

#### Mediator/Peacemaker

Need to be peaceful

Avoids conflict

## Challenger/Leader

### Need to be strong

Avoids weakness

## Romantic/Individualist

### Need to be special

Avoids being ordinary

## Perfectionist/Reformer

### Need to be perfect

#### Avoids anger

## Giver/Helper

### Need to be needed

Avoids personal need

## Performer/Achiever

### Need to be successful

Avoids failure

## Observer/Investigator

### Need to be competent

##### Avoids emptiness

# THE ENNEAGRAM

#### Roles, Basic Need, Avoidance

From The Enneagrom. Beesing and O'Leary (Dimension Books. 1984). P. 4.

## Questioner/Loyalist

### Need to be safe

Avoids deviance

## Epicure/Enthusiast

### Need to be happy

##### Avoids deprivation

**Enneagram Retreat Intro**

Dear Keith,

We thought it would be good to give you a ‘heads up’ regarding our upcoming retreat with your team to help you know what to expect and to raise your expectations for what Jesus might do in and among us in our time together. So, here it is . . .

*“Nearly all the wisdom we possess, that is to say, true and sound wisdom, consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves. . . . Accordingly, the knowledge of ourselves not only arouses us to seek God, but also, as it were, leads us by the hand to find Him.”*

John Calvin Institutes, 1.1.1

*“One of the characteristics of all the great saints, right up until the 17th century, is that they always saw knowledge as a double form of knowledge. It is a knowledge of God and a knowledge of oneself. “Let me know you, O God, and let me know myself” is the great prayer of Saint Augustine in his Soliloquies.”*

James Houston, Mars Hill Review, 6:51-66

**Why the Enneagram?**

Most of us are really beginners on the path of self-knowledge. American Evangelicals have an aversion towards inner work, especially forms like ‘depth psychology’ and morbid introspection. Rather, we come into self-knowledge the hard way, by playing relational ‘bumper cars’ with our friends, family, and ministry partners in our 20’s and 30’s. We go into the ‘garage’ of a counselors office for ‘repairs’, then it’s back into the bumper car ring! Most give up on the process before they reach ‘wisdom’ because of the continuous painful collisions and broken relationships.

The Enneagram is a wise and ancient tool which provides a map of our souls and the souls of others. It not only faces us with our character defects or “root sins”, it also points the way towards godliness and health in our relational patterns. Unlike most personality instruments out there today (even excellent tools like the MBTI) it emphasizes true and sound wisdom regarding our inner lives -- our passsions, sins, and hidden compulsions. We have yet to work with anyone who has not had the lights go on when they understood their enneatype and its implications.

Moreover, the Enneagram is quickly becoming the ‘hottest’ tool in our wider culture for business, schools, and the self-help movement. The largest regular seminars on the Enneagram are held on the Stanford Campus by Helen Palmer and associates! (See the enclosed Newsweek article.) What is amazing is that the Enneagram is based on the concept of “cardinal sins” (yes, the seven deadly sins!). Can you see some evangelistic potential in us becoming conversant with the Enneagram? There are people all over the Silicon Valley wrestling with their “root sins” without the knowledge of God’s grace in Jesus. I see some seeker groups, maybe a talk series or two . . . (We hope you are expectant at this point.)

**Goals for the Retreat**

• To help each member of the team come to a working knowledge of the Enneagram and her/his type and its implications; and, to provide guidance for further study.

**Goals for the Retreat Continued**

• To be available for personal spiritual direction for each person vis-à-vis the Enneagram and any other soul issues (as individuals want or desire).

• To build team community via sharing our enneatypes and interacting over the implications for our soul’s growth and our key relationships and working styles.

• To refreshingly encounter the living God as individuals and a group through confession, worship, rest, reflection, and the creation.

**Preparation**

**1) Reading**: We hope everyone has the time to read Richard Rohr’s Experiencing the Enneagram a few days before the retreat so it has stirred up things in your mind, heart, etc.

Note: Richard Rohr is a “shooting star” in the Catholic world. He does not speak our evangelical language and we are not his primary audience. He is writing for Catholics and especially disaffected Catholics who have gone into the New Age movement or Eastern religions. So, if he rubs you raw or seems syncretistic at some point, just pass over it and we will have a Q & A session on Richard’s orthodoxy and extreme statements.

