**Supplemental Material: Participant Feedback**

This section of the supplemental material provides participants’ free-response, anonymous feedback about the Daily Spiritual Experiences Scale. Responses are organized by group membership.

**Feedback from Participants coded as Not Religious nor Spiritual (NRS):**

* I am a senior citizen and live alone, and so I do not have the opportunity to do some of the things you question about on a frequent basis.
* "beauty of creation" I took that as nature and did not relate it to God at all...
* "Blessing" to me are things I've earned/worked hard for
* "Blessings" in and of itself implies a belief in a higher power. Perhaps this should be changed to "good things in your life."
* [I feel thankful for my blessings.] To clarify, I feel thankful to be alive and for the things that I have, but I wouldn't call those things "blessings".
* #3 Same problem -- I never worship or feel connected to God.
* Again hard to separate enthusiasm from spirituality.
* Again- many of these questions are nonsensical for someone who does not hold religious beliefs. I answered the "religion or spirituality" questions as if they referred to my personal belief system, but this survey is very biased toward the religious and t is difficult for someone like me to know how to answer several of the questions. Another example- "I am spiritually touched by the beauty of creation" Does one need to believe in "creation" to answer that question in the affirmative???
* Again, "Not Applicable" is the right answer for atheists. Non-belief doesn't fit on your scale of belief. You're kind of asking the wrong questions for the 1/5 of the population who are potentially non-theistic.
* Again, defining 'God' here as a supernatural being.
* Again, I'm not sure how you're defining terms such as "blessing" and "spiritually." As an atheist, these terms have meaning for me that might not be shared by this survey.
* Again, this assumes that I recognise such thing as a "god". I do not. On the question about the beauty of "creation," if you replaced the word with "nature" I would have answered "many times a day".
* Another word for "God"? What other word would mean the same thing and still make a difference to how a nonbeliever would fill out this survey? My impression is that the authors of this study don't actually understand the concept of atheism.
* As an atheist it's difficult to know how to answer questions about "creation" and similar terms.
* As stated above, as an atheist/humanist all these questions are meaningless for me and my wife and the thus to attempt an answer suggesting there is a supreme being or god somehow in charge of our lives or human condition would be absurd for us, however we do understand where your going with the survey and we try to respect the misguided beliefs of religious people but only up to a point
* As survey designers are aware, most of the items presume a specifically spiritual basis for these feeling states or behaviors in contrast to a non-spiritual basis for the same.
* Being an elder, god has not been a part of my life for more years than I care to count and I do not feel the need of any connection to that
* Blessings is a word I do not use and so I have trouble gloving you an accurate answer on that one
* Creation question presumes creation. This survey is pretty biased, almost every question presumes that the god of Christianity exists.
* Despite the instructions to interpret "my personal code of morals" as "spirituality" for the purposes of this survey, as an atheist/humanist/freethinker/(pick the term of your choice) it feels like a round peg in a square hole to answer those questions...'m just not sure how to answer those questions as someone who doesn't believe in a "spirit". Is my "personal code of morals" my desire to be honest and generous and helpful? Ok, sure. Does it give me "strength" or "comfort"? Well....no, I get strength and comfort from my family, my own sense of self-reliance, my friends...but I think answering "no" to those questions makes me sound like some sort of tortured unhappy soul, which isn't right. So I didn't feel like I could answer those questions.
* for some reason, I don't really know why, but if I go a very long time without sleeping, or sleeping very little, it's like a sort-of-belief in god switches on. I'm not sure what causes it, but it takes like three or four days, with like two hours or less sleep per night, and then I feel this presence. I think it's like a delusional thing maybe, but I can only guess that it is similar to what other people equate with a deity.
* F\*\*\* the idea of god, the world would be better off with out it.
* God and "LIFE" are different to me. I feel connected to life but not in a supernatural deity.
* God does not exist
* God is a 'made-up' concept. People use religion/God today to promote their agenda (i.e. 'making money).
* God, divine, holy - these do not exist in my lexicon!
