

The Me I Want to Be:
becoming God's best version of you

Week Four: *Redeeming My Time* – James 4:4-10

God pursues us all in unique ways and invites us to respond to him in ways that are consistent with our own personality, life stage and circumstances. We also will face temptations that are specific to our own personality and giftedness – each of us has a kind of “spiritual inhibitor” that can potentially block the Spirit’s flow in our lives. We can learn how to allow God to defeat this and keep from quenching the Spirit’s work.

1. Our souls are meant to be satisfied by God; that’s his design. When you are experiencing soul dissatisfaction, what does that look like for you personally? What most helps you in keeping your soul connected to God – desiring him and resistant to temptation?

2. Ortberg says that the pattern of our sin is related to the pattern of our gifts. In *The Me I Want to Be*, John discusses Michael Mangis’ list of nine common personality types and their corresponding sin patterns. (Find these in the attached handout). Do you see yourself as one personality type, or a combination of two or three? Any strength taken to an extreme can become a weakness. What does this tell you about your sin pattern and temptation?

3. How does awareness of your personality type help you guard against temptation?

4. First Thessalonians 5:19 warns us not to “put out the Spirit’s fire” (other translations use words like – stifle, suppress, or quench). What makes you ignore or suppress the Holy Spirit’s promptings? When are you most open to the Spirit’s work in your life?

Personality Types: Their Strengths and Weaknesses

(Summarized from Michael Mangis' book – *Signature Sins: Taming Our Wayward Hearts*)

Reformer

- Strengths
 - Lives with an internal standard of what is good, noble, and beautiful
 - Calls others to live better lives
- Weaknesses
 - Can be arrogant when unredeemed
 - Has high standards that can lead to a secret, inner sense of inadequacy
- Example
 - The prophet Amos, who carried a plumb line to show Israel the standard God expected of society

Server

- Strengths
 - Lives out love in action
 - Has a natural other-centeredness that makes people feel cared for
- Weaknesses
 - Can use “giving” to manipulate others
 - Sometimes mistakes servanthood with fear or low esteem
- Example
 - Martha, who was busy serving while her sister Mary sat at Jesus' feet

Achiever

- Strengths
 - Has a strong desire to grow
 - Has the ability to accomplish things and add value in the lives of the world around them
- Weaknesses
 - Has the temptation to be preoccupied with one's own success
 - Sometimes uses other people to receive applause or approval
- Example
 - Solomon, who sought achievement in education, finance, culture, statecraft, and the arts

Artist

- Strengths
 - Loves beauty and goodness
 - Brings imagination to life, love and faith
- Weaknesses
 - Finds that the need to be different can become an end in itself
 - Can be tempted to give in to impulses and live an undisciplined life
- Example
 - King David, who had strong gifts as a poet, dancer and composer of many psalms

Thinker

- Strengths
 - Is a discoverer, inventor, and lover of logic
 - Holds a passion for truth – even when it is costly
- Weaknesses
 - Having conviction of being right can lead to arrogance
 - Can be tempted to withdraw from relationships and love
- Example
 - Paul, who loved to study, reason, explore, and teach

Loyalist

- Strengths
 - Is faithful and dependable when the chips are down
 - Loves to be part of a great team
- Weaknesses
 - Is prone to skepticism or cynicism
 - When threatened, can be pushed into isolation by fear
- Example
 - Elisha, who became Elijah's steadfast companion and protégé

Enthusiast

- Strengths
 - Has high capacity for joy and emotional expression
 - Has enthusiasm that is contagious
- Weaknesses
 - Can have a need to be the center of attention
 - Has a need to avoid pain that can lead to escape or addiction
- Example
 - The apostle Peter, who was the first one to leap out of the boat – even if it meant sinking

Commander

- Strengths
 - Has a passion for justice and a desire to champion a great cause
 - Has charisma to lead that inspires others
- Weaknesses
 - Has a need for power that can cause others to feel used
 - Sometimes relies on fear and intimidation to get one's own way
- Example
 - Nehemiah, who was moved to action – rallying followers and defying opponents – when he heard Jerusalem was in ruins

Peacemaker

- Strengths
 - Has a natural ability to listen well and give wise counsel
 - Has an easy-going, low-maintenance relational style
- Weaknesses
 - Has a tendency to smooth things over and avoid conflict

- Is passive
- Example
 - Abraham, who was a peacemaker with his wife, his nephew Lot, and foreign leaders – even attempting to mediate between God and Sodom and Gomorrah