**2) Discernment of type**: It would be wonderful if each person, having read or skimmed Rohr would have the opportunity to work with a spouse or close friend or two to identify your enneatype number. (At least to narrow it down to 2).

**3) Reflection**: It would be wonderful, though not imperative if each person could spend some time in reflection on their primary relationships, current conflicts in ministry, frustrations with God, etc. in light of/in preparation for thinking about the Enneagram. Maybe you could leave aside your normal devotional practice for a couple days to give yourself the time to read old journals, look back at conflicts, etc.

**What to Expect**

Because we are a rather small group, we can be rather flexible with our schedule. Gayll and I will present each enneatype in summary and answer any and all questions on people’s hearts regarding the Enneagram or spiritual direction. We hope to dialogue and reach consensus as a team on each person’s enneatype and how it contributes to the ministry, impacts others in a negative and positive way, and perhaps some growth steps for them to take as a result of this self-knowledge. (We intend for this to be fun, team building, and a bit humbling at the same time. Remember Chesterton’s famous quote, “Angels can fly because they take themselves lightly” ; )

We hope to provide time for each person to be alone in prayer, get their Olympic work-out (Keith & Gayll), surf (Brad), just be mellow (Wendy and Robert?), or crash like a baby in the late afternoon (Mark) . We also will be available for individual meetings of spiritual direction for each person who wants it. (See enclosed mini-description of how we understand spiritual direction.)

If you have any questions, suggestions, or prayer requests, you can reach us by phone or

e-mail. We have our crack team of intercessors praying for each one of you as well as for Gayll and I. We are really looking forward to partnering with you in your ‘soul work’ and your team work.

Blessings,

Mark & Gayll Phifer-Houseman

**Type 1: Perfectionist/Reformer.**

* **Gut Center - Smaller than the World - Aggressive**
* **Traits:** Principled, idealistic, purposeful, self-controlled, and perfectionistic.
* **Self-Image:** I am reasonable and hard working.
* **“I am good when I . . .** am right/honest, work hard, and bring order.”
* **Root Sin:** Self-righteous anger **Illusionary Antidote:** Hard work
* **Virtue:** Wisdom **True Antidote:** Patience, serenity
* **Rejection/Avoidance of**: Direct expression of anger
* **Basic Fear:** Of being condemned **Speech Style**: teaching, moralizing
* **Focal Point of Attention:** What is right/wrong in the situation.
* **Pitfall/Stuck In:** Resentment, criticalness, attempts at perfection, obligation.
* **Orientation Towards Time:** The One is working toward a future perfection. Time is the enemy. The One races against time.
* **Biblical Examples:** Jeremiah & Amos, Martha ?, Paul, the Pharisees
* **Historical/Contemporary Examples:** Martin Luther, John Calvin, Ralph Nader, Meryl Streep, Charles Dickens, Martha Stewart, Pope John Paul II, Rabbit (*Winnie the Pooh*)

**Spiritual Formation Issues**

* **View of God (Unredeemed)**: Just Judge, Law Giver, Christ as “Pantokrator” (ruler over all, see Revelation), Jesus as the ideal to imitate in our own efforts.
* **View of God (Redeemed):** God as Welcoming Father, Jesus as the teacher, Jesus as the friend of sinners, Jesus as the model of perfection, Jesus as the idealist.
* **Prayer Life (unredeemed):** Telling God what to do (intercession), prayer to shape up the world, rigid devotional practices, confess-aholics, God’s voice as the “inner critic”.
* **Prayer Life (Redeemed):** Contemplative Prayer, prayer as surrender to God’s sovereign, loving will, experiencing God’s mercy => offering mercy to others, encountering God in the Creation.
* **Going to Seven:** Learn to laugh at oneself, have fun, be spontaneous, practice gratitude for the gift of life, nurture and enjoyment of the body and sensory world.

**Some Transforming Scripture Texts**:

• Parable of Prodigal Son (Lk 15) -- Nature of the Father, identification with older brother.

• Parable of Growing Seed (Mt. 13) -- Growth is God’s work, freedom from urgent labor.

• Parable of the 11th Hour Workers (Mt 20:1-16) -- Life with God is not about fairness or rank, but about his generosity and the privilege of co-laboring with him.

• Take out the Beam (Mt. 7) -- Focus on our own growth issues versus the sins and problems of others, the church, etc.

• Justified by Faith (Romans 1-8) -- Repentance from works and fear of wrath to believe in God’s adoption of us through grace and faith.