* Had trouble with the inner peace and harmony question. I'm just stressed with too much on my plate.
* How can I feel close to something that doesn't exist, that is a providential, interventional, and loving deity
* I am an atheist and have answered the questions based on their exact wording.
* I am an atheist so all of these questions about my relationship with a god are irrelevant.
* I am an atheist.
* I am not comfortable with the terms spirituality or blessings as they have religious connotations but I have interpreted them in a non religious context.
* I am thankful and grateful for all I have, but I do not consider it a "blessing." I despise "religious" terminology. Is the "every day" question a control question?
* I am thankful for all the wonderful aspects of my life, but I would not use the term "blessings" because it conveys the idea of a gift from a god. Also, I love nature and am emotionally moved by it, but the statement includes "spirituality" and "creation which do not fit my world view.
* I am thankful for many things, but blessings and creation is not the correct terminology, and I appreciate and I care for others because they are fellow humans, not because anyone is forcing me to.
* I assume you mean something similar to 'god-given blessings' in the question: "I feel thankful for my blessings." I'm very thankful for the things I have and those around me, but not because they've been given by a god.
* I choose to reject the concept of a Higher Power as childish nonsense, not worthy of adult attention.
* I do not believe in God.
* I don't believe in a being called god, but I do believe that we are all connected to each other and to all life through nature.
* I don't believe in any god.
* I don't believe in God, nor the concepts of divinity or holiness.
* I don't believe in god(s).
* I don't believe in gods or spiritual worlds
* I don't know what God is.
* I feel no connection to a "being" or any need to have one. Contemplating or interacting with the miracles of the natural world brings me happiness and peace.
* I feel thankful often but I don't feel like an entity has blessed me.
* I find strength in rationality
* I find unnecessary to invoke the concept of god for anything that happens in my life.
* I have no belief in a personal creator God. I have no belief in the supernatural. I feel totally connected in nature. The natural universe is where I find awe and wonder.
* I have witnessed the deeply religious rely upon the God of their understanding, only to be let down, a la praying for a loved one to live, or "where was God on 9 /11?"
* I hesitated on some of these questions. For example, while I am thankful for the life I have, I don't consider my good fortune to be "blessings".
* I interpreted "creation" as "the universe" and "blessings" as the good things & experiences I have . I do feel "joy that lifts me out..." but I don't worship, so I said "never" instead of "some days."
* I love nature but do not experience in a spiritual way. If is what it is. It needs no additional definition. Think beautiful science.
* I substituted "intellectual strength" for the word "God" in these questions.
* I think there should be a "non-applicable" option for some questions. There is a distinction between someone that believes in a god and does not feel close to it and someone that doesn't believe in a god (such as myself).
* I thought the question about accepting others when they do things I think are wrong was confusing. I didn't know what was meant by "accepting" (Remaining friends? Not wanting them punished? Willing to forgive them?) or what was meant by "wrong" (Eating my yogurt out of the fridge at work? Murdering someone?)
* I would like to be closer to God by attending church, but it tends to be a lower priority with the hustle and bustle of every day life.
* I'm am atheist so this questionnaire is bizarre to me
* I'm an agnostic atheist guided by humanism because it makes sense. If there is a god, it's undetectable, and so indistinguishable from the nonexistent.
* I'm assuming these questions also pertain to the last 2 weeks, so that is how I answered them. Connection to all of life: I do not feel we are all one organism, but do feel all living things are in this together. Spiritually touched: I am awed by nature but do not believe it came about through a creator. Thankful for blessings: I am deeply grateful for all I have, but don't consider these supernatural blessings and that other people are instead cursed. Please note that as an atheist, I consider these questions very biased and spiritually leading.
* I'm not sure what most people think the word 'spiritual' means, and I think you should look into that further.
* If you aren't spiritual at all there's no good word to substitute.
* In my mind I am having a hard time substituting God with a sense of nature/the natural order in some of these questions.
* Is "scientific method" an appropriate substitute for god?
