

Spiritual Growth Questions

Things to think about compiled by Amanda Miller

1. Do you thirst for God?
 1. [Philippians 3:10](#) “that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, “
 2. Three types of spiritual thirst:
 1. An empty soul—an unbeliever
 2. A dry soul-
 1. Are you drinking too much from the world?
 2. Does God feel distant? Our soul can become dry when we don't trust the withdrawal. God promises to never leave us or forsake us.
 3. Are you mentally or physically fatigued?
 4. Do you have a longing for reconnection with God?
 3. A satisfied soul—
 1. A satisfied soul thirsts for God because he is satisfied with God.
 2. Do you consistently desire more of God as you experience fellowship with Him?
 3. Spiritual thirst is a work of God; it is proof that you have God's Spirit in you.
 4. God initiates thirst in order to satisfy that thirst.
 5. Do you long to be thoroughly and finally satisfied in the eternal, unending, face to face enjoyment of Christ in Heaven?
 6. Practical ways to Thirst:
 1. Meditate on scripture, 25%-50% of your Bible reading time.
 2. Pray through scripture, specifically Psalms.

3. Read thirst making writers: The Valley of Vision, Authors such as: John Owen, Richard Sibbes, Thomas Brooks, John Flavel, Thomas Watson, Jonathan Edwards, Charles Spurgeon; More Recent Authors: A.W. Tozer and John Piper
2. Are you increasingly governed by God's Word?
 1. [Jeremiah 15:16](#) "Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts."
 2. If our goal is to be "conformed to the image of Christ" then God's Word should be our most valuable treasure, because "little input of God's Word results in little resemblance to God's Son".
 3. Questions to Consider:
 1. Do you consciously inquire how the Bible speaks to specific areas of life?
 2. Do you ask spiritually mature leaders to help you apply scripture in particular situations?
 3. Is it your practice to go to God's Word in search of God's will?
 4. Do you deliberately govern your daily life by God's Word?
 5. Are you content with few, routine contacts with the Bible or is your reading characterized by delight in and love for God's Word?
 6. Are you indifferent to the truth of scripture?
 7. Are you in retrograde or does God's Word have a growing influence in your life?
 8. When dealing with common issues do you immediately ask "what does the Bible say?"

9. Can you point to an increasing number of beliefs and actions that have been changed because of the potency of scriptural texts?
3. Do you still grieve over sin?
 1. “The closer you get to Christ, the more you hate sin; for nothing is more unlike Christ than sin”
 2. “It is not the absence of sin, but the grieving over it which distinguishes the child of God from empty professors (of faith).” AW Pink
 3. Are you aware of sins in your life that you weren’t cognizant of years ago, even though you were committing them then as well? Increasing awareness of sin is a mark of growth.
 4. Do you repent regularly? If so, is it heartless and mechanical?
 5. Is your grief over sin self-centered or God-centered?
 4. Do you long for heaven and to be with Jesus?
 1. [2 Corinthians 5:2](#) “For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling,”
 2. [Romans 8:22–23](#) “²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.”
 3. Is there a sweetness to your time with Jesus that is peppered with dissatisfaction for the present whenever you yearn for something yet in the future?
 4. Do you yearn for something yet in the future?
 5. Do you find more and more that the life you long for in Heaven seems more natural to you than the one you are living on earth?

6. Does it seem that your deepest longings were made to be fulfilled in another world?
 7. This is more than desiring an end to a wearying existence and the beginning of a new and more restful one.
 8. For which heaven and Jesus do you yearn? A Holy Heaven not just a restful one? Holy relationships, not just nostalgic ones?
 9. Does a sinful world cause you to grow more and more homesick for a Holy Jesus, a holy place, a holy people and Holy God?
 10. Are you looking forward to a new body (you should) but more than that are you looking forward to a heart without sin?
 11. Martin Lloyd Jones "...what do we look forward to when we get to heaven...rest...freedom from trouble and tribulations...peace...joy...all those things are to be found there, thank God; but that is not the thing to look forward to in heaven. It is The Face of God."
5. Do you have a growing concern for the spiritual and temporal needs of others?
1. If we saw people the way Jesus did, we would begin to see them as "sheep without a Shepherd". Everyone is needy no matter how thick his or her veneer of self-sufficiency.
 2. Do you perceive needs in others before they become obvious to everyone?
 3. Do you have a heartfelt compassion towards people?
 4. Do you obey the Great Commission and take the Good News to the world?
6. Are you more loving?