**Spiritual Path:** The path of desire

**Type 2: Giver/Helper**

* **Heart center - Bigger than World - Dependent**
* **Traits:** Generous, demonstrative, people-pleasing (co-dependent), and possessiv
* **Self-Image:** I am loving. I care more than other people.
* **“I am good when I am. . .** loving, selfless, and helpful.”
* **Root Sin:** Pride **Illusionary Antidote:** Helping others
* **Virtue:** True Charity **True Antidote:** Humility
* **Basic Fear:** Of being unloved, unwanted **Speech Style:** Flattering, advising
* **Focal Point of Attention:** Approval for myself.
* **Pitfall/Stuck In:** The need to be flattered for helpfulness, my own good intentions.
* **Orientation Towards Time:** Time is an opportunity to have a personal encounter. I respond to needs in the present.
* **Biblical Examples:** Mary Magdalen, John “the beloved disciple”, Martha ?
* **Historical/Contemporary Examples:** Mother Teresa, Leo Buscaglia, Eleanor Roosevelt, Martin Sheen, “Melanie” in *Gone with the Wind* , Kanga (*Winnie the Pooh*)

**Spiritual Formation Issues**

* **View of God (Unredeemed):** God is all loving, all giving. God either approves or disapproves of them if they serve others or not. They feel God needs them and will reward them for their dedication to ministry.
* **View of God (Redeemed):** The Father who says, “You are my beloved. With you I am well pleased” apart from any specific ministry they “do”. Jesus as the compassionate servant, empowered by intimacy with the Father versus strokes from people.
* **Prayer Life (Unredeemed):** Prayer in groups for connection and attention. Prayer alone is fearful, so they serve in order to have an excuse for no time alone with God.
* **Prayer Life (Redeemed):** Discipline of gratitude for every little gift from God, interceding for others in secret, awareness of inner neediness and allowing God to fill that hole.
* **Going to Four:** I am in touch with my inner world, welcoming my deepest feelings into consciousness. I am emotionally authentic in relationships, valuing my own feelings.

**Some Transforming Scripture Texts**:

* Practice Piety in Secret (Mt 6) -- Promise that my Father sees in secret, curse upon pride.
* Foot Washing (John 13) -- Jesus’ fullness from intimacy with the Father empowers him to serve as the least; His call upon me to follow that example.
* Mary & Martha (Lk 10) -- Jesus’ affirmation that being with Him is more important than attempts to give to Him.
* Gethsemane (Mk 14) -- Jesus, the ultimate servant, shares his fears and frailty vulnerably with friends and the Father.

**Spiritual Path:** The path of Relationship.

**Type 3: Performer/Achiever**

* **Heart center - Adjusting to the World - Aggressive)**
* **Traits:** Adaptable, ambitious, image-conscious, driven, and arrogant
* **Self-Image:** I am desirable and successful.
* **“I am good when I am**. . . successful, competent, and effective.”
* **Root Sin:** Deceitful Vanity **Illusionary Antidote:** Completing tasks
* **Core Virtue:** True meekness **True Antidote**: Integrity
* **Rejection/Avoidance of:** Failure, seeing their deceit
* **Basic Fear:** Of being rejected. **Speech Style**: Inspiring, wooing
* **Focal Point of Attention:** Approval for the job I do, admiration
* **Pitfall/Stuck In:** Vanity in efficiency, success, superficial appearance, competition
* **Orientation Towards Time: Time** is a commodity to use -- get it all done, faster, more, etc. Wasting time is a lost opportunity, a sin. Never take time for myself.
* **Biblical Examples:** Jacob => Israel, James & John\*, Sadducees & Scribes,
* **Historical/Contemporary Examples:** Bill Clinton, JFK, Walt Disney, Princess Diana, Christopher Robin? (*Winnie the Pooh*)

**Spiritual Formation Issues**

* **View of God (Unredeemed):** A Father proud of successful kids. God helps me succeed and get everything done. Jesus “CEO”.
* **View of God (Redeemed):** God is a loving Father who is pleased to give us his eternal kingdom, a crown that can never fade. Jesus is the leader, the true model of success with integrity and depth, who took the narrow road and faced the Cross.
* **Prayer Life (Unredeemed):** Business contract prayer (Jacob). All success is attributed to God, all failure to themselves. Pray for crass success, e.g. to win the game, get elected.
* **Prayer Life (Redeemed):** Receiving the love of God in worship/contemplation. Quiet meditation and journalling out my feelings. Intercession for others. AM prayer is important.
* **Going to Six:** I am in touch with objective authority of God’s Word, God’s principles for life. I am a loyal member of a community, I live for the community’s success.

