

Where Are You? “Spiritual Self-Assessment”

Genesis 3:8-13

⁹But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

1. Exploring Christianity

“I believe in God, but I’m not sure about Christ. My faith is not a significant part of my life.”

“... ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ Philip asked. ³¹‘How can I,’ he said, ‘unless someone explains it to me?’ So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.”

—Acts 8:26-31

Crowd – regular attenders

- They do not involve God in their daily lives.
- They view the Bible as irrelevant.
- They need others to help them interpret spiritual issues.
- They seek God’s guidance only in times of need.
- They do not serve in the church.

2. Growing in Christ.

“I believe in Jesus and I’m working on what it means to get to know him.”

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...”

—Acts 2:42-43

Congregation--members

- They are discovering faith.
- They need others to help them interpret spiritual issues.
- They willingly participate in small groups.
- Some of them serve in the church.
- They sometimes read the Bible or Christian books.

3. Close to Christ

“I feel really close to Christ and depend on him daily for guidance.”

“... ‘Teacher,’ he declared, ‘all these I have kept since I was a boy.’ ... ‘One thing you lack,’ he said. ‘Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.’”

—Mark 10:17-22

Committed—maturing members

- The Bible provides direction for their lives.

- Prayer is central to their lives.
- They have not surrendered everything to Christ.
- Small groups are less important to them.
- Spiritual friends increase in importance to them.
- They serve regularly.

4. Christ-Centered

“God is all I need in my life. He is enough. Everything I do is a reflection of Christ.”

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

—Galatians 2:20

Core—lay ministers.

- They love God more than anything.
- For them, prayer is constant conversation with God.
- They help to mentor others.
- Service to others is a way of life.

5. The Stalled (16% of those surveyed)

“I believe in Christ, but I have stalled and haven’t grown much lately.”

“... ⁴Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.”

—Revelation 2:1-4

- They come from the early-to-middle stages of spiritual growth.
- They believe in God and that Jesus is the only road to salvation, but they don’t demonstrate the belief through personal spiritual practices.
- Almost half (40%) very satisfied with their church.
- Over one fourth (28%) are dissatisfied.
- 25% are considering leaving the church.

6. The Dissatisfied (probably 10% of any church)

“My faith is central to my life and I’m trying to grow, but my church is letting me down.”

- They attend 3 to 4 times a month.
- They desire much more challenge and depth from services.
- They practice personal spiritual disciplines: small groups, serve, tithe, daily Bible reading and prayer.
- Nearly 2/3, (63%) are considering leaving the church due to low satisfaction levels.

Conclusion: Where are you? God knows, but do you?
Which way are you facing? (Luke 9:62)

Memory Verse:

But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

—Genesis 3:9