



Meeting with God 2 PERSONALITY, THEOLOGY, ECCLESIOLOGY



→ Were you in church in 1994? Did you experience the 'Toronto Blessing' then or since, and how did it make you feel? Do you feel comfortable when God is moving or anxious? Are you longing for more or running out the door?

THE PREMISE: We interact with the work of the Holy Spirit on the basis of a COMPLEX MIXTURE of 3 factors:

- a) PERSONALITY: We're all WIRED DIFFERENTLY ... We all have PREFERENCES
- b) THEOLOGY: What do I BELIEVE about the HOLY SPIRIT? What am I EXPECTING?
- c) ECCLESIOLOGY: What does our PAST EXPERIENCE of CHURCH look like? What about our PERSONAL PREFERENCES (style)?

→ Do you prefer larger gatherings or smaller and more intimate? Do you prefer louder or quieter? Which are you: Responsive? Sceptical? Overly-rational? Bold? How do those help or hinder?

→ What are your expectations of the Holy Spirit when we gather? What have you been taught about His personality, ministry, gifts? What does your relationship with Him look like?

→ From what traditions do you come? How did the Holy Spirit fit? Has your church past prepared you for the move of the Holy Spirit or 'put you off'? What do you think church should look like?

It's not ONE SIZE FITS ALL → There's room for all PERSONALITIES, different theological EMPHASES, different STYLES.

* God made DIVERSITY and diversity is very GOOD.

→ How have you historically looked at diversity in the church? Does it scare you? Are you judgmental? How do you cope with people who aren't like you? Do you view them as an asset or an impediment?

It's a real shame if we back away from the CHARISMATIC, because the EXPERIENCE of God is what makes the difference.

→ What does word 'charismatic' mean to you? Do you instinctively press in or back off?

* That's what sets us on FIRE: Keeps us passionate, motivated, pressing in.

* That's what keeps us from DEAD RELIGION: Going through the motions, spinning wheels, ticking boxes.

* That's what fuels our ongoing JOURNEY and empowers our SERVICE.

→ How has the experience of God and His presence impacted your life? In general? On specific occasions? What would you like to experience, see an increase of?

PERSONALITY TYPES

INTROVERT or EXTROVERT → What FEEDS you? Do instinctively turn INWARDS or OUTWARDS? Are you fuelled by your OWN COMPANY or a PARTY

→ Have you ever completed a Myers-Briggs assessment? What did it say?

→ Are you an introvert or extrovert by nature? What's your reaction to crisis? What's your idea of a perfect evening? Do you prefer to be in a crowd or talking one-on-one?

→ If you have time, perhaps you could divide into twos and discuss which way you both lean for each of these Myers-Briggs pairs:

FAVOURITE WORLD: Do you prefer to focus on outer world or own inner world? i.e.

Extrovert (E) or Introvert (I) ... What feeds you? Do you instinctively turn inwards or outwards? Fuelled by your own company or party?

INFORMATION: Do you interpret/respond to info based on external world: seen, tasted, touched, hear, smelt = **Sensing (S)** or internal, imaginative world = **Intuition (N)** ... reality or possibility

DECISION: Do you make decisions based on logic (facts) or emotion (likes + dislikes)? **Thinking (T) or Feeling (F)**

STRUCTURE: Do you prefer to get things decided + organised or do you prefer to improvise + explore new options? **Judging (J) or Perceiving (P)**

- i) The POWERFUL **CHOLERIC** = **LION** (Rabbit, Paul)
- ii) The POPULAR **SANGUINE** = **OTTER** (Tigger, Peter)
- iii) The PEACEFUL **PHLEGMATIC** = **GOLDEN RETRIEVER** (Pooh, Abraham)
- iv) The PERFECTION **MELANCHOLIC** = **BEAVER** (Eeyore, Moses)

→ Which animal are you? It would be more entertaining if you do not restrict yourself to this list of four, but perhaps it would be helpful to pick one of those as well!

→ Do you see yourself strongly in any of these four personality types?

THE CHALLENGE: Each of the 3 factors can be a HELP or a HINDRANCE, an ASSET or a BLOCKAGE to God's work in and through you.

THE KEY: Whatever your personality or theology or ecclesiology, you must be SURRENDERED to the Lord and OPEN to the Holy Spirit.

THE POINT: Don't let your personality ROB you of your ENCOUNTER.

→ Have you found your natural personality to be a help or a hindrance in God's presence?

→ Are there any blockages for you? Do you ever hide behind or use your personality as an excuse? Do you have any masks or walls? What, in the past, do you think, if you're really honest, has come between the Lord and what He has for you?

→ If there was one personality trait, one past experience, one thing you've been taught about God that you could undo, what would it be?

→ Are there any hurts that need to be healed, disappointments that need to be soothed? Be honest and let your friends pray into that with / for you.

THE POWERFUL CHOLERIC (LION)

You'll know **powerful Choleric** by the way they walk into a room and take charge of everything. They're an **extrovert** who can intuitively size up a situation, set goals and delegate tasks to get it done. The Choleric is practical, hard-working, self-sufficient, multi-tasker. This dogmatic person is a born leader, very keen and capable of responsibility. They will take a stand and stick to it, no matter what. They won't be influenced by what others think and are the least sensitive or empathetic of the four temperaments.

Choleric is like a **lion**, because they do tend to roar; they can be irritable and quick tempered, but their driven personality makes them purposeful and productive.

THE POPULAR SANGUINE (OTTER)

It's easy to spot **popular Sanguine**: they make grand entrances and are the life and soul of every party. They're **extroverts** who love to tell funny stories and be the centre of attention. They're warm and loving, and enjoy life. They're so cheerful and bubbly that they may at times appear to be phony or come on too strong. They may speak before they think, but they are sincere and loving.

Like an **Otter**, the Sanguine lives for the moment and goes with the flow. In their energy and enthusiasm, they also tend to be quickly distracted. They can tend to be selfish and irresponsible, but they're so lovable that their friends can easily ignore their weaker tendencies.

THE PEACEFUL PHLEGMATIC (GOLDEN RETRIEVER)

A **Phlegmatic** is a **peaceful** person – easy-going, happy-go-lucky, phlegmatic wants to stay out of trouble and get along with everybody. They're laid back and enjoyable to be around, but they're **introverts** who love peace and quiet. You won't often find them in trouble with authority, because they'll do anything to avoid fights and arguments. They have a naturally dry humour and their wittiness keeps companions laughing. They don't get ruffled about much and is the same consistent, caring person each time you see them. They tend not to get too involved and would rather sit back and watch the action – but when aroused, they're competent and efficient workers.

Like a **Golden Retriever**, the phlegmatic loves everybody and everyone loves them back.

THE PERFECT MELANCHOLY (BEAVER)

The **Melancholy** is a **perfectionist**, who wants everything done properly and in order. They're systematic and labour over details. Typically an extreme **introvert**, they are reserved and prefer long, quiet conversations. They constantly analyse themselves and others, and can be prone to depression. The Melancholy usually shuns group gatherings and doesn't seek to make new acquaintances ... have just a few friends, to whom they're extremely faithful. As thinker and philosopher, facts roll easily off the tongue of the studious melancholy. They would rather read or study than interact with others.

Their perfectionist nature makes them prone to procrastination and legalism, yet like a **Beaver**, they are hard-working, organised and self-disciplined.