

Three

THE ACHIEVER

FULL REPORT

As Christians, we desire to become more like Christ through the power of the gospel and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Throughout this discipleship process, God calls us to a deeper knowledge of Him and of ourselves. The more we cooperate with God, the more we understand the greatness of God and the reality of our sin. As we apply the gospel to this new understanding, we grow closer to Christ and begin to resemble him more.

The Enneagram is an ancient personality map, a helpful guide on our journey toward self-knowledge. Based on nine archetypal styles, the Enneagram helps reveal a person's core motivations. Rather than confine us to a "type," the Enneagram simply helps us understand why we do what we do. Though our basic style will not change, circumstances and spiritual health will significantly affect how we express that style throughout our lives.

In addition to being a personality tool, the Enneagram works as a spiritual tool as well, exposing our tendencies toward sin and revealing a personal pathway to repentance. The Gospel Enneagram is designed to help us turn away from sinful motivations and self-defeating habits, turn toward Christ, and begin to live in line with our God-given gifts. As we cooperate with the work of God in our lives, we live out our individual style in a redemptive and world-changing way.

This report specifically addresses the spiritual development of a person whose style is Three: The Achiever.

Summary

As Achievers, Threes set ambitious goals, accomplish tasks and charismatically win others over to their plan. Threes live by hard work, efficiency and competence.

Threes like the recognition that success brings. They want to get the job right and to be recognized for it. They are organized and self-confident. They are focused and relentless until they find victory.

People are drawn to the attractiveness and adaptability of Threes. They are motivating, inspiring and diplomatic. They always seem to "land on their feet."

Threes can be great leaders. And when they're self-aware, Threes grow to become well-adjusted team leaders who recruit loyal followers that work together toward a higher cause.

Motivation & False Belief

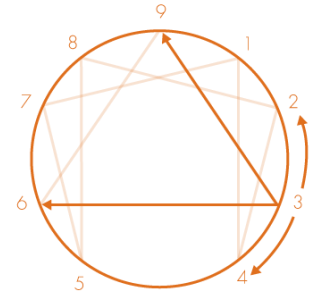
Threes are motivated by the desire for success. They seek to win in all areas of life, but especially at work. This motivation is driven by their fear of being ineffective and experiencing failure. While they greatly desire success, they have developed a false belief that they must achieve at all costs.

Wings

Each person is unique. Thankfully, the Enneagram recognizes this and actually shows how each style

carries “flavors” of the other styles.

On the diagram to the right, the lines on the outside of the Enneagram drawing (pointing from the Three to the Two and the Four) are called “Wings.” If you’ve taken our assessment, your wing is the number in which you received a higher score.



A Three with a Two Wing, often called “The Star.” Having Star tendencies means that you are probably warm, encouraging, sociable and popular. You can also be manipulative or seductive to become the center of attention, pursue success or secure acceptance.

On the other hand, a Three with a Four Wing is often called “The Professional.” Having Professional tendencies means that you probably prefer more sensitive, artistic and imaginative work. Professionals can sometimes be on the pretentious side, and pursuing success in order to feel unique and special.

Stress and Security

The lines on the inside of the Enneagram drawing (pointing from the Three to the Six and the Nine) are called “Arrows.” They reflect how a person operates in times of stress or security.

Generally, Threes gain a few characteristics of Nines under stress. They may numb their stress or grow more apathetic by using drink, games, shopping or Netflix. But when a stressed-out Three is filled up with love instead, they learn to simply “be” without feeling as though they should be working toward a goal.

In a more secure or relaxed setting when Achievers feel comfortable expressing their innermost thoughts and feelings, they gain a few characteristics of Sixes. They can normally be more honest with themselves, take off their masks and show loyalty towards others. But at times, when a Three does not feel loved, they can become indecisive and show dissatisfaction, self-doubt, dread and suspicion of others.

Childhood

As children, Threes may have felt their inner worth. Threes were commonly rewarded in childhood for how well they competed or appeared, often performing for a parent or role model to gain approval. Instead of simply modifying their behavior (as other children might), Threes absorbed a performance-based mindset, making it central to their identity. They may have even felt that they needed to create a successful image in order to be validated. This thought process leads to a strong work ethic and a passion to perform with excellence in order to gain recognition.

At Work & In Relationships

Threes can be accomplished at work and in relationships when they are operating from their identity in Christ. At their best, high-functioning Threes can bring energy, efficiency and decisiveness toward a truly noble cause. At the same time, they build highly productive teams that deliver on their promises in such a way that all involved find success.

