

# BIG VIEW SMALL WINDOW

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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### MY TESTIMONY

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*I've always been a believer, but I wasn't always a follower of Christ. There most certainly is a difference!*

### FORBIDDEN TALKS

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*We can scarcely avoid politics and religion. Everywhere we turn, it's invading our lives. How can we turn these forbidden subjects into peace talks?*

### 4 CORE PERSONALITIES

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*Thoughts on the 4 personalities found in Marita & Florence Littauer's "Wired that Way"*

### MEMORIAL DAY

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*Let's remember those who gave their lives for the freedoms Americans enjoy!*

## From Believer to Follower

It's always a bit of a mystery when I hear someone say, *"I've been saved forever"...* *"I accepted Jesus into my heart before I could walk"...* *"I was raised in church."* While I don't doubt a religious or spiritual experience took place, these rapid fire testimonies always leave me wondering, *is this all that's left to say after serving God for so many years?*

I was exposed to the Bible and faith in Jesus Christ at a very young age. My parents did at least one thing right by enrolling me in a Baptist elementary school. What I learned in that place made a positive impact on my life and influenced my decision to eventually become a Christian.

I guess in some ways, I can identify with those elevator testimonies. I, too, have believed in Jesus since "forever". I was never an atheist or a skeptic. Although I had opportunities to try new things, I was never tempted to worship another god. For awhile, I thought my faith was good enough. It was about thirteen years ago that I learned there is a difference between *believing* and *following*.

**solitudinarian**

noun [sol-i-tood-n-air-ee-uh n, -tyood-]

a person who seeks solitude;  
recluse.

**Minerva**

noun [mi-nur-vuh]

a woman of great wisdom.



"You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror" (James 2:19). This verse got my attention in early moments of my faith. I knew demons were once angels who had been in the presence of God. They enjoyed intimacy with Him as worshipers and servants without the need for redemption or mercy. Crazy to think demons have better faith than some humans!

I remember the exact moment I was born again. I was sitting in a cubicle with a pastor who was also my team leader. The man of God did not ask me to repeat a quick prayer, but instead opened the book of James and let it expose all my inner impurity and hypocrisy. Oh, I had said the "sinner's prayer" many times in the past. I even served in a local church, gave in the offering, and cried in the altars. None of these resulted in a genuine transformation. I still craved sinful things and lived my own way. I was as close to God as I wanted to be without changing my lifestyle.

This pastor knew I believed in God, but saw I did not live according to that confession. I had no fruit, no evidence, no works to prove I truly belonged to Christ. It was when he confronted my dead faith (**James 2:26**) I realized I'd been living as a false convert for nearly six years. Do I believe in the grace of God? Yes. But I do not believe unmerited favor or the power to obey His commandments is at work in those who willfully sin and resist the Holy Spirit. It is not God's will for anyone to be deceived about their salvation or live as a lukewarm, nominal believer. A relationship with God requires a new birth and a new mindset (**John 3:1-8; Romans 12:1-2**).

I have only one regret about my decision: I wish I would have chosen to follow Christ sooner! The Lord has completely changed the trajectory of my destiny. Aside from the day I joined a church or finally quit a bad habit, I can testify to the exact moment the Holy Spirit washed me clean and I was made right with God. I will never forget the surge of supernatural power that caused me to commit my life to following Jesus! To love God is to obey Him, to obey Him we must first believe!



Photo from Charisma News

## Forbidden Talks

Well, well, can we agree this is a crazy time to be alive!? We are reaching the point where religion and politics can no longer be avoided. Of course, I don't think the founders intended for these things to be so far from our minds and dinner tables. Faith and the Constitution were hemmed together at America's foundation and there's no changing it now.

For years, religion and politics have been scandalous subjects prohibited in the workplace, in schools, and even within some families. Exactly when did society start controlling our thought processes and conversations? Are Americans incapable of listening to those they disagree with? Are we so uncivil the government needs to regulate the most intimate details of our lives?

Here are some fundamental ways to handle conflict.

**Avoidance:** if there's no solution, there's no problem. **Confrontation:** negative emotions could mean the subject is off limits, try again at another time. **Mediation:** bring in a neutral 3rd party. **Negotiation:** process through to a win-win.

Religion and politics cannot be avoided forever. Americans have taken the easy way out for far too long and we're seeing the consequences unfold. Let's try a new approach to these forbidden topics. We need to start talking again!

## Religion & Politics

*How can we turn these forbidden subjects into peace talks?*

### 7 Key Points:

1 - Allow others to express a different opinion without arguing (it's okay to be right and keep it to yourself sometimes :D)

2 - Don't *react* but respond to opposing points of view (this is a choice between acting in outrage or respectfully disagreeing)

3 - If you love someone, don't let politics or religion end the relationship

4 - Morality (the existence of an invisible law that determines right and wrong) is an objective truth

5 - Politicians, and some ministers, lack the capacity to care about every individual, thus we do not owe them our allegiance on every issue

6 - If you are uneducated in any subject, don't bluff your way through a conversation (remain teachable and your knowledge base will grow)

7 - A faith-based point of view is valid and reasonable (in fact, it is the only view that accounts for key point #4)

