

A sepia-toned photograph of a landscape. In the foreground, a path made of light-colored stones leads up a grassy hill. In the background, a cross stands on a ridge against a bright sky. The overall tone is warm and spiritual.

Exploring Spiritual Pathways

With

Steve & Carol Gillham

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Spiritual Pathways

Introduction

Define Spiritual Pathway

Spirit of Prophecy

Seven Pathways

Using the Pathways

“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” ~ Proverbs 27:17

Spiritual Pathways

God wants to be fully present with each of us. But because he made us to be different from one another, we are not identical in the activities and practices that will help us connect with him.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." ~ Proverbs 27:17

Spiritual Pathways

We live from the heart. The part of us that drives and organizes our life is not the physical.

This remains true even if we deny it. We have a spirit within us and it has been formed.

It has taken on a specific character
(Willard, 2002, p. 13).

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." ~ Proverbs 27:17

Spiritual Pathways

The human spirit is an inescapable, fundamental aspect of every human being; and it takes on whichever character it has from the experiences and the choices that we have lived through or made in the past.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." ~ Proverbs 27:17

Spiritual Pathways

- A spiritual pathway has to do with the way we most naturally sense God's presence and experience spiritual growth
- The ways that you commune with God most naturally and effectively

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." ~ Proverbs 27:17

Spiritual Pathways

There is freedom in identifying and embracing your spiritual pathway. It is a little like realizing that if you're an introvert -- You don't have to work as a salesman; you could get a job in a library.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." ~ Proverbs 27:17

Spiritual Pathways

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“Satan has come right in and placed himself between God and man. It is his work to divert the human mind, and he throws his dark shadow right [across] our pathways, so that we cannot discern between God and the moral darkness and corruption and the mass of iniquity that is in our world.

Ellen G. White 1888 Materials (1987) {1888 75.4}

Spiritual Pathways

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Then what are we going to do about the matter? Shall we let that darkness remain?--No. There is a power here for us that will bring in the light of heaven to our dark world.

Ellen G. White 1888 Materials {1888 75.4}

Spiritual Pathways

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Christ has been in heaven and He will bring the light of heaven, drive back the darkness, and let the sunlight of His glory in. Then we shall see, amid the corruption and pollution and defilement, the light of heaven”

The Ellen G. White 1888 Materials {1888 75.4}

Spiritual Pathways

† Intellectual

† Relational

† Serving

† Worship

† Activist

† Contemplative

† Creation

Assessment

Spiritual Pathways

Intellectual

- ✝ People on the intellectual pathway draw closer to God when their mind is fully engaged
- ✝ They love research and study.
- ✝ They love to study God's word.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." ~ Proverbs 27:17

Spiritual Pathways

Intellectual

- ✝ When at church, intellectuals often find themselves marking time during the music until the sermon starts
- ✝ When faced with spiritual challenges, they tend to go into an analytic, problem-solving mode.

Spiritual Pathways

Relational

- ✝ Feels God's presence more when praying with others than praying alone
- ✝ Thrive on discussing the Bible with others
- ✝ Being alone drives them crazy

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." ~ Proverbs 27:17

Spiritual Pathways

Relational

Two Dangers:

✝ Superficiality

✝ Dependency on others

“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” ~ Proverbs 27:17

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Spiritual Pathways

Serving

✝ Servers feel closer to God when helping others

✝ They are mostly aware of God's presence when serving Him

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." ~ Proverbs 27:17

Spiritual Pathways

Serving

- ✝ if attending church but no place to serve, God begins to feel distant
- ✝ The danger here is the temptation to think God is present only when one is serving.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." ~ Proverbs 27:17

Spiritual Pathways

Worship

- ✝ If this is your pathway, you need to experience great worship on a regular basis.
- ✝ Don't judge people who are not as outwardly expressive as you.
- ✝ Guard against an experience-based spirituality that has you always looking for the next "worship high."

Spiritual Pathways

Worship

- ✝ Listening to worship CD's add life to devotional times with God
- ✝ Feel closest to God in church worship service

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." ~ Proverbs 27:17

Spiritual Pathways

Worship

- ✝ While the intellectual types are looking at their watches, waiting for the message to start, they are internally shouting, "Sing it again!"
- ✝ May or may not be naturally expressive, but somehow in worship the heart opens up and one comes alive

Spiritual Pathways

Worship

✝ Feels dry if unable to spend time in worship

✝ Engaging in study is an important stretch, so that one's heart is deeply rooted in the knowledge of God

Spiritual Pathways

Activist

- ✚ has a high level of energy
- ✚ has a passion to act
- ✚ Challenges don't discourage; they energize

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Spiritual Pathways

Activist

✝ Activists want to run with everything they have between now and the day they die

✝ For activists, prayer and action go naturally together. They look for and depend on God's presence and guidance in the heart of battle

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Spiritual Pathways

Activist

- ✝ May get so excited about the cause that they begin to run over other people or exploit them
- ✝ Sometimes they have a hard time discerning God's true call from their own strong impulses to action

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." ~ Proverbs 27:17

Spiritual Pathways

Contemplative

- ✚ loves large blocks of uninterrupted time alone
- ✚ Reflection comes naturally
- ✚ Feels like an observer in life
- ✚ Deep thinker

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." ~ Proverbs 27:17

Spiritual Pathways

Contemplative

- ✝ God is most present when noises and distractions are removed
- ✝ Begin to feel drained and stretched thin if too busy, or spending too much time with too many people

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." ~ Proverbs 27:17

Spiritual Pathways

Contemplative

- ✚ Has a large capacity for private prayer and worship
- ✚ Doesn't require much external stimulation
- ✚ Involvement in significant relationships and regular acts of service to stay tethered to the external world

Spiritual Pathways

Creation

- ✚ Has a passionate ability to connect with God when experiencing the world He made
- ✚ Feels there is something deeply life-giving and God-breathed about nature

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." ~ Proverbs 27:17

Spiritual Pathways

Creation

- ✚ The wonders of nature leaves one in awe of God
- ✚ Needs to learn to see beauty where God does, and people are the most valued part of all that He created

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." ~ Proverbs 27:17

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Spiritual Pathways

Experience God

✝ Embracing how God made us also means we need to resist the temptation to envy someone else's pathway

✝ pay attention to those pathways that may not come naturally to us

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." ~ Proverbs 27:17

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Spiritual Pathways

Experience God

- First, identify your pathway
- Second, lean into your pathway
- Third, appreciate all the pathways

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." ~ Proverbs 27:17

Spiritual Pathways

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