

February 5, 2023

Five  
Forks  
Church

# Is the "Activist" Pathway for you?

CURRENT SERMON SERIES

*Pathways*



Each week you will have an opportunity to take the pathway survey and determine if the given pathway is for you. Take a few minutes to answer the following questions, using a scale of 0-5; with 0 being not true at all and 5 being very true. Record your total score at the bottom, out of a possible 30 points. At the end of the series you will have 9 of these surveys and be able to determine which pathways connect best with you.

\_\_\_\_\_1.

I am "gripped" by issues of justice and fairness. I am sickened and want to do something when I hear about: poverty, abuse, racism, abortion, sex-trafficking, lack of education and resources in developing countries etc.) I think the church should lead the way in fighting injustice and don't want to sit and wait for something to happen.

\_\_\_\_\_2.

I am energized by standing up for the voiceless, the weak and the marginalized in our society and become frustrated with the apathy of some of these issues by church people. I like being involved in hands-on kinds of ministry: food pantry, clothes closet. I feel convicted to support children in poverty.

\_\_\_\_\_3.

Words like courage, confrontation, social action, justice, fairness, are appealing to me and carry a positive emotional response.

\_\_\_\_\_4.

Participating in the life the local community and an awareness of justice issues world-wide inspire me. I like to get out into the world and help people and feel like I am doing something significant, rather than reading a scripture passage or meditating or taking a walk in nature or sitting in a worship service.

\_\_\_\_\_5.

On a scale of 0-5, how much does the statement describing the heart's cry of the activist pathway resonate with you in comparison with the others?

Naturalist: Let Me Be Outdoors  
Sensate: Let Me Experience  
Ascetic: Let Me Be Alone  
Traditionalist: Let Me Remember  
**Activist: Let Me Conquer**  
Caregiver: Let Me Care  
Enthusiast: Let Me Celebrate  
Contemplative: Let Me Feel  
Intellectual: Let Me Think

\_\_\_\_\_6.

I can picture myself going to poorer neighborhoods in my local community to get to know families and issues in that neighborhood...or visiting the inner city...or even going on a mission trip to poorer parts of the world to fight injustice.

Total all of your answers: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*The above questionnaire is adapted from Gary Thomas' book, Sacred Pathways (pg. 120-121).*

## One Way to Practice the Activist Pathway:

\*Below is a suggestion for one way you could intentionally practice the activist pathway. Don't get stuck trying to follow this plan perfectly. Adapt it to suit your schedule and personality.

1. **Read** - Leviticus 19, 25; Amos 5; Micah 6; Luke 10:25-37; Matthew 25:31-46; II Corinthians 8-9
2. **Connect with God by taking action:**
  - We support Sydney Robertson, a former Five Forks student...go to the following website and read about Sydney's work in Cambodia. Pray for her and consider how you might support her. <https://sydneyemi.weebly.com/blog>.
  - Choose a social justice issue and familiarize yourself with the history behind the issue. The progress that has been made and the work that still needs done. (World economy, modern day slavery, sex-trafficking, environmental justice, child abuse, poverty, abortion, prison reform, etc.)
  - Explore a concept called "Fair Trade".
  - Find a ministry or justice organization to get involved with: food pantry, clothes closet, New Hope Shelter, World Vision, Child Fund
3. **Consider** these two reflection questions:
  - How does my research on issues of justice connect to the Scriptures I read above or to any other Scriptures?
  - What might God be asking me to do...action to take...on an issue of justice?
  - What does my experience of activism teach me about God, about myself and about my relationship to God?
4. **Prayer** - Talk to God about your experience of activism and consider what God might be asking of you.