**Some Transforming Scripture Texts**:

* The Truth Will Set Us Free (John 8) -- Jesus’ dialogue with Jewish believers about their sin and secret hearts.
* Vine and Branches/Friendship (John 15) -- Intimacy and friendship with Jesus is the one true success. Only death exists outside this intimacy.
* Pharisee & Publican (Lk 18) -- God is not impressed by our show, but by true honesty.
* Pauline Texts on eternal life, unfading crown, and discipline to attain resurrection -- (Phil 3, II Cor 4-5, I Cor 9)
* Little Children vs. Rich Ruler (Mk 10) -- Jesus’ value on child-likeness vs. success.

**Spiritual Path:** The path of work.

**Type 4: Romantic/Individualist**

* **Heart center - Smaller than the World - Withdrawing**
* **Traits:** Expressive, romantic, temperamental (melancholic), creative
* **Self-Image:** I am unique and intuitive.
* **“I am good when I am**. . . original, cultured, sensitive.”
* **Root Sin:** Envy **Illusionary Antidote:** Desire
* **Core Virtue:** Equanimity - depth & stability **True Antidote:** Serenity
* **Rejection/Avoidance of:** Being ordinary, anything mundane
* **Basic Fear:** Being defective, e.g. not unique **Speech Style:** Poetic lamenting.

not beautiful, not meaningful

* **Focal Point of Attention:** What is best in the distance and what’s worst about here and now.
* **Pitfall/Stuck In:** Trying to achieve ‘specialness’, end up depressed, living in a fantasy
* **Orientation Towards Time:** Time flies when emotional intensity is high and it drags the rest of the time: extreme difficulty living in the here and now.
* **Biblical Examples:** Shulamite (Song of Songs), Joseph, Hosea?
* **Historical/Contemporary Examples:** St. Francis ?, Bob Dylan, Alanis Morrisette, Michael Jackson, Soren Kierkegarrd, Keats, Edgar Allen Poe, Judy Garland, James Dean, Eyeore (Winnie the Pooh)

**Spiritual Formation Issues**

* **View of God (Unredeemed):** The God of beauty, of ritual and symbol. Paradoxically, the God of my own imagination and experience. God who is distant from my pain. Jesus as a tragic figure, misunderstood and alone, e.g. The Last Temptation of Christ
* **View of God (Redeemed):** The sensitive Creator of beauty. The Father who affirms my specialness and that of all creation even in its most ordinary. Jesus as the “man of sorrows, acquainted with grief” (but not self-pity). Jesus as the poetic teacher who uses signs and parables.
* **Prayer Life (Unredeemed):** Self-piteous complaining to God about the burden of life’s pain.
* **Prayer Life (Redeemed):** Serene appreciation (thanks) for all that is, not just the special/unique. “Sacramental” prayer, e.g. icons, candles, etc. Moving from self-focused prayer to other centered. Good in healing prayer and intercession.
* **Going to One:** Becoming a hard worker who is other focused, working for worthy causes.

**Some Transforming Scripture Texts**:

* Consider the Birds (Mt 6:25f) -- All of life is special to God, even the most ordinary.
* Passion Narratives -- Jesus was abandoned and misunderstood, yet he did not give way to self-pity
* Water into Wine (John 2) -- By sensitivity to God, we can see the ordinary transformed by Jesus.
* Anointing of Jesus (Lk 7) -- Radical love for Jesus is “beautiful”, to love much is praised.
* Become as Little Children (Mk 10) -- Little children see all of life as a miraculous gift to be received with delight, they are not jaded.

