

A Spiritual Personality Type?

By Dr. Gregory Wiens



Of course it is ridiculous to think that one type of personality is more spiritual than another; but many of us buy into that position. I mentioned last week that some people don't see my personality as spiritual because I confront problems or use methods that may be considered unorthodox. I am not sure where we developed this concept of spirituality being somehow related to passivity. But, we somehow think that a quiet, reflective person is more spiritual than an active, aggressive one. Maybe it is related to how we see Jesus;

often viewed as this docile guy who never raised his voice or insulted anyone.

But a quick search of the gospels reveals Jesus didn't hesitate to tell Peter (his close associate) that he was acting like evil incarnate (Satan). At other times He told the Pharisees they were wicked snakes or shallow and dead inside but painted to look alive on the outside. He also physically threw the moneychangers out of the temple. Jesus was anything but passive. He had nerves of steel when the most powerful men in the Roman world interrogated Him and He refused to answer (Luke 23.9).

The apostles weren't any different. They were rough and tumble kinds of guys. Read every epistle and see how often they accuse someone in the church of being used by Satan (John calls them antichrists, 1 John 2.18 & 2 John 7) Paul didn't hesitate confronting Peter when Paul felt he was compromising grace (Galatians 2.11ff). Most of Paul's ministry involved confronting and confounding Judaizers who attempted to pervert the Christians in the churches he started. He also had significant conflict with his mentor and teammate Barnabus (Acts 15.36ff) over whether or not to take John Mark (a quitter on the previous mission) with them. Here, Barnabus is the caring and redemptive person wanting to give John Mark another try; but Paul will have nothing to do with him. He is too big of a risk for the ministry.

But somehow these examples from scripture elude our modern conception of spirituality. We think you are more spiritual on a quiet retreat than in a meeting correcting something that is keeping a church from reaching lost people. Some of us are deceived in the Church of God in thinking that anyone as passionate as Jesus or Paul are not as spiritual. This is a lie from hell. Satan loves to try to make us think that being a Christian means being passive. Consequently we might not get too agitated when he destroys and divides the churches through his carnal minions. Or we will sit idly by, as our churches are ineffective in reaching lost people because we are too busy quarreling amongst ourselves.

I am a passionate person who is committed to making my life count for the Kingdom. I do believe that we as the Church of God can extend the Kingdom of God through reaching lost people and building them into disciples. I believe some of our churches

are sick and need to be revived or get out of the way of those who really do want to make a difference. I will do whatever I can to help, build, train, encourage, push, stretch, challenge, guide, disciple, mentor, coach, support and love on pastors who will lead the charge in their churches.

I am very strategically minded and God clearly speaks into my daily times with Him and His word, my thoughts, feelings, the books I read, the conversations I have and the many calls and emails I receive. I am not afraid to be wrong, and I am not afraid to confront the wrongs I see.

I believe our time here is short and Jesus said to get ready for His return; so I set goals and attempt to enlist others to attain goals together. I am constantly thinking strategically about how we can accomplish the mission of Florida Church of God Ministries to change the spiritual landscape of Florida, the nation and our world by building healthy growing churches that are transforming their communities through reaching lost people and building them into disciples. I will do whatever it takes to do this because I believe I am called by God to accomplish it.