* It depends what you mean by "blessings" - I feel thankful many times a day for the good things in my life, but I do not believe they were bestowed upon me by a supreme being
* it was hard for my eye to stay on the same line for the questions above and the concomitant answer bubbles
* It's hard to think in terms of spirituality with nature or other looser kinds when the word God is used
* It's impossible to 'feel a connection to ALL of life'... I also dislike the word 'blessings' so opted for never accordingly.
* Last question- I can't feel close to something that does not exist, would have preferred a n/a option
* Many of these questions assume a belief in a god. For example it is not that I don't feel close to god, I just see no evidence that there is a god.
* Many of these questions don't make sense to someone who is atheist or agnostic. There should be a screening question in the very beginning asking if someone identifies with either perspective and then the program should adjust accordingly. Alternatively,there could be an not applicable option for many of these questions.
* Many of these questions presuppose a belief in a deity. Bad survey development.
* Many of these should have a "N/A" option. For example, I do not worship, thus it feels strange answering a question which depends on a situation in which I never find myself.
* Most of the language in these questions presumes a belief in things that do not exist (e.g. "Blessings" and "Creation"). I said I'm as close to God as possible in the sense that I'm as close to the concept of an imaginary deity as one can be. I get God fr better than those who think he/she/it is real.
* Most of the questions on this page assume one believes in supernatural things when this may not be the case. This makes many of the questions seem nonsensical. You can't feel close to god if you don't believe a god exists and answering "not at all" still makes it seem as if one does believe.
* My connection to life comes from our common ancestor.
* My god is love of family, friends, the environment, and the positive fruits of reason.
* my grandparents were extremely religious but i watched my grandmother suffer horribly, bald up in a knot, temperature for days and the died, that killed my belief in god
* Needs to have a "N/A? choice, e.g. for "During worship, or at other times when connecting with God, I feel joy which lifts me out of my daily concerns" -- one can feel joy that lifts one out of daily concerns without "worship" or "connecting with God"
* Not believing that any gods exist makes some of these Qs difficult to reply to.
* Nothing supernatural exists.
* Several of the items on this page appear to presume a monotheistic worldview, and more specifically one of the Abrahamic religions. I would class myself as agnostic, but it seems to me that the items are phrased in such a way as to exclude views held by some of the deeply religious individuals I know who are either polytheistic or who do not accept a higher power anthropomorphized as male.
* Some of the questions would be better with a N/A option. There is a difference between not asking for something that is available and not believing it is available at all.
* spiritually?? creation?? If worded differently I may give a different answer. Like, inspired or touched by the beauty of the natural world? everyday
* Substitute 'Science' or 'Humanism' for 'spirituality'.
* the "god" and "spiritual" references are meaningless and therefore some of the questions that use these terms are unanswerable or unapplicable to secular/atheistic/non-theistic/rationalist survey takers
* The "I experience a connection to all of life." seems vague. I interpreted as "I have a connection to living beings". I think it's something a religious person probably identifies as a core sentiment, but it made no sense to me otherwise.
* The "I feel thankful for my blessings" question was unclear. I am thankful for much in my life but as an Atheist I don't consider them "blessings" -- so when I answered "never," it's not that I'm never thankful, it's that I don't consider myself to ever experience blessings. Other people may take "blessings" in a more secular sense, so your results for the question may be dependent on individual definition than actual thankfulness.
* The assumption that the feelings usually attributed to God are not within the normal human responses is a bias that appears to color the theory of this study.
* The existence of a conscious higher power is irrelevant, we can only move forward in knowledge and wisdom with physical and chemical laws bound to our universe. There is no meaning or purpose to any life. Humans feel pain and some of us feel empathy, which is why we help other lifeforms. There is no evidence of creation or a conscious higher power.
* The last question is nonsensical to me as I do not believe in Amy god.
* The many questions about god(s?) do not address my beliefs as a humanist.