Threes can also misuse these characteristics, tending toward workaholicism. In their weaker moments, Threes can deceive themselves and others in order to gain a flawless image. Threes can move so fast that they often overlook warnings from others, ignoring a lack of inner satisfaction or a sense of shame. This is why failure can be a severe mercy for a Three.

Threes need to integrate their thoughts and actions with feelings through introspection and prayer. When they do, they grow to be honest and balanced leaders. They must also deal with any unresolved shame in order to truly serve others.

Spiritual Health

Threes seek the validation that only the gospel provides. When Threes are motivated to attain success for themselves, they operate in the flesh, often feel impatience and acting deceitfully. But when Threes trust *Jesus* and rest in his success, they authentically seek to help others with integrity.

The following table shows your responses in the assessment. They are your characteristics when you are walking in the Spirit (gold box) and your characteristics when you are resorting to the flesh (gray box):

<p><u>Successful</u> Whatever I put my mind to, I do well. Others recognize me and my work as superior.</p>	<p><u>Driven by Performance</u> My desire for success tempts me to believe that a person's value is found in their work.</p>
<p><u>Goal-Oriented</u> I love to get things done, pushing myself and others to work relentlessly until we reach our goal.</p>	<p><u>Image Seeking</u> I'm used to presenting the best side of me. When others see me at my worst, I quickly adapt to hide it.</p>
<p><u>Ambitious</u> I am driven to see the people around me become the best they can be. I want that for myself, too.</p>	<p><u>Overly Competitive</u> My love for winning gets out of control sometimes. I can even be a sore loser.</p>
<p><u>Competent</u> I like to develop my skills, knowledge and experience so that I am qualified to tackle the challenges that come my way.</p>	<p><u>Workaholic</u> Though I can downplay it, the people closest to me say I work too much.</p>
<p><u>Self-Assured</u> When I walk into a room of new people, I am confident that I can make a good first impression.</p>	<p><u>Pretender</u> I can lead myself and others astray with false representations about my abilities, intentions or status.</p>

Spiritually Healthy

Healthy Threes are no longer primarily driven by their strengths and abilities. They feel God's love for them regardless of their performance because of Christ's work on their behalf. They are free to be utterly authentic and honest with themselves and others.

Living by the death and resurrection of Christ helps Threes remember that failure is often the way to a new life. They've learned not to fear it, but grow through it instead. This knowledge of the gospel helps them value people for who they are, accept their failings and gently encourage the down and out. Healthy Threes slow down to be fully present and love others unconditionally. They use their talent and efficiency to encourage others who have failed toward new growth. They're good leaders who find satisfaction in making others successful without the need for recognition.

In response to God's unconditional love, a healthy Three becomes successful in the most important areas of life.

Spiritually Average

Spiritually average Threes are split between a belief that they're validated by their work and by Christ. When a spiritually average Three is growing in their awareness of Christ's work on their behalf, they don't need to impress Him or others to earn the unconditional love they desire. They start to find rest in God regardless of their circumstances. They grow comfortable with their true self and are able to recognize and embrace their feelings. This awareness helps them develop a deeper relationship with God and grow to be more well-rounded leaders.

But when Three forget the gospel, they focus their attention on their abilities and image. They can become workaholics in pursuit of their end goals. They are more apt to compare themselves with others and seek status and recognition. They can deceive others and themselves by presenting a false self-image. They are impatient towards those who are less successful, move too slowly or do not do what they say they will do.

Spiritually Unhealthy

Unhealthy Threes are so fixated on their idea of success and winning that they often overanalyze things to the extreme--and become disconnected from their heart. They push so hard that even when they become "burned out" they can be unaware of it emotionally, refusing to give up. Too often they rely upon unethical quick wins believing that "the end justifies the means." When they fail, they feel humiliated and often ruled by the shame of their defeat. To prevent this nightmare, they shift the blame on others and become secretly vindictive towards those who brought them failure.

Spiritual Growth

Gospel Meditation

While all spiritual doctrine is essential for Threes, many find comfort in spending time daily meditating upon the central Christian doctrine called "justification by faith." This doctrine states that God declares believers justified because of Christ's righteousness alone. Because of this, we know that God fully accepts us, regardless of our level of accomplishment.

Helpful scriptures to meditate on and memorize: Romans 3:23-25, 5:1 and 8:1.

