing at an abortion clinic, urging people to vote, or becoming familiar with current issues.

- b. \_\_\_\_\_ 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 it's apathy.
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ The words courageous, confrontation and social activism are very appealing to me.
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ Activities like confronting a social evil, attending a meeting to challenge the new curriculum before the local school board, and volunteering on a political campaign are important to me
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ The book written by Frank Schaeffer, *A Time for Anger*, would be an important book for me to read.
- f. \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to awaken the church from it's apathy

**Total score: \_\_\_\_\_**

6. a. \_\_\_\_\_ I feel closest to God when I see him in the needy, the poor, the sick, and the imprisoned. I feel God's presence most strongly when I am sitting quietly beside the bed of someone who is lonely or ill or taking a meal to someone in need. You can count on me to offer a ride or volunteer for helping activities.
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ 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.
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ The words service and compassion are very appealing to me.
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ 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 in Mexico.
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ A book entitled *99 Ways to Help Your Neighbor* would be very appealing to me.

f. \_\_\_\_\_ I would rather nurse someone to health or help someone repair their house than teach an adult Sunday School class, go on a prayer and fasting retreat, or take a lonely walk in the woods.

**Total score: \_\_\_\_\_**

7. a. \_\_\_\_\_ I feel closest to God when my heart is sent soaring and I feel like I want to burst, worship God all day long, and shout out his Name. Celebrating God and his love is my favorite form of worship.

b. \_\_\_\_\_ God is an exciting God, and we should be excited about worshiping him. I don't understand how some Christians can say they love God, and then act like they're going to a funeral whenever they walk into church.

c. \_\_\_\_\_ The words celebration and joy are very appealing to me.

d. \_\_\_\_\_ I would enjoy attending a workshop on learning to worship through dance or attending several worship sessions with contemporary music. I expect that God is going to move in some unexpected ways.

e. \_\_\_\_\_ I would enjoy reading the book *The Mystery and Excitement of Walking with God*

f. \_\_\_\_\_ I spend more money on music and worship tapes than on books.

**Total score: \_\_\_\_\_**

8. a. \_\_\_\_\_ 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 would rather be alone with God, contemplating his love, than participating in a formal liturgy or being distracted by a walk outside.

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

- c. \_\_\_\_\_ The words lover, intimacy, and heart are very appealing to me.
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ 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.
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ I would enjoy reading *The Transforming Friendship*
- f. \_\_\_\_\_ When I think of God, I think of love, friendship, and adoration more than anything else

**Total score: \_\_\_\_\_**

9. a. \_\_\_\_\_ I feel closest to god when I learn something new about him that I didn't understand before. My mind needs to be stimulated. It's very important to me that I know exactly what I believe
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ I get frustrated when the church focuses too much on feelings and **spiritual** experience. Of far more importance is the need to understand the Christian faith and have proper doctrine.
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ The words concepts and truth are very appealing to me
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ I feel close to God when I participate in several hours of uninterupted study time – reading God's Word or other Christian books and then perhaps having an opportunity to teach ( or participate in a discussion with) a small group.
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ A book on church dogmatics would be very appealing to me.
- f. \_\_\_\_\_ I spend more money on books than music tapes

**Total score: \_\_\_\_\_**