**Spiritual Path:** The path of beauty.

**Type 5: Observer/Investigator**

* **Head Center - Bigger than the World - Withdrawing**
* **Traits:** Cerebral, detached, observant, innovative and provocative
* **Self-Image:** I am knowledgeable and see through things.
* **“I am good when I am**. . .wise, smart and receptive.”
* **Root Sin:** Greed **Illusionary Antidote:** Gathering observations
* **Virtue:** Understanding **True Antidote:** Generosity
* **Rejection/Avoidance of:** Emptiness, meaninglessness
* **Basic Fear:** Of being overwhelmed **Speech Style:** Explaining, systematizing
* Focal Point of Attention: What others want from me
* **Pitfall/Stuck In:** Avarice, focus on knowledge, analysis
* **Orientation Towards Time:** The Five watches time go by, observing it and wanting to reflect on each event. They are miserly about time because they want more time to observe.
* **Biblical Examples:** “Doubting” Thomas
* **Historical/Contemporary Examples**: Thomas Aquinas, Descartes, Howard Hughes, Hildegard of Bingen, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Owl (*Winnie the Pooh*)

**Spiritual Formation Issues**

* **View of God (Unredeemed**): God is wise, we share in His wisdom. God is known through analysis, theologies, unique views of scripture
* **View of God (Redeemed):** God is personable and incarnate - present in other people. God has the big picture apart from any theological system I may have set up.
* **Prayer Life (unredeemed):** Thinking, pondering and study take the place of prayer. There is much knowledge about God, but little experience of Him. Fives fight being real before God.
* **Prayer Life (Redeemed): A** deep personal relationship with God that also expresses itself in intercessory prayer for others and external expressions like art, dance or even manual labor.
* **Going to Eight:** Become discoverers with a broad comprehension of the world, visionary, open-minded, making the right connections, seeing things as they really are, often brilliant.

**Some Transforming Scripture Texts**:

* John 9:39-41 -- Those with sight can be blind to the truth
* Luke 10:29-37 -- The Good Samaritan: deciding to act versus to pass by human need
* John 11:32-44 -- The gospel shows how Jesus trusted his emotions and was moved to tears.
* Luke 11:9-13 -- Ask, Seek, Knock: rather than go it alone or make do
* Job 42 -- God is beyond me

**Spiritual Path:** The path of Knowing.

**Type 6: Questioner/Loyalist**

* **Head Center - Adjusting to the World - Dependent**
* **Traits:** Reliable, committed, loyal, defensive and suspicious
* **Self-Image:** I am likable and do my duty.
* **“I am good when I am**. . . faithful, obedient and loyal.”
* **Root Sin:** Fear or Anxiety **Illusionary Antidote:** Conformity
* **Virtue:** Courageous faith **True Antidote:** Courage
* **Rejection/Avoidance of:** Originality
* **Basic Fear:** Being Abandoned **Speech Style:** Warning, limiting
* **Focal Point of Attention**: Hidden intentions
* **Pitfall/Stuck In:** Cowardice or recklessness, dependency
* **Orientation Towards Time:** For the Six, time is boss. The clock is an authority to be reckoned with. Time judges their faithfulness to duty.
* **Biblical Examples:** Timothy (phobic), Peter (contraphobic)
* **Historical/Contemporary Examples:** Bishop Oscar Romero, Adolph Hitler, John Wesley?, Piglet (*Winnie the Pooh*)

**piritual Formation Issues**

* **View of God (Unredeemed**): God is faithful, always true to His promises. He wants us to be faithful. “Faithfulness is what You want from me.”
* **View of God (Redeemed):** God empowers them and has a sense of humor. God speaks to them through their own inner voice rather than only from external authority figures.
* **Prayer Life (unredeemed):** Infantile, like a child looking to a potentially unhappy parent for approval, pharisaic, with lots of rules.
* **Prayer Life (Redeemed):** Fear is overcome by knowledge of complete acceptance/security in God. They are able to receive God’s love and comfort and to be themselves in His presence.
* **Going to Nine:** They become self-affirming, trusting of self, interdependent as an equal. Faith leads to a manifestation of courage, leadership, richness in creativity and self-expression.

**Some Transforming Scripture Texts**:

* Matthew 25:14-30 -- The Parable of the Talents: Taking risks with what you have been given versus being paralyzed by fear
* Mark 2:23-28 -- The Sabbath was made for man: Jesus respects, but is not limited by the law
* John 15:9-17 -- God loves us deeply: Knowing the love of God creates ultimate security
* Matthew 10:26-33 -- The courage of our convictions: There is no need to be afraid