* The questions on this and the previous page are difficult to translate into secular/nonreligious terms because of the phrasing of the questions -- they ask about spirituality, God, etc, which for any religious person could be easily enough translated, but the difference between that kind of belief and faith and the feelings, beliefs, etc of nonreligious people is great. These questions aren't asking about what we find important, strengthening, etc. Many nonreligious people would not use the words "spirituality", "the divine", "the holy", and so forth to describe their experiences of awe and wonder in the world.
* There is no god
* There is no god, only human imagination of it.
* There should be a "I do not believe in a deity" response
* These questions don't work well for atheists. never implies that there is a belief in god but I never feel a presents. There should be options that say NA or something similar to indicate it does not apply.
* These questions seem very skewed to a Christian perspective.
* These questions would be difficult for someone who believes in polytheism...
* This is hard to answer being a mom believer I do feel strength in my lack of spirituality but that's not how the question is worded.
* This page is tricky for me because I don't believe in anything divine or holy. I believe in the strength of the human experience that comes by connecting with nature and other human beings (e.g. my kids, husband, family, friends).
* To many undefined words. Why am I told to select 'every day' to a question?
* Tricky negotiating this page when one doesn't believe in gods. :-) Again, there are definitional issues. I assume that by "God" you mean some comic book Yahweh equivalent, and not a Spinozan concept of god-as-nature.
* What are "spiritually" and "creation"?
* What does "accept others" mean. I don't accept people who commit genocide in the Middle East, for example, but I'm willing to tolerate my coworker who chews with their mouth open. Poorly worded question.
* What is meant by "holy" and "divine." Does it meant an emotional response like happiness or calmness, something measurable via blood pressure or MRI? Blessings means what? If it means glad to be alive, then many times a day; but if it means being given something by a supernatural entity, never.
* What the heck is a god? Do you mean the delusions and voices some people hear when they are not medicated? Or the monster pastors use to scare with so they can extort money from gullible fools? Would consider language "human spirit" if you didn't equate it with religion.
* Words such as God and blessings made these questions difficult to answer.

**Feedback from Participants coded as Spiritual but Not Religious (SNR):**

* "God" and spirituality are two very different things for me.
* "God" is a problematic term, and simply asking people to mentally replace it with another word is unhelpful and misleading, as it will lead to inaccurate results such as a Pagan reporting "God's love" when what they mean is "awe in nature". This isn't a vry inclusive survey and has a distinct monotheistic bias.
* "I am spiritually touched by the beauty of creation" - yes in the sense that creation, in a non-religious way, is beautiful. As in nature blooming in the spring or a thunderstorm is beautiful, in more than just an aesthetic way. "I feel thankful for my blessings" - I am thankful for the things I have and many of the people I have relationships with, but it's not a blessing from a higher power. Some things I am thankful to have had the opportunity to work toward or meet by chance.
* "I desire to be closer to God or in union with the divine." I seem to have an obsession with having a closer connection to the natural world. But I have no interest in a higher being.
* "Not applicable" should be an option for those who do not believe in God, or any other spiritual being. Answering "Never/not at all" does not capture the same experience.
* "Some days," and "once in a while" really need more definition. What I think "some days" means could be the same as "once in a while."
* Again, "God" here = my made-up religion described in the comment I made about being a potential outlier.
* Again, my being close to the Lord depends on my condition before Him. If I am open, willing to empty myself of my opinions and concerns, He can impart His heart to me through His word. Then my view of myself and others can be adjusted.
* agnostic, leaning more and more towards atheism.
* As a child, I had a strong connection to God, being raised in a devoted Catholic family. Faith dwindled over the years.
* As an atheist, I feel thankful not for blessings, but for what I have. I'm not blessed by a deity. I am spiritually touched by nature, life, etc., but I am hesitant to call that "creation" due to the connotation Christianity refers to the beginning of lfe as "creationism."
* Atheist here. I think it would be much better to omit God from these questions and ask what you mean, directly. It's fine to substitute God with what I find holy, which is the drive to make the world a better place, in a question like "I feel guided by Go in the midst of daily activities," but it becomes really confusing when I try to answer "I feel God’s love for me, directly."
