

Exploring our God-Given Spiritual Instincts

Jeremy & Lisa Peters ~ May 17, 2020

Spiritual Instinct: *The most natural way in which someone connects meaningfully with God and feels alive, nourished and sustained by Him.*

The **Aesthetic** instinct

Key Word: MAJESTY

If you have this instinct...

- You are most alive in worship when it is done in an environment of beauty, order, tradition and artistic integrity
 - You think the ways things look and sound and connect is very, very important
 - You appreciate architecture and furniture which is designed specifically for worship
 - You appreciate symbolism, color, art, great poetry and great music
 - You are most uncomfortable with songs or prayers that seem fluffy, silly, or corny
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The **Experiential** Instinct

Key Word: JOY

If you have this instinct...

- You want to 'feel' the presence of God
 - You want to respond with the full range of emotions and physical expression
 - You love spontaneity and emotion, like to have very little leadership in worship
 - *"Just let the Spirit lead"* is your motto.
 - You are best suited, of all the instincts, for cross-cultural contexts (love being on the adventure with God, experience new things with Him)
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The **Activist** Instinct

Key Word: ACHIEVEMENT

If you have this instinct...

- You may see the primary way we are called to follow Christ as activity or service and you love to commune with God about good things that need to get done together
 - You have great compassion for issues of social justice; for people who are disadvantaged and desire to practically care for people who are in need.
 - You feel angry about oppression and sense an urgency to express the compassion and mercy of Christ in tangible ways to others.
 - You are committed to changing your world and want to be involved in social reform
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The **Contemplative** Instinct

Key Word: LISTENING

If you have this instinct...

- You meet God in the quiet of the inner life and often don't have an agenda – you just love being with God for his own sake
 - You love to meditate, listen to the whispers of a God who meets His people in solitude and silence
 - You appreciate the importance of spiritual disciplines like fasting, prayer, meditation
 - You are on a continual search for depth in the spiritual life
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The **Student** Instinct

Key Word: TRUTH

If you have this instinct...

- You may be the deep thinker, the philosopher
 - You tend to ask the question 'why?' and are not always satisfied with the answer
 - Your greatest quest is truth, conveyed in carefully crafted words and doctrines
 - It matters to you the language in the worship songs we sing!
 - You may be suspicious of people who say 'God told me;' you may need to see it in Scripture
 - You like a good argument and don't take it personally
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Apprenticeship Prayer Partner Questions:

1. When was the last time you felt close to God? Ask Jesus to show you what factors contributed to this and how you might continue to foster them.
2. What three spiritual practices are the most helpful to you personally to stay meaningfully connected to God? How consistently have you been able to engage these practices in the current season?