



JESUS JOURNEY

Jesus Journey Survey - Individual Report 9/15/2017

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Thanks for sharing with us your journey with Jesus!

Over the coming weeks and months, your community will be engaging in rich conversations about how together you are learning to trust and become like Jesus. To help you engage meaningfully in those discussions, let's reflect on what you just shared with us.

Remember that our adventure of following Jesus is always an invitation! God's Spirit first affirms the strengths in our journey so far - those parts of us where our trust and character are well established. He then uses those to encourage and invite us forward into deeper levels of confidence and trust in other areas of our lives. In this way, growing in Jesus is a journey from strength to opportunity.

As you read the following summary of what you've shared with us, keep in mind that it reflects where you are right now, within the unique circumstances that impact you at the present time. And it is where you are right now that the invitation of Jesus is powerfully present. Please also remember that the purpose of this process is not in any way to compare you with others or to "grade" you against a fixed standard. Our hope is simply to serve and encourage you toward Jesus' never ending invitation to live your life really and fully!

Be assured that the information you submitted is held anonymously and your identity will never be shared. You will be the only one who has the following information.

Strengths

First, let's look at the strong foundations that the Holy Spirit has built in you. In the responses you have shared with us, we have identified three areas of particular strength in your journey thus far.

Believing God's Story: I believe that God the Creator is committed to completely renewing the world from its broken state.

You have a strong grasp of the Story into which Jesus has invited us to be a part. Your understanding can be a stable foundation from which to engage in the adventures that come as you follow Jesus. Your beliefs are particularly anchored by your agreement with the following statements:

God originally created the world to be good.

Human failures have broken our world, altering what God designed.

God will one day make everything new, as God intended it to be.

I can sometimes experience God's promised future in my life now.

I will not always experience God's healing in my life now.

Partnering with God: I live my life in an active partnership with God.

You understand that following Jesus is lived out through a day by day, moment by moment partnership with the Holy Spirit. You are aware of this interaction in the various relationships and situations that you encounter along your journey. The following ways that you embrace these beliefs and actions support this strength:

Desiring to have God participate in all relationships that are in your life.

Seeing yourself as a partner with God in helping make the earth new again.

Knowing that the Holy Spirit can guide you to fulfill God's desires for this world.

Receiving God's Love: I am secure in God's unconditional love for me.

You are confident that God is loving and caring and wants the best for you. You are secure in knowing that nothing can separate you from God if you choose to respond to the Holy Spirit's invitations. Your agreement with the following statements indicate particular strengths in your life in this area:

God is loving, caring and active in my life, like a very good parent.

Jesus has provided a way for me to have a relationship with God forever.

Opportunities

Of course, becoming like Jesus doesn't happen instantaneously. For every one of us, it is a lifelong pursuit. For this reason, in addition to pointing out strengths, the Jesus Journey survey helps to identify parts of your life where there is opportunity for trusting and growing in Jesus more. These areas may very likely be the open door of God's invitation to you!

Based on your responses, we have identified three areas that may serve as your greatest opportunities to become more like Jesus today. We have also outlined specific parts of those areas that you may find to be very helpful starting or focal points.

Showing compassion: God's compassion moves me to be a vehicle of God's grace to people in need.

The more we experience the love of Jesus for us, the more we are moved by that love to care about the things that God cares about. Very likely God is stirring your heart to let love take you into new activities and directions. You have a wonderful opportunity to let God's compassion in you impact the lives of those in need around you. Consider how you could grow in these areas:

Showing care to people just as they are, as Jesus has done for you.

Finding it easy to respond to others as God does, with kindness and compassion.

Having confidence that God will give you grace to help people with healing or needed change.

In situations of need that you see, acting boldly upon what you believe God desires to do.

Growing my faith: I intentionally respond to the invitation of God in tangible ways.

Christians through the ages have discovered that there are specific things we can do to receive and encourage the grace of God working in us. Embracing more of these historic practices could make a big difference in the vibrancy of your relationship with Jesus:

Faithfully setting aside personal time to read/listen to the Bible.

Reviewing the writings and resources by other Christians to understand God better.

Engaging in spiritual practices such as fasting, meditation, silence, etc.

Regularly inviting God's leadership to be expressed in your life.

Journeying with others: I walk out my Jesus journey in vulnerable and dynamic relationship with others.

Following Jesus is a team game. We grow best as Jesus followers when we walk it out together. You have a wonderful opportunity to discover and grow in that strength as you reach out to others in the following ways:

Having people you can be honest with about your spiritual life and walk.

Forming close relationships to help people on their spiritual journey.

Welcoming the input of other Christians in your journey to be like Jesus.

Encouraging others to have confidence in God's active presence in their lives.

Where Do I Go From Here?

Growing and becoming like Jesus is a partnership; we can actively work toward it because we are confident that God is working within us as well (Phillipians 2:12-13). The Bible speaks about the strength and resilience of a three stranded cord (Ecclesiastes 4:12) - let's look at how this concept is central to a healthy process of growth:

Strand 1: Journey with God

Reflect on your opportunity areas and take time to talk with God about where you are right now. Ask him about his heart and plans for you and what you can do to respond to him. Consider being more intentional about reading Scripture, immersing yourself more deeply in the Story of God. Investigate what Christians through the centuries have discovered about spiritual formation and how we can cooperate more fully with God.

Strand 2: Journey with others

Be intentional about regularly joining with other followers of Jesus to worship, pray and learn together. Consider choosing a spiritual director or counselor who could help you find ways of moving forward in your relationship with Jesus. Cultivate circles of spiritual friendship where you can share your strengths and opportunities and within which you can be encouraged to grow as you serve and encourage others.

Strand 3: Journey with the wider community of faith

God can give you wisdom through his followers from other times and places. Look for books and other resources that can encourage and direct you. Take advantage of classes, retreats and other intensives where you can be helped by others who have faced the same kinds of challenges that you do.

Of course, these suggestions are not a formula guaranteeing spiritual advancement. They are more like key elements in soil - when they are all present and working together they create a rich medium that promotes healthy growth.

In the weeks to come, you can expect that your community will be talking about connecting the communal strengths of your group with the opportunities for growth. We would encourage you to engage actively in those conversations and in the process of developing healthy strategies to help you all grow further together in your journey with Jesus.

By God's grace, our joint efforts will result in lives that are marked by increasing authenticity and freedom. Together, may we discover who God has made us to be and trust in his good plans for us!