* Beauty of creation sans a 'creator' More good fortune than blessings
* for me, God =s Creative Spirit, the Great Mystery, the Universe, etc.
* For the question "In general, how close do you feel to God?," I feel that a 7 point Likert scale would allow me to select an answer that was more representative of my actual feelings.
* General observation: while very happy about the concept of what you are trying to achieve, there is a risk, at least based on how I received this survey, that the audience (Humanists groups) you are reaching may not be representative of the general population.
* God has sent me a friend in Jesus! I see him as a buddy or pal that I can talk to when I am thankful or in need of guidance. I like to picture Jesus as a regular guy that I can converse with.
* Great questions and the general question has me really thinking about the relationship with God.
* Have pantheistic view, don't believe in "God" as a being. Difficult to answer questions about "God" as asked.
* I am a Unitarian Universalist which allows me to find my spirituality in my connection to all living things and not focus on a God religion.
* I am an atheist
* I am the one that always questions. I have asked myself these questions and many more all through out my life and have yet to get the answers I need
* i believe my low level of feeling close to God is because I am not very able to feel strongly, rather than b'c God somehow "fails" me
* I believe that God answers prayer but it may not be the answer we expect and that God talks to us often but a lot of times we aren't listenimg.
* I define "God" as the supreme source. It is spiritually based, and NOT religion based.
* I defined "spirituality" as my connection to other people/humani community.
* I definitely believe in the divine, in God, Goddess, Jesus Christ, Mother Mary, Buddha, etc. I am hoping to find ways to feel closer and more connected to all of them. My daily grind of raising my 2 young children (although it is SUCH a blessing to be teir mom) keeps me from properly connecting as I once was. I'm busy! Need to make more time. :)
* I do not believe in a traditional God. I do, however, feel like there is a universal connection among the living and inanimate. Please know that I use "God" as a loose metaphor for the interconnectedness of the universe.
* I do not believe in God but feel my life is very spiritual
* I do not believe in God.
* I do not believe there is a god so there is no way to be close to it. We are all one and therefore all god.
* I do not have any connection or spiritual bond with any entity referred to as "God"
* I do not identify with God. I have a strong moral code, so I substituted that for God.
* I don't believe in "God". I feel a deep spiritual connection to all of the universe.
* I don't believe in god.
* I don't believe in Gods
* I don't deny the existence of God, I just don't know.
* I don't understand 'please select "everyday" for this item'
* I feel close to the divine/creation/nature/the universe and I feel connection to all life. I don't call this "God."
* I FEEL THAT GOD IS WITHIN EACH OF US BUT WE HAVE TO BE IN A STATE OF HIGHER CONSCIENCENESS FOR IT TO HAPPEN
* I feel the questions are too broad.
* I feel we need to realize that, except for the divisive teachings of religion, want exactly the same basic things in life with freedom to pursue our individual talents and non-abusive pleasures. Questions that equate spirituality with belief in a God are ot helpful and impossible for me to answer.
* I have to reformulate in non-God terms to answer these questions, but that makes my answers meaningless for any statistics. This "God's love" phrase is meaningful only to people with a kindergartner's concept of God as a parent. Not to me.
* I know my life has purpose, I am not always sure I know what it is. I feel less comfortable calling the power of the universe "God" only because I do not believe words can describe the unknowable.
* I live a Buddhist lifestyle. I do not believe in a God
* I now how God is I just believe I need to do better
* I seldom go to 'worship' services, but used to. I sometimes feel it would be good to go back, but so much 'organized religion' recently has been a turn-off.
* I tried to find related words that are meaningful. Dictionary.com Divine: 5. heavenly; celestial: --> celestial: 1. pertaining to the sky or visible heaven, or to the universe beyond the earth’s atmosphere, as in celestial body. 12. the Divne. b. ... the spiritual aspect of humans; ... spiritual: 9 of or relating to the mind or intellect. As to the last question; I desire to be closer to God or in union with the divine. God --> superhuman divine --> spiritual --> mind or intellet Translation: I desire superhuman intelligence, or to be in union with it. (That's a yes.)
