

# WIDE AWAKE

BREAKING OUT OF OUR SPIRITUAL SLUMBER

#TMHWideAwake 

## Week 2: Come A Little Bit Closer

Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.  
Psalm 63:3

### Home Remedy – Good For What Ails You

The Secret Pill – ‘Quiet Time’

Beginning in the late 1970’s, this practice became the ‘prescription’  
for spiritual growth and discipleship.

### Nice Fruit

**Galatians 5:13-26**

For Paul, love is defined 1) by Christ’s sacrificial example, 2) inspired by the Holy Spirit, 3) expressed in doing good and in interpersonal relationships.  
(Scot McKnight, NIV Application Commentary)

### The Real You – Exploring Spiritual Pathways

With Gary Thomas as our Tour Guide:

Naturalists: *Loving God Outdoors*

Traditionalists: *Loving God through Ritual and Symbol*

Ascetics: *Loving God in Solitude and Simplicity*

Activists: *Loving God through Confrontation*

Caregivers: *Loving God by Loving Others*

Enthusiasts: *Loving God with Mystery and Celebration*

Contemplatives: *Loving God through Adoration*

Intellectuals: *Loving God with the Mind*

Sensates: *Loving God with the Senses*

#### To Learn More:

Take The Test <http://common.northpoint.org/sacredpathway.html>

Study Guide <http://www.garythomas.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/sacredpathways.pdf>

### Wake Up

We have seen the hope of your healing

Rising from our souls is the feeling

We are drawing close

Your light is shining through

Your light is shining through

Wake up, wake up, wake up, wake up all you sleepers

Stand up, stand up, stand up all you dreamers

Hands up, hands up, hands up all believers

Take up your cross, carry it on

(Wake Up – All Sons and Daughters)

#### Interested In Learning More? Check these out:

- *God In My Everything*, Ken Shigematsu
- *The Pursuit of God*, A.W. Tozer
- *Spiritual Rhythm*, Mark Buchanan
- *Sacred Pathways*, Gary Thomas
- *The Practice of Godliness*, Jerry Bridges
- *Desire*, John Eldredge

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## Home Church Questions...

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic]

1. Were you taught about a 'quiet time' early in your faith journey? How was it described, and how did it shape your relationship with Jesus?
2. How have your 'devotional' times changed or evolved as you've matured spiritually? Have these times been growing more impactful or less impactful for you over the last 6 months? Share what has been impactful for you in the past.

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

3. Read **Galatians 5:13-26**.
  - a. What verse or idea from the text (or Sunday's message) stands out to you? Why?
  - b. Do you agree that everything in the law (everything we need to do to be made right with God) could be fulfilled by simply 'loving your neighbour as yourself' (v 14)? Why or why not?
  - c. This passage talks about the 'fruit of the spirit'. What comes to mind when you think about what helps healthy fruit grow?
  - d. Look at verses 19-23 again. Talk about tension that exists between the 'acts of the sinful nature', and the 'fruit of the spirit'. Talk through the end result of participating in those acts. Why is it so difficult to leave behind our old ways and be transformed in relationship with Jesus?
  - e. Why is the word 'fruit' identified as being singular, and not plural (fruits)?
  - f. What does a person's actions tell you about them? (See **Luke 6:43-45** – the relationship between a person and the fruit they produce.)
  - g. What would you say is the difference between someone who has the fruit of the spirit present in their life and someone who just does "good" things?

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together]

4. Have a look at the Sacred Pathways that we talked about in the teaching. What do you think are your top 2 pathways? Why? (Take some time this week to explore this further, using this link: <http://common.northpoint.org/sacredpathway.html>)
5. What comes to mind when you think about the idea of walking down this pathway this week? What do you think it would look like practically for you? Where could you make some time to intentionally spend time connecting with God through this pathway?
6. Honest gut-check time:
  - a. Are there any areas in your life where your old 'sinful nature' seems to throw you off course and lead you away from Jesus?
  - b. If you feel comfortable, share what is holding you back from growing in intimacy and a deep relationship with Jesus.
  - c. Pray for each other, that God would bring freedom from these areas of struggle and sin, and bring new life and hope as you follow Jesus together as sisters/brothers.

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## Quotes...

There is a desire within each of us, in the deep center of ourselves that we call our heart. We were born with it, it is never completely satisfied, and it never dies. We are often unaware of it, but it is always awake. Our true identity, our reason for being, is to be found in this desire.

-- Gerald May, *The Awakened Heart*

He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

-- Ecclesiastes 3:11

In order to thrive in our life with God, we need a spiritual ecosystem that includes deliberate practice.

-- Ken Shigematsu, *God In My Everything*

My discipline of quiet times was (and is) helpful; however, I came to realize it was not sufficient. Other parts of my spiritual being lay dormant.

-- Gary Thomas, *Sacred Pathways*

So often we try to develop Christian character and conduct without taking time to develop God centered devotion. We try and please God without taking the time to walk with Him and develop a relationship with Him. This is impossible to do.

-- Jerry Bridges, *The Practice of Godliness*

Half of believers say they do not feel they have entered into the presence of God or experienced a genuine connection with Him during the past year

-- George Barna, *Revolution*

Often our pursuits are trivial. They might masquerade as great dreams, but it's by their fruit that you know them. We gain things that perish only to lose things meant to endure, things we were to guard with all our hearts...

-- Mark Buchanan, *Spiritual Rhythm*

As we orient each sphere of life toward Christ we can become the saints God calls us to be. We become people who embody Christ's light and love to others. Becoming like Jesus is the greatest gift we can offer others.

-- Ken Shigematsu, *God In My Everything*