

# My Life In 2012 - Find God II (Pathways)

1-15-12

## I. Introduction

## II. Created For Relationships

### A. **Ecclesiastes 3:11b**

*... He has planted eternity in the human heart...*

### B. **Ecclesiastes 3:11c**

*...but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end.*

### C. **Matt. 10:30**

*And the very hairs on your head are all numbered.*

### D. **Jeremiah 1:5**

*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you..."*

### E. **Jeremiah 9:23-24**

*23This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man gloat in his wisdom, or the mighty man in his might, or the rich man in his riches. 24Let them boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the LORD who is just and righteous, whose love is unfailing..."*

1. **Yada:** to know in both knowledge and experience.

### F. Barna Research

1. One third have never experienced God's presence.

2. 48% of church goers have not experienced God in the past year.

3. "Although large majorities of the public claim to be 'deeply spiritual' and say that their religious faith is 'very important' in their life, only 15% of those who regularly attend a Christian church ranked their relationship with God as the top priority in their life."

4. "Very limited effort is devoted to spiritual growth. Most Americans experience 'accidental spiritual growth' since there is generally no plan or process other than showing up at a church and absorbing a few ideas here and there...."

## III. Pathways to Finding or Experiencing God

A. Spiritual Pathway: The way I most naturally sense God's presence and experience spiritual growth.

B. Seven Pathways

1. Intellectual Pathway:

a. People on the intellectual pathway draw closer to God as they learn more about Him.

b. They hear God best, experience God best, when you're learning about Him.

2. Relational Pathway:

a. People on this pathway find that they have a deep sense of God's presence when they're involved significant relationships.

b. They have often experienced key spiritual moments, while God spoke to you through other people.

3. Serving Pathway:

a. On the serving pathway people find that God's presence seems most tangible when they are involve in helping others.

b. *Matt 25:40*

*...Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.*

c. Mother Teresa, said the primary reason she was so involved in serving wasn't because it was something she was supposed to do, but because it brought her joy.

1. She often felt her own inadequacy when she was alone but she never felt the presence of Jesus more strongly than in those she served.

d. Those with this pathway can enrich their sense of God's presence in their lives by constantly looking for Him in the people they serve.

4. Worship Pathway:

a. Something deep inside them feels released when praise and adoration are given voice.

b. Some of their most formative moments occur during times of worship.

5. Activist Pathway:

a. If you have an activist pathway, you have a high level of energy and a passion to act.

b. Enjoy a fast-paced, problem filled, complex, strenuous way of life.

1. at the end of the day, you want to say I made a difference.

c. If you're an activist, you need a Godly cause.

6. Contemplative Pathway:

a. Love large blocks of uninterrupted time alone.

1. Crave silence, stillness, peace.

b. God is most present to you when distractions and noise are removed.

c. Contemplative individuals need time to listen to God in silence and solitude.

7. Creation Pathway:

a. Creation types find they have a passionate ability to connect with God when they are experiencing the world He created.

b. There is something life giving and God breathed about nature.

#### **IV. Using Pathways To Experience God**

A. Accept and embrace the unique way God created you.

B. Avoid pathway envy.

C. Avoid pathway judgment.

D. Just because you don't naturally flow in a certain pathway doesn't mean you ignore it.

#### **V. Conclusion**