* I very much respect others beliefs even if they are not my own. If someone has a strong connection with their God then I do believe that most certainly impacts our interactions - both good and bad for good and bad.
* I want so much to be closer to God. And i dont understand why i cant feel God.
* I was Catholic and went to parochial school from K-12. I became "burnt out" on both organized religion and the concept of god at an early age.
* I wasn't sure how to answer some of the questions as someone who doesn't really believe in God.
* I'm not a theist but feel a connection to the universe/web of life in general. The word "God" was distracting here. A more neutral term, or more options, might have made it easier for me to answer these questions.
* I'm struggling with the answers to these because I believe in Karma, what goes around comes around and treat others as you would like them to treat you.
* I'm using Life, the living Earth, and Nature as my "god." I don't feel any personal closeness to this or any guidance from this. Rather, I feel like I'm participating in the life force of the universe (Nature) and I'm glad of it. But I don't feel partcularly favored by it or condemned by it either. I don't feel the need to get closer to it or to get something from it. But I'm glad to be alive rather than dead. What does "Please select 'every day' for this item mean?
* In "how close do you feel to God", you need something between "not at all" and "somewhat close", such a "a little connection" or such
* In my mind, "I replaced 'God' with 'The Universe'
* It is a bit difficult to mentally substitute "God" each time for "universal consciousness" or whatever I would describe my beliefs as. Is it possible to have participants type in what they would call "God" and then fill that in on subsequent questions? Aso, I wondered about frequency versus intensity. (Maybe that's the next set of questions; I don't know.) For example, I "once in a while" "find strength in my religion or spirituality" but just because it's infrequent doesn't mean it's not intense.
* It was difficult to imagine a divine other than "God." A suggestion might be to use the word 'divine' or 'spiritual entity' or something to that effect, instead of God.
* It was difficult to separate "God" from what I believe in, which is not an entity as much as innate goodness. So, I do feel that through other people, but don't consider it "God." The wording made it difficult to answer some questions, or required more thught about it.
* It's difficult to interpret whether your survey is about spirituality or religion.
* It's hard not to personify 'God' in these questions, which makes it hard for me to answer them as I do not believe there is a 'being' out there, certainly not one that does things.
* It's hard to feel inner peace when most of my life I feel surrounded by hate and disorder.
* Many of these questions come across as very monotheistic and could probably be phrased better.
* most of these questions are really not applicable if you don't believe in a "God creator of the universe"
* My spirituality is non-religious but very strong and meaningful in a daily practical way
* My use of your term "God" here is not at all anthropomorphic. It is not a term I generally use at all.
* No other word is used for the divine or holy. This is a very biased survey.
* Re I feel thankful for my blessings: I live in appreciation of all that I have & all that I am, but I don't consider these blessings--as in bestowed on me by some higher power.
* Recovering alcoholic who rediscovered faith in God after feeling lost and empty for many years while drinking.
* Some of these questions are a bit loaded for atheists or agnostics. For instance, whereas I am touched by the awe of existence, referring to it as "creation" carries with it a complicit acknowledgement of religious perspective. The phrasing "blessings" isalso somewhat loaded and/or exclusionary to those who do not believe in being blessed by a deity, but also do not take their privileges or opportunities for granted..
* Some words do not relate to me...blessings?
* substituted "nature" and connection with all beings for the god word.
* Substituting "another word that calls to mind the divine or holy" without the opportunity to explicitly say that I'm doing so makes these answers misleading. As an atheist, I've answered positively to feeling great comfort from my religion and desiring a loser union to God. Will the survey show that "A high percentage of people are comforted by their God" because I contributed to those answers even though I don't share that image?
* Suggest use of the term "higher power", God or your higher power.
* Take the word God out.