# Littauer Core Personalities

The Popular <b>SANGUINE</b>		The Powerful <b>CHOLERIC</b>	
<b>Strengths</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talkative</li> <li>• Storyteller</li> <li>• Life of the Party</li> <li>• Energetic and enthusiastic</li> <li>• Charms others to work</li> <li>• Thrives on accomplishments</li> <li>• Makes friends easily</li> </ul>	<b>Strengths</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A born leader</li> <li>• Independent and self-sufficient</li> <li>• Goal-oriented</li> <li>• Sees the whole picture</li> <li>• Seeks practical solutions</li> <li>• Moves quickly to action</li> <li>• Thrives on opposition</li> </ul>
<b>Weaknesses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compulsive talker</li> <li>• Exaggerates and elaborates</li> <li>• Has loud voice and laugh</li> <li>• Priorities out of order</li> <li>• Easily distracted</li> <li>• Hates to be alone</li> <li>• Interrupts and does not listen</li> </ul>	<b>Weaknesses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bossy</li> <li>• Quick-tempered</li> <li>• May be rude or tactless</li> <li>• Comes on too strong</li> <li>• Inflexible</li> <li>• Demanding of others</li> <li>• Enjoys controversy</li> </ul>
The Peaceful <b>PHLEGMATIC</b>		The Perfect <b>MELANCHOLY</b>	
<b>Strengths</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easy-going and relaxed</li> <li>• Quiet but witty</li> <li>• Keeps emotions hidden</li> <li>• Peaceful and agreeable</li> <li>• Good listener</li> <li>• Patient, well balanced</li> <li>• Avoids conflicts</li> </ul>	<b>Strengths</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deep and thoughtful</li> <li>• Analytical; likes charts, graphs, lists</li> <li>• Serious and purposeful</li> <li>• Schedule-oriented</li> <li>• Perfectionist</li> <li>• Orderly and organized</li> <li>• Faithful and devoted</li> </ul>
<b>Weaknesses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indecisive</li> <li>• Not goal-oriented</li> <li>• Too compromising</li> <li>• Unenthusiastic</li> <li>• Lazy; lacks self-motivation</li> <li>• Resents being pushed</li> <li>• Resists change</li> </ul>	<b>Weaknesses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procrastinator</li> <li>• Moody and depressed</li> <li>• Spends too much time planning</li> <li>• Low self image</li> <li>• Self-centered</li> <li>• Remembers the negatives</li> <li>• Holds back affection</li> </ul>

Photo from "Wired That Way"

Marita Littauer and Florence Littauer wrote a book that served as the foundation for my understanding of human personalities. Over the years, I have taken several tests, including Myer-Briggs, the DISC Assessment, and the DOPE 4 Bird Personality Test. Regardless of the testing style or the interpretation of the results, I always score highest in the category of Perfect Melancholy, or PM (bottom right). I embody every strength and I've worked hard to correct those weaknesses. I'm still not perfect, but I'm less bothered by that fact!

I confess, the Popular Sanguine, or PS (top left), is one personality I distanced myself from in the past. After completing a few self-awareness trainings, I was able to catch myself rejecting those attention seekers. PMs have a natural aversion to people who come across bombastic or flaky. PMs are serious about commitment and they can become judgmental or insecure when they think others are not invested. PMs are deep thinkers and they expect others to pay close attention when they speak. Generally, the PS prefers talking to listening.

The truth is the PS is capable of thinking just as deeply as the PM. Really, these two personality types share common traits of mental strength and self-confidence. They happen to express the traits in different ways and draw encouragement from different sources. I'm glad I figured out the PS is not my social enemy! I enjoy good conversations and friendships with some of the best people in the world!

Share your personality type with me! Email [Tiffany@bigviewsmallwindow.com](mailto:Tiffany@bigviewsmallwindow.com).



Photo from National Interest

# We Will **Never** Forget

**\*\*May 31, 2021\*\***

We observe Memorial Day for the brave men and women who gave their lives to defend America's freedoms and traditions. We are a nation of overcomers, full of hope and faith, still leading the world in the ways of innovation and fundamental values. Our nation is far from perfect and it would be misleading to say the United States always sets the best example. The sins of America's past (and present) are forever with us. Transgressions remind us of how far we've come and how far we still have to go. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness requires blood, sweat, and tears, but we know the rewards are worth it. We will never stop fighting for what the founders established in the Declaration of Independence and fortified with the Constitution. By the grace of Almighty God, we will leave a legacy worthy of future generations.

## *American History in Wartimes*

1775-1783 American Revolutionary War

1812-1815 War of 1812

1846-1848 Mexican-American War

1861-1865 Civil War\*

1898 Spanish-American War

1914-1918 World War I

1939-1945 World War II

1950-1953 Korean War

1959-1975 Vietnam War

1990-1991 Gulf War

2001-Present War in Afghanistan\*\*

2003-2011 Iraq War

\*Memorial Day was founded in the wake of the Civil War (pictured above)

\*\*Pray for this war to end so troops can come home to their families!

### Sources:

<https://www.gettysburgflag.com/history-of-american-wars>

<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/memorial-day-history>

# Thank you!!!

I can't say thank you enough to everyone who subscribed, commented, liked a post, and emailed me! Thank you for reading and supporting my writing! The feedback is helpful and I'm glad the content is touching lives. There is more to come!

I once said, "You can be an artist without being a writer, but you can't be writer without being an artist." (Yes, I just quoted myself!) Writing is an intense creative process that brings joy and discipline to my life. Blogs, videos, newsletters, and other posts are a way to showcase my gifts and talents.

Many people are looking for someone to speak the truth in love, offer encouragement, and provide accurate information. If this describes you, please feel free to request prayer, ask questions, and send ideas for topics you'd like to see covered.

Please share your thoughts at [Tiffany@bigviewsmallwindow.com](mailto:Tiffany@bigviewsmallwindow.com).

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