1. If love is growing cold in us, sin increasingly manifests: impatience, unkindness, selfishness, greed, enviousness, pride, anger, fault finding, etc.
 2. Do you have more time for projects than you have for people?
 3. Are you unwilling to confront?
 4. Do you protect the physical and spiritual well being of your family?
 5. Do you support church discipline?
 6. Are you concerned for the lost?
 7. Are you hospitable?
 8. Do you rejoice and weep with others?
 9. Are you apathetic about things that are contrary to love?
 10. If you are growing in love your:
 1. Love for other Christians will grow.
 2. Love for the lost will grow.
 3. Love for your family will grow.
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7. Do you delight in the bride of Christ (the Church)?
 1. Delighting in Christ's people is normal healthy Christianity.
 2. Do you take pleasure in those who take pleasure in Christ?
 3. Do you delight in the gathering of believers, their corporate experiences and labor?
 4. Do you find irresistible joy in the presence and ministry of Christ's people both congregational and individual?
 5. Is your participation in church out of obligation or delight? Do you go because you "want to" or because you "ought to"?
 6. "God does not keep the world turning so that we can do more business, make more money, and buy more things. Rather God keeps the planet in motion because

He has not finished the work of the church, that is, building the Kingdom of His Son. Because this is God's purpose, it ought to be ours as well. And if we will see it for what it is, we will delight in it." (Whitney)

8. Are the spiritual disciplines increasingly important to you?
 1. Spiritual disciplines are God ordained means by which we bring ourselves before God, experience Him, and are changed by Him into Christlikeness.
 2. The disciplines are biblical, God given and found in His written word.
 3. They are "practices" not attitudes. (ie. do not confuse them with "fruit of the spirit) but they go hand in hand.
 4. *** See the disciplines listed in the SGP, this is a good starting place. ***
 5. The disciplines are not "marks" of Christlikeness, they are a means to it.
 6. Is there an imbalance in your practice of the disciplines? Do you spend more energy and time on corporate disciplines to the neglect of personal disciplines or vice versa?

9. Are you a quick forgiver?
 1. Do you have a forgiving spirit?
 2. Do you repent? Those who have experienced God's forgiveness are also those who willingly forgive others.
 3. Do you have a readiness to forgive?
 4. Is there anyone you are not ready to forgive?
 5. Do you need to initiate the process of forgiveness with anyone?
 6. Do you love forgiveness?
 7. Are you easily offended?

10. Are you more sensitive to God's presence?

1. God is present all around us, but we cannot discern His presence apart from His revelation of it. God has revealed Himself through the incarnate Word and the written Word—only through His Word can our experience with God be mediated. In other words we cannot experience God in any way that we want.
2. Have you increasingly paused to recognize the Lord's Presence where you are, to consider Who it is that is present, based upon His self-revelation?
3. Do you feast on the sweetness of His presence?
4. Do you adore the beauty of His presence?
5. Do you delight your mind in the revealed attributes of the Omnipresent Lord?
6. There are seasons when God, for His purposes and the believers' good, will withdraw a conscious sense of His presence—though not perceived it is no less near. Do you long for a sense of God's presence when you are not experiencing it or do you live routinely with no awareness of his absence?
7. Are you content with or conditioned to a life apart from a sense of His blessing?

*** Taken from [Ten Questions to Diagnose Your Spiritual Health by Donald Whitney](#) ***

For further study, read [Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life by Donald Whitney](#) and take the class [Spiritual Disciplines](#) taught by Deanna Bartlett, djnkidz@gmail.com.