* The question "I am spiritually touched by the beauty of creation" seems like it is asking if you're spiritually touched by nature, which I am, but presupposes that you believe that a being created nature, which I do not.
* The question assumes that God exists and is therefore biased.
* The word "God" conjures a strong idea, with which I cannot connect and cannot replace.
* The word "God" reads like "fatted cow" to me. There is no creator entity(s) of which I am aware. Monotheism is a recent invention, oui? Am still a naysayer. Such a conservative I am.
* There are only two options for the existence of humans. We are a manifestation of evolution or we were created by another species. Every other reason is just noise.
* There is no idea, or concept, or entity, or feeling that I can substitute for God or divine or anything like that for these questions. I feel spiritual though, in the sense that I feel alive, and connected, and interconnected, & a part of something bigger perhaps. Whether it's chaotic or meaningful depends on context
* There needs to be a not applicable option... and the use of God is not quite right for the spirituality and faith I feel and live.
* These questions are somewhat inapplicable for an Atheist. I understand that we are supposed to substitute our closest understanding of the "God" concept, but there is not an easy substitute. Therefore I have a hard time answering.
* This is hard for an atheist to answer. Science is my spirit guide.
* To me, the first two questions above are the same, as I believe that we experience the divine through one another.
* Using "God" in these questions is quite limiting. I feel those things but those feelings have nothing to do with any form of God. Sometimes it's through altruism, or science, or music, but never any God. Do you mean "God or alternative higher power"?
* very consistent
* Very difficult when you use the word God. Feel like it will bias answers.
* Very hard to focus and have consistent thoughts on what "God" might mean.
* Was the "Please select 'every day' for this item." question to see if we were reading?
* Who's God? Which God?
* Who/what do YOU consider to be "god"?
* You need to differentiate better between religion and spirituality.

**Feedback from Participants coded as Religious and Spiritual (RS):**

* 'blessings' is too ill-defined here, as gratitude for privileges I enjoy is a secular translation, but some may reject altogether just for divine blessings.
* "Accepting others" implies tolerance. Many things are just wrong. You can still Love a person, but hate their wrongs. To teach, and to correct requires that we not tolerate wrongs. Yet you still show love.
* A person can be spiritual and not believe in a god.
* Again, I am a Humanist and self interpret as referencing the universe. I have no belief in a "God" system (religion).
* Again, my answers (except for the "In general..." question above) are skewed due to depression/chronic pain...and unemployment.
* Again, my relationship with God is largely dependent on my choice to engage with him and to tune in to his divine purpose for me. His grace and blessings are clear in my life. The gift of doing for others, without attachment to rewards of ego, or outcome but simply the pure act of giving because it is right and just -- amazing. It is joyful. Makes you want to thank the people you are helping for the honor of allowing you to help and of their trusting you are only "in it" for no other reason but to help.
* Again, you are using Southern Evangelical Christian words and phrases that do not have meaning outside your narrow culture.
* Again, your assumption of "religion = crutch" is on full display. You have no question about "I find God challenges me" or "I want to grow closer to God." You have no questions about "I feel the presence of Evil" or "I experience temptations against fait, hope, or charity."
* As soon as you use the word "God" you limit the answers to those who believe in a "being" floating around "out there". It's an imposition of the idea of a type of human, but with superpowers. Even the fact that it's capitalized indicates the bias. Are he unseen powers things? Is it an individual? Using "God" indicates it's an individual, a Christian/Muslim/Jewish type being. This is inherent bias.
* Asking for God's help one day, sitting in the closet - straightening shoes...looking up toward the ceiling light: the light became 'white-hot bright' suddenly and I KNEW I was in the presence of God. (eyes closed, afraid if I opened them, He would go) The a shadow appeared in FRONT of the light and I knew Jesus Himself had joined us! (in awe, I was still afraid to open my eyes) As I finished my prayer, the light became normal again and I knew they were gone. I reached to feel where my Lord's feet had been and it was still WARM! I believe in the Trinity and the Holy Spirit dwells within me. I was extremely honored that they paid me a visit during a time of turmoil and worry!!