**Spiritual Path:** The path of loyalty.

**Type 7: Epicure/Enthusiast**

* **Head Center - Smaller than the World - Dependent**
* **Traits:** Fun, spontaneous, versatile, distractible and excessive
* **Self-Image:** I am happy!
* **“I am good when I am**. . .optimistic, happy and nice.”
* **Root Sin:** Gluttony **Illusionary Antidote:** Boundless optimism
* **Virtue:** Gratitude and Joy **True Antidote:** Fortitude, perseverance
* **Rejection/Avoidance of**: Discomfort
* Basic Fear: Deprivation Speech Style: Garrulous storytelling
* **Focal Point of Attention:** Pleasant options
* **Pitfall/Stuck In:** Idealism, scheming, acquisitiveness
* **Orientation Towards Time**: For the Seven, time is expandable, a huge pie that can be enjoyed in an infinite number of ways. Consequently, Sevens have trouble being “on time”.
* **Biblical Examples:** King Solomon, the rich young ruler
* **Historical/Contemporary Examples**: Mozart, Tigger (*Winnie the Pooh*)

**Spiritual Formation Issues**

* **View of God (Unredeemed):** God is joy-filled. God wants us to delight in His creation without fear. It is best to just ignore hardship, evil, brokenness and death.
* **View of God (Redeemed):** God invites us to a life of true joy by calling us to go through pain and death in order to experience resurrection.
* **Prayer Life (unredeemed):** Oriented toward thinking, looking at how things fit together or planning for the future. Full of noise or experience. It is very difficult to be quiet.
* **Prayer Life (Redeemed):** Listening prayer, doing the enduring “work” of prayer, being willing to sit with the dark side of themselves and life.
* **Going to Five:** They assimilate experiences in depth, becoming appreciative and grateful, awed by the wonders of life. Life-affirming and joyful they have a deep sense of God’s goodness.

**Some Transforming Scripture Texts**:

* Matthew 7:24-27 -- Built on rock not sand: Real faith and growth come from going deep with God
* Mark 8: 31-38 -- Lose your life to gain it: The way to life involves death and resurrection
* Romans 8: 18-39 -- Comparison of present sufferings with future glory
* Matthew 15: 21-28 -- The Canaanite Woman’s Persistent Faith: perseverance in prayer

**Spiritual Path:** The path of joy.

**Type 8: Challenger/Leader**

* **Gut center - Bigger than the World - Aggressive**
* **Traits:** Self-Confident, decisive, dominating, and confrontational
* **Self-Image:** I am powerful.
* **“I am good when I** . . .am just, strong, and in control.”
* **Root Sin:** Lust, vengeance **Illusionary Antidote**: Being strong
* **Virtue:** Innocence, magnaminity **True Antidote:** Compassion
* **Rejection/Avoidance of:** Feeling/showing weakness, helplessness, subordination
* **Basic Fear:** Of submitting to another **Speech Style:** Challenging, unmasking
* **Focal Point of Attention:** Who is in control
* **Pitfall/Stuck In:** Their idea of justice, revenge, and trying to be self-sufficient
* **Orientation Towards Time:** They control time. They work to make the future just.
* **Biblical Examples:** Deborah, Samson, John the Baptist
* **Historical/Contemporary Examples**: Martin Luther King Jr., Fidel Castro, Ernest Hemingway, Hillary Clinton?, Winston Churchill,

**Spiritual Formation Issues**

* **View of God (Unredeemed):** The Almighty Judge who will come to separate the wheat and the chaff; God who is on ‘our’ side; God as a warrior and fortress.
* **View of God (Redeemed):** God who protects the poor and defenseless (including our inner child), Suffering servant of Isaiah, Jesus confronting injustice, Jesus as the saviour of the poor, Jesus as the vulnerable ‘lamb of God’ who laid down his life.
* **Prayer Life (unredeemed):** Often no prayer life because of self-reliance, prayer for power to be given to me, to change things, power to persevere in righteous cause.
* **Prayer Life (Redeemed):** Centering Prayer, trust in God’s power, prayer of presence in social action, lifting my vulnerable inner child to Jesus, powerful corrective prophecy.
* **Going to Two:** Learn to be dedicated to others, giving unconditional love with no expectation of recompense, charitable member of a community versus boss.

**Some Transforming Scripture Texts**:

* Matthew 18: The Parable of Unforgiving Servant - Giving mercy because we are forgiven much.
* Matthew 13: The Parable of Wheat and Weeds - Only God can separate good and evil
* Matthew 9:35ff: Jesus’ Compassion on “Sheep” -- Jesus responds to people with tenderness, feeding the hungry, healing the sick, sending out his disciples to further his ministry.
* John 13: Foot Washing - Jesus’ radical renunciation of power for servant leadership
* Luke 4: Jesus’ Temptation - Jesus refuses to use his power to meet his own ‘lusts’, gain fame and following, rule the kingdoms of the world like Satan.

