Spiritual Growth and Development Survey

<u>Directions:</u> Please move through this test quickly. Do not give a great deal of thought to your answers but go with your immediate "gut" response.

Rate your response to each question using the following scale:

- 4 strongly agree
- 3 mostly agree
- 2 agree "in theory" but behavior rarely reflects it
- 1 mostly disagree
- 0 strongly disagree

Score: Place your answers on the line next to the corresponding test question.

Add the totals of each column when complete. Identify the letters of the two columns with your two lowest scores. These are "weaker" areas. Focus on strengthening these scores.

Α	С	D	Е	F	I
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42
					Totals

Test Questions

 1. I take time each day to reflect upon my inner thoughts and feelings.
 2. The most important aspect of my life is my relationship with God. This impacts how I live, where I spend my time, resources, etc.
 3. I have great trust in God's ability and intent to bring good from even difficult situations.
 4. I have several friends with whom I have close, intimate relationships built on loyalty and trust. These friends share an interest in my well-being and development.
 5. I have seen deliverance from areas of sin, struggle and addiction; and/or experienced healing from brokenness or grief during the past three months.
 6. I have a strong sense of God's love for me and rest secure in His acceptance.
 7. I make regular use of a journal or some other method to track my thoughts, feelings, experiences, dreams and dialogue with God.
 8. I read Scripture daily. I use a Bible study or journal to reflect upon what I am reading and how it applies to me.
 9. I can openly present my failures, struggles and short-comings to God recognizing He is willing to forgive and transform me (deliver, heal, equip, etc).
 10. I do not invest a great deal of time with people who tear me down, mock my core beliefs, or try to hold me in bondage through unhealthy patterns of relationship (manipulation, co-dependency, control, enabling).
 11. I have dealt with the wounds of my past and am free from their effect.
 12. I can quickly identify 10-15 characteristics that I like about myself.
 13. I am aware of what I am feeling at any given moment but do not react from emotions. I take time to present situations to God in order to be led by His Spirit.
 14. I set aside time each day to pray and focus my attention on God.

 15. I accept that I am unable to live the Christian life apart from abiding in relationship with Him.
 16. I listen to what others say (particularly my closest friends/advisors). I openly present their input to God for further revelation.
 17. I "take every thought captive" and chose to focus on the truth that is clearly revealed by His Word and His Spirit.
 18. I am confident I am a loved child of God. I do not have to perform or strive to earn this love. I freely receive it as God Himself has deemed me worthy.
 19. I am aware of areas of where I need further growth, healing, deliverance or equipping. God has personally revealed these areas to me.
 20. I am quick to obey God as He reveals actions He wants me to take. I do not require that I have complete understanding before I step out in faith and obedience.
 21. I live my life in complete surrender to the will of God, even if it costs me: time, money, relationships, reputation/status, comfort, convenience, etc.
 22. I can openly share failures, struggles and areas of weakness with my closest friends or spiritual leaders. I can also share how I sense God wants me to grow and know they will both encourage me and hold me accountable.
 23. I understand that I am a "new creation" fashioned in the image of Christ. The sins of my past are forgiven and forgotten.
 24. I feel secure in God's unshakeable love for me. It is the source of my greatest joy.
 25. I am firmly in touch with what I believe about myself, God and others.
 26. I read books (in addition to the Bible) that spur my spiritual growth, emotional development, relational health and equip me in general life skills.
 27. I understand the role of the Holy Spirit in my life. I realize His involvement is non-negotiable if I am to have Christ formed in me. I am learning how to listen and cooperate with His leading.

 28. I can honestly say most of my relationships are life-giving, God-honoring, and healthy. I am encouraged and affirmed by those closest to me.
 29. I do not live in fear of the future.
 30. I am comfortable just being me no matter what my environment.
 31. I can recognize when I am "out of sorts" and know how to process stress, discomfort, negative emotions, and unbiblical beliefs.
 32. I have a desire to understand God's heart for me and others. I regularly pursue Him through times of quietness, study, reflection, worship, fellowship, etc.
 33. I do not have to feel I am in control in order to have peace.
 34. I do not seek the company of those who focus on the negative, gossip, criticize, or seek the harm of others.
 35. I do not live shame, guilt or regret over the past.
 36. I am a valuable part of God's creation. He has a unique plan for my life that unfolds as I pursue relationship with Him.
 37. I am aware of where my time and money are invested (or spent). I take care to use them in a way that reflect my deepest values.
 38. I am equipped and willing to "fight" battles (in my thinking, circumstances, relationships, etc). I am learning to stand strong in my faith.
 39. I continue to develop sensitivity to God's presence in my life. I recognize His voice and His leading (both through His Word and His Spirit).
 40. I willingly seek input from others whom I deem more mature or skilled in areas where I need help.
 41. I am free from trying to win the approval and acceptance of other people, even those who are closest to me (such as spouse and children).
 42. I have confidence that I am God's chosen treasure. He is always in passionate pursuit of intimate relationship with me.

Spiritual Growth Survey Results

(A) Awareness: Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. (Ps. 139:23)

This category reflects how conscious you are concerning your feelings, wants, needs and thoughts. It reveals whether or not you are in touch with your core beliefs. It shows how well you manage life according to your real values. Emotional health is also indicated by this category.

(C) Cooperation: "Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling," (Phil. 2:12)

In its simplest description <u>cooperation</u> refers to your response to God's invitation for relationship. Are you intentionally pursing Him? Cooperation is revealed by the amount of time and effort you put into knowing God (seeking Him out). It also tells of your willingness to "be known" by Him, indicating your level of availability to the King.

(D) Dependency: "...for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose." (Phil. 2:13)

Mature Christians recognize and accept their dependence upon God knowing it is He that forms Christ within them. This category is useful to reveal your level of trust that God can and will complete the work He began in you. One of the "hazards" of Christianity is the temptation to believe one is capable of living a fruitful, Christ-like life based upon human effort. Dependency merely models a humble heart that recognizes its never-ending need for Christ. This dependency forms the foundation of trust that is needed to live by faith.

(E) Environment: See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. (Heb. 3:12-13)

Your environment feeds into your beliefs and attitudes. What goes into us from those around us often produces some type of fruit - good or bad. If you are primarily in a negative, sinful or belittling environment, it is quite probable that doubt, shame, fear, and a hardened-heart will be produced. Likewise, a positive, "life-giving" environment brings forth faith, hope, love, purity, etc.

(F) Freedom: Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. (Roman 8: 1-2)

Christ came to set the captives free. Yet many believers struggle to live victoriously in this freedom. Besetting sins, faulty beliefs, fears, doubts, and generational patterns of behavior need to be confronted and brought into alignment with God's truth. Christ did not come to "clean up" the flesh, but to crucify it so that His Spirit may live in us instead. It is in the revelation and response of THIS relational reality that freedom is experienced.

(I) Identity: How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! (1 John 3:1)

As Christians, we need to firmly settle the issue of our worth. It is only when you are rooted and establish in your identity that you will begin to fulfill your destiny. Do you live with the understanding that you are already "accepted in the beloved"?