You might find it helpful to practice the following "self-talk" to remind yourself of the implications of the gospel in your life:

- Only God is fully victorious.
- I am sinful. I fail every day because I'm human.
- Jesus has taken the punishment for all my failures and offers me daily forgiveness.
- Because of Jesus, I am fully loved regardless of my efforts every day.
- I do not have to try to be successful or separate people into "winners" and "losers."
- I am free to live, love and forgive by the grace of God.
- I can stop pushing myself so hard because God is on the throne. He accomplishes the most important things in life and invites me to work alongside Him to help redeem others from their failures.

Spiritual Disciplines

Threes benefit from selecting spiritual disciplines that will help them accept the love, patience and grace of God. Based on your assessment, you may want to experiment with the following spiritual disciplines in order to keep yourself saturated with gifts of the gospel:

- Meditating on God's Word: Use God's Word to contemplate justification by faith. As you read the stories of real people in the Bible, look for how God uses everyday people--not because they're capable but simply because of His grace. You could benefit from a Bible reading plan that will help you internalize God's Word and share it with others. We highly recommend the Community Bible Reading Journal at www.thebrjournal.com.

- **Prayer:** Talk to God regularly in order to deepen your relationship with Him.
 - Praise Him for his unconditional love toward you and all of humanity.
 - Thank Him for justifying you through the work of Jesus.
 - Affirm your trust in Him, reminding yourself that it's your faith in God--not your work--that makes you significant.
- **Serving in the Church:** Find an outlet for your gifts in the Church. Look for something that you perceive as inefficient or something that is directed toward people who need to win. Under the guidance of your church leadership, set a goal (or series of goals) that leads people toward a truly great cause. If you do not have a church home, contact us at info@gospelenneagram.com and we will offer you some suggestions on how to find a good Gospel-centered church near you.
- **Compassion:** Is someone around you struggling from a personal failure? Make glorifying God your ambition by offering to encourage and help this person. Use your leadership and people skills to tangibly pass along His grace by being their advocate. As you engage with him/her, trust God and depend on Him to grow in patience and grace.
- **Confession in community:** Develop trust in a Christian friendship and regularly confess your sins to that person. Doing so can be painful because it requires you to expose your failures and sinfulness. However, by doing so, you are also opening yourself up to a deeper friendship where you feel the unconditional love of God through another.
- **Social media fast:** If you're using social media, there's a great temptation to use it for self-promotion and projecting your ideal image. You must learn to be sensitive to your motives and the guidance of the Spirit before you hit "post." Frequent fasts from social media will help you put these desires to death and see yourself as you really are: fully accepted by God.

Next Steps

As you process what you've learned through your Gospel Enneagram assessment, consider taking the following next steps:

- **Make It Personal!** Begin by reading through your report with purpose. Grab a highlighter and mark any word or phrase that is especially true of you. This process will help you evaluate your results and "hone in" on the truths that are most applicable to your growth.
- **Schedule a Consult.** We can walk you through your Enneagram style and teach you an activity called "FUEL." This activity helps you reflect on your beliefs and emotions in order to better understand yourself and God's work in your life. So, instead of emotionally reacting to difficult circumstances or thoughts as you typically would, we teach you how to slow down, consider your Enneagram style and respond in a redemptive way. We show you how to ask God to uproot any false beliefs that are driving you in a negative direction. Most of all, this activity will help you know that God is on the throne and will help you understand what it looks like to love others well. If you're interested, contact us at info@gospelenneagram.com.
- **Join or Host a Training Event!** We also teach the Gospel Enneagram through webinars, retreats and conferences. These training events are designed to help people find freedom from sin, unleash giftedness, develop empathy for others and grow more productive as they rest upon the power of the gospel. For more information, contact us at www.gospelenneagram.com.
- **Become a Certified Coach!** The Gospel Enneagram is an excellent tool to develop people in your workplace, church, parachurch ministry or simply so that you can care for your friends and family members. After you participate in our webinar we'll give you more training to earn this certification. You can find out more at www.gospelenneagram.com.

Conclusion

The secret to spiritual health isn't knowing your Enneagram style. Prioritizing and living daily in light of the good news of Jesus Christ is the essential ingredient for spiritual health. The Enneagram may help you

understand your pathway of growth, but the gospel is the power for change. Thankfully this means that a person's value, worth and identity are not found in their style nor their level of health; they are found in Jesus. When this happens, spiritual health results, and we begin to resemble Jesus more. We pray that the knowledge you gain about yourself and God results in a deeper love for Him and His people.