**Spiritual Path:** The path of power.

**Type 9: Mediator/Peacemaker**

* **Gut Center - Adjusting to the World - Withdrawing**
* **Traits:** Reassuring, agreeable, disengaged, but stubborn when pushed.
* **Self-Image:** I am content and peaceful.
* **“I am good when** **I** . . . am calm, in harmony, and balanced.”
* **Root Sin:** Sloth (laziness) **Illusionary Antidote:** Resignation
* **Virtue:** Peace **True Antidote**: Diligence
* **Rejection/Avoidance of:** Conflict, standing up, standing out, work
* **Basic Fear:** Of separation, disharmony **Speech Style:** Monotonous rambling (if you get them alone)
* **Focal Point of Attention:** Other people’s positions
* **Pitfall/Stuck In:** Accommodating to others to the point of self-abasement; lazy acceptance of surface harmony to remain comfortable
* **Orientation Towards Time:** Time passes like a metronome. They want to stay on schedule in order to keep the emotional content low. They preserve the past.
* **Biblical Examples:** Jonah, the man at the pool in John 5 (?)
* **Historical/Contemporary Examples**: Pope John XXIII, Dwight Eisenhower, Abraham Lincoln, Queen Elizabeth II, Gerald Ford, Winnie-the-Pooh

**Spiritual Formation Issues**

* **View of God (Unredeemed):** Ultimate Peace, mellow God full of harmony and unity.
* **View of God (Redeemed):** God the reconciler who is in the depths of struggles. Jesus as Prince of Peace who is active in loving reconciliation of all people. Jesus’ patience.
* **Prayer Life (Unredeemed):** False meditation that is merely escapism, quietism. “Acedia” or lack of passion as well as repression of my true heart is common in prayer.
* **Prayer Life (Redeemed):** Conversational prayer re: real issues, a heart of gratitude and experience of “abundant life”.
* **Going to Three:** Energy for making an impact in the world, having work I care about. Ambitious for self-improvement: valuing my own gifts, insight, and contributions.

**Some Transforming Scripture Texts**:

* Jonah -- Facing God’s call and the consequences of ‘numbing’ out/running away.
* John 5: “Get up and walk!” -- Hearing Jesus’ voice and obeying to find life Now!
* Luke 8: Jesus Calms the Storms - Jesus takes us into storms and he will calm them.
* Matthew 25: Parable of Talents - Trust God and invest!
* Mark 8:31-38: Lose your life to gain it.

**Spiritual Path:** The path of nonviolent peacemaking.

**Mark Phifer-Houseman**

**Questions for Prayer and Reflection**

Take time to bring before God anything you may have been learning about yourself via the Enneagram. These questions are merely prompts for your reflection and possible starting places for spiritual direction. They are options, not rules.

You may want to . . .

1. Take one of the scripture passage from your enneatype sheet and ponder it prayerfully, even reading it aloud and stopping to mull over a thought or phrase that speaks to your condition.

2. Take some time to thank God for the ways in which He has already moved you in the direction of integration and growth. Reflect on where you have come from or where you would be without His loving character-building in your life. Remember His goodness in worship and praise - silent, written, sung or spoken.

3. In stillness, ask God if there is any part of the Enneagram description that He particularly wants to speak to you about today. Make room to listen “naively” to anything He would say to you. You could do this in your journal as a dialogue between you and God.

4. Reflect on your direction of integration and/or disintegration.

What is the hardest thing for you about moving *against* the arrow (toward integration)? What feelings, thoughts, judgments or fears does that bring up?

Reflect on times when you have moved toward disintegration. What have been the triggering events that have set this off? How has the Father pulled you back from completely losing it?

5. In what ways do you see a life of “full-time” ministry feeding into your particular compulsion? What kind of strokes do you get (from yourself or others) for reinforcing your root sin? Who or what has been a help to you in giving you feedback about where you are “off”? Who or what has helped you move back toward balance?

6. Think about the teams you are on: how do you relate in the team? how does your enneatype affect the team dynamic? If there are specific individuals on your team that irritate, confuse or threaten you what might be the interaction between their enneatype and yours? What is God saying to you about your ability to learn from them or be in love-one-another community?

**Enneagram Bibliography for Further Study**

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