

The Path to Wholeness: NINE
October 14, 2018



1 Today we reach our final personality type (Review)

2 **NINE: THE PEACEMAKER**

When healthy we all thank God for PEACEMAKERS!
They can dial down the combative static in a room.
They are patient, good listeners who can make people feel understood and accepted.
They are like the mother hen who's always gathering in her chicks.
They can see perspectives that they don't necessarily agree with,
which makes them good mediators and negotiators.
Their ability to express harsh truths calmly and without judgment,
makes good marriage counselors.

Thank God for NINES.
But like all personality types, they have their maturities and immaturities
that stem for their core motivation in life, which is . . .

3 **The CORE MOTIVATION of a NINE is – To avoid conflict and live in peace**

They don't want to rock the boat or make waves,
They just want everything to be OK!

When unhealthy:
They avoid conflicts that shouldn't be avoided,
and don't do the hard things that need to be done.
Instead of being the invaluable PEACEMAKER,
they are the keepers of the dubious STATUS QUO,

Prime Minister Chamberlain was undoubtedly a NINE.
Before WW2 he tried to *negotiate* with Hitler.
Chamberlain announced (before the war), "We have declared peace in our time."

But the EIGHT, Winston Churchill pushes Chamberlain aside saying,
"No, we must press into the conflict because people God loves are hanging in the balance."
Churchill knew you *can't* negotiate with a Hitler.
Hitlers are EIGHTS who can't be reasoned with, only stopped.

The sins of a NINE are more sin of omission than sin of commission.
They see themselves as good people (as do most observers)
 cuz they don't do bad things.
 but their sin is in what they have *failed* to do.
Knowing this helps us make sense of their core temptation which is

4 **CORE TEMPTATION – Laziness**

When I say laziness, most of us think of the couch potato.
And yes, a NINE may be seen running to the couch or to bed,
 cuz TV and sleep are convenient escapes.

5 **But, laziness takes many other less recognizable forms.
Here are three: indecision, inaction, and procrastination.**

Laziness can manifest as **indecision**

I feel paralyzed because I don't know *WHAT* to do
There are so many options. I don't know which one is right.
NINEs will think and think and talk and talk.
This makes them *feel* they are addressing the problems,
 But they fail to step up and decisively *solve* the problem.

A large part of the indecision is because its hard for a NINE
 to *know* what they think and feel.
They are very aware of other people think and feel
They may have lived around volatile people where they HAD to be hypervigilant
 trying to predict the next explosion.
They have learned to over-adapt to other people,
 so much so that they lose touch with themselves.
Because of this they are easily deceived and taken advantage of.

Being a NINE can be like standing in front of a foggy mirror after the shower,
 just waiting for the fog to clear so you can see your own reflection.

NINEs live in the gray,
 which that can drive people who see in black and white crazy
But then . . . God is often found in the gray.

Or . . . laziness may manifest in inaction

One reason a NINE fails to take appropriate action is because
they don't want to *hurt* anyone.

They like peace, and hurting people feels like war,
so better to leave things alone, do nothing.

Maybe the problem will just go away by itself!

Another reason NINEs tend toward inaction is because
they don't want to make themselves conspicuous.

They will take the most humble seat at the table,
and wouldn't think of pushing themselves forward
or inserting themselves where they haven't been invited.

That's why you won't see NINEs as leaders,
Not in our Western performance-oriented culture,
where leaders are those who push themselves to the front of the line.

The irony is that they don't see themselves as powerful people;
but they may be the most powerful person in the room.
When unhealthy, they can be stubborn. They are like a sitting elephant.

The NINE will listen to what you want them to do, and may even nod affirmatively at you,
Saying, "**Well I can certainly see your perspective on this.**"
You may think you've won your case and won their cooperation,
but NINE will walk away do what they wanted to do in the first place.
(That's called being passive aggressive,
and they've got passive-aggressive down to a science.)

Another form laziness can take is procrastination.
And NINEs have mastered the art of procrastination.
They won't say they won't do something, they just don't get around to it.
Or become so busy, busy, busy doing all kinds of things,
that they can avoid doing the things that are most important.

They know should exercise more, study more, diet more.
And they *will* – one of these days.
Each year your New Year's resolution is the same as the year before.

Now, you'd think that if God wanted to start a new work, he'd pick . . .
a One who wants to reform the world,
or a Three – who's driven to succeed,
or a fearless EIGHT, who's a mover and shaker.

But wonder of wonders, God picked a NINE
to be the Father of his chosen people.

6

Abraham is a NINE; Abraham the peacemaker and quite the negotiator.

We see this so clearly when he enters negotiations with God.
God has shared with Abraham that he's going to destroy Sodom for its wickedness.

Abraham steps and negotiates with God, (Genesis 18)
Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked?
What if there are fifty righteous people in the city?
Far be it from you to do such a thing—
to kill the righteous with the wicked,
treating the righteous and the wicked alike.
Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

Abraham is successful and gets God not to destroy the city
if there are 50 righteous.
And then he works it down.
How about 45? 40? 20?
He get's down to 10,
and God promises not to destroy the city if there are even 10 righteous people.

That's the PEACEMAKER NINE at work.

But Abraham also had the immature side of a Nine in play.

