

The NT Temperament

Persons of the NT temperament possess a very logical mind which approaches a problem with an orderly movement of thought from cause to effect or from effect back to its cause. They gravitate to anything complicated, exacting, or challenging to the mind. NTs have a great thirst for truth and for the freedom that flows from a knowledge of the truth. They have a tremendous desire to understand, comprehend, explain, predict, and thereby control the realities with which they live. NTs want to master and excel in whatever they attempt. They feel compelled to rearrange the environment and are usually leaders in whatever occupation they choose for themselves. The NT tends to be a perfectionist and is alert to personal failures as well as to the shortcomings of others. The NT hates to repeat an error and is even impatient with the initial error. They ruthlessly criticize themselves and others who do not live up to the high standards they have set. Because the NT often feels inadequate and fears failure, he or she is often subject to self-doubt and is unduly demanding of himself or herself. The NT must excel and is apt to be a poor loser.

Because Feeling is usually the inferior function of the NT, this temperament tends to be impersonal when in relationship with others. Often oblivious to others' emotional responses and insensitive to inter-personal relations, NTs tend to be unaware of how much their cold, impersonal way of acting affects and hurts others. To develop their Feeling function, membership and participation in a larger group will help NTs experience the emotional level of the community and develop and express their own feelings and emotions. Hence, the great need of NTs for good liturgical celebrations.

Because of their native intelligence and well-developed intuitive abilities, NTs are frequently in positions of leadership. Their influence on the community is considerably greater than one would assume from the fact that this group is only 12% of the general population.

Many lawyers, architects, planners, and general consultants are NTs. They delight in planning their own lives and the lives of others.

The NT's approach to spirituality is similar to the approach the modern physicist or scientist uses in solving a scientific mystery. For example, the NT recognizes it takes much time and effort to investigate the causes behind one's lack of self-discipline and to take the necessary steps to attain the sought-after virtue. Therefore, an NT will set goals and will work toward them systematically. Every fiber of the mind will be challenged to attain the self-discipline to conquer laziness, pride, and selfishness and to center one's life in God and in loving service to others. A logical, step-by-step approach will be the preferred instrument in the NT's spiritual toolbox to conquering self-will and submitting one's life to the will of God.

The NT prefers neat, orderly forms of spiritual life. The spirituality of the NT will be centered in an earnest pursuit of all the transcendent values: truth, goodness, beauty, unity, love, life, spirit. With their tremendous hunger for perfection, once they have made a choice of God and holiness as their ultimate goal, NTs are willing to exert extraordinary effort and energy to attain this goal.

In accord with the NT's desire for competency, this temperament seems to have a special attraction for the higher realms of spirituality. St. John's gospel has always been the favorite gospel for mystics and contemplatives. NTs are aware that contemplation is a grace and gift from God but leave no stone unturned in their cooperation with the graces of God that are offered to them. Because of their disdain for second-best, they seek total truth and authenticity in their own life and work hard to reach the whole truth about themselves, about God, and about sanctity. This intense search for or pursuit of the truth colors their whole spiritual life.