Look what happened between Sarah and Hagar.
When Sarah was unable to give Abraham a child,
she convinced Abraham to father a child through her maidservant, Hagar.
It worked, but then started the rivalry between Hagar and Sarah.
Hagar began to despise Sarah and Sarah became abusive to Hagar

OK, Abraham, it's time to step up and stop the feud!
But NINE's tend to hope that if they just leave it alone, it'll go away.
Abraham failed to intervene.
NINEs are so eager to avoid conflict
that they risk accepting even completely unacceptable behavior.

Could the eventual family break have been avoided?
Maybe, maybe not, we'll never know.

Eventually God says to Abraham, “Listen to Sarah and send Hagar away.”
(The Arabs and the Israelites have been at war ever since.)

And again, in Abraham we see both the healthy and unhealthy aspects
of the peacekeeper at work in how Abraham handles the conflict
between his herdsmen and the herdsmen of his nephew, Lot

Because both of their respective herds had grown so large,
the herdsmen were constantly bickering.
So Abraham, to avoid the conflict and live at peace, says to Lot,
you have anything you want, and I will take what’s left.

We commend Abraham for being humble and generous, and he *was*.
But was the decision that brought peace, in the short term,
in the long-term best interest of *LOT*?

Lot took the lush plains that bordered on the wicked city of Sodom,
this will lead to the eventual destruction of his entire family.
Wouldn’t Lot have been better off if Abraham had taken his spoiled nephew in hand
and said, “Listen here, everything you have has been given to you,
so this is the way it's going to be.
You and your men are going to settle here. . . “

Abraham's intentions were *not* the harm Hagar or Sarah or Lot.
But in the name of short-term peace, did he do irreparable harm?

HOWEVER, a NINE, once convinced that an action is absolutely necessary,
can take very decisive action,
which is, in fact, their **core contribution** to the Kingdom of God.

And as we’ve seen before, the person’s core contribution
usually stands in stark contrast to the core temptation,
and the core contribution of a NINE to the Kingdom of God is . .

CORE CONTRIBUTION TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD is – Decisive Action

7

While it may take a NINE a long time to make a decision,
when it happens in a moment of absolute clarity
they are resolute, and no one will be able to stop them.

So it was with Abraham, who shows himself quite capable of taking up the fight.
(Genesis 14)

Lot gets caught up in territorial wars between competing kings,
and he, his family and all his belongings are captured and carted off.

What does Abraham do? He rounds up 318 men trained in combat
and he goes in pursuit of his family.
He defeats 5 kings and brings back every last person and thing that was stolen.
NINEs can be fierce when they are sure of what needs to be done.

And consider this.

Having this fresh perspective of Abraham as a NINE
gives a whole new meaning to his ultimate test of obedience to God.
God said to Abraham (*Genesis 22*) “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—
Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah.
Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

Now, *we* know that God is going to provide a substitute,
and perhaps Abraham is hoping he will,
but the test is that the PEACEMAKER is being asked
to cause another person extreme anguish.

Oswald Chambers in *My Utmost for His Highest* writes:

If we obey God, it is going to cost other people . . .
We could prevent the suffering, but not if we are obedient to God.
We must let the cost be paid.
If we obey God, He will care for those who have suffered the consequences of our obedience.
We must simply obey and leave all the consequences with Him.

The test God gave Abraham would be hard for anyone, but especially a NINE.
Through that test, God had taken hold of Abraham completely.

So NINEs, as with all the other personality types,
God wants to take hold of you, completely.

Here are some scriptures to help you along that journey:

8

Ephesians 5:14

“Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

NINEs need to wake up and see reality.
They can easily fail to see the severity of a problem,
and so fail to take the decisive action needed to end the problem.

9 **Ephesians 4:26**
BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger.

We often use this verse to urge people to *curb* their anger,
but what a NINE needs to hear is: *BE ANGRY!* It's not a sin!

NINEs have to get over a lie they've told themselves that anger is sin,
and all conflict is bad—
the lie that having no anger or conflict was a virtue.

NINEs have to get in touch with their anger and not stuff it.
They have to walk *through* conflict on the way to lasting peace.
They have to cause pain when necessary in order to obey God.

10 **Here's an example out of Paul's playbook: 2 Corinthians 7:8-9**
Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it.
Although I did regret it, I now see that my letter caused you sorrow,
but only for a short time.
And now I rejoice, not because you were made sorrowful,
but because your sorrow led you to repentance.

Sometimes you have to hurt people in order to help them.

As Jeremiah warned the false prophets,
Don't say peace, peace, when there is no peace.
A peace that comes prematurely or by way of avoidance of the problem,
is not peace at all.

And finally . . .

11 **2 Corinthians 8:11**
Now you should finish what you started.
Let the eagerness you showed in the beginning
be matched now by your completion of it.

We don't have to be a NINE to take that advice to heart!
Talk is cheap.
DO what has to be done.

That's when your calling as PEACEMAKER will be divinely fulfilled.

12

THANK GOD FOR NINES

Blessing for the NINES

More than ever in this polarized, angry world, we need you.

As Jesus said, **Blessed are the PEACEMAKERS,**

For they shall be called the sons and daughters of God.

Don't be invisible, not to stay in the shadows
but to rise up and show us the way of peace.

God wants to get a hold of you completely.

If you want him to leave you alone, he will.

But if you sing and pray,

Lord, I offer my life to you, and mean it,

He will keep coming until he taken hold of you completely

And you are completely free