* Because God is a given for me, I don't consciously think about his presence all the time. He just "is".
* By God, I assume you mean the Christian definition whereby I am supposed to worship and fear God because he is somehow in need of what I think to make his/her day when God had the power to create the whole universe (and if they exist, all the other universe). I don't see how he/she cares what I do.
* Challenging questions again. I do not feel motivated by God. I think that I have to motivate myself and have a great responsibility towards others, but this has nothing to do with God.
* Christian
* comfort, strength and peace is an overall mindset that comes from trusting God. But for me it is not something I constantly think about throughout the day. It is just who I am.
* Connecting with, and accepting His love a continual process!
* deep inner peace is something to strive for but, it isn't possible to feel it every moment of every day
* Everything I see each day reaffirms that only God could create such beauty and give us the chance to minister to others.
* Family and friends have rushed in to help, I am doted on and monitored constantly by a loving daughter and granddaughter. These may be strange answers but much of my awareness of the effect my higher beliefs are not so much from me...as to me. For instance my best friend...an ordained Minister who lives in the Midwest entreats an entire parish to remember me in their prayers and since they believe, then I believe.
* God has helped bring me back from my own dark places due to my health. Every time I feel I want to give up God shows me my purpose in life.
* God is my only hope. Without God, i would have committed suicide long ago.
* God is perfect. I am not. To the extent that He fulfills these things, they are done perfectly. To the extent that I do them, they are flawed.
* Hard one the question I accept others even when they do things I think are wrong. I try but it is hard.
* I also frequently interact with other who share my feelings about God and I am able to talk with them about God and God's work in my life. Also, those who I am close with that do not believe in God never belittle my beliefs. I feel this support in my beliefs and feelings makes them stronger.
* I am a recovering evangelical atheist from a northern scientific family. The Lord had to beat me into the ground to get my attention. I was baptized at age 50. The past 23 years have seemed like vacation every day.
* I am getting involved again, i feel that i can use the positives from religion and still be logical and understand the differences.
* I am human.. As much as I want to feel like I'm floating on a cloud with God and spiritually connected at all times with people, God's children.. I truly am human, and I feel pity at times, and.. Would like to hurt a few people that are doing it wrong!! ahah Ahhh The beauty of being human..
* I am interpreting God in these questions as the traditional meaning of God. If the term creation or some other term had been used, my answers are different.
* I am not sure what you mean by a connection to all of life. I feel connected in the sense of being part of creation but I don't feel spiritually connected to creation, just to the Creator
* I am very, very blessed to be able to feel God's presence in my life.
* I believe in God and have a deep faith and hope. Unfortunately I do not always place this 1st in my life, but I always turn to him for comfort in times of stress and turmoil.
* I believe that I was Divinely Created and that I am a direct expression of God. Sometimes I do not express this as well as I could, but I know that God lives, in me, as me and by means of me.
* I believe the Holy Spirit lives in me and I feel God's love every day.
* I feel as one with the universe. Not with just one particular god.
* I feel guilty in answering these as I was raised to think one way but in actually - I don't feel connected as I should or am "supposed to be", I don't feel loved, I don't feel at peace and I feel forgotten and abandoned because of my constant struggle to raise my kids the right way while being broke, tired, lonely, broke.
* I feel like god is my first man and first confidant so I know he has been watching over my family and I I love him dearly
* I feel particularly close to Divinity whilst working on activities outside - gardening, hiking, walking et. al. I also feel close to the "Other" when contemplating my children's lives & the life/death of my daughter. The wonder, the mystery, the human frailty, the surrendering of the "why?" things happen .. that is Divinity.
* I feel that God must have a purpose for me, for living through all of the physical problems, but I don't know what it is.
* I feel that I am very spiritual in all of my dealings with life but especially when I am out in nature.
* I feel the need to thank God everyday for the many gifts I have. I do not feel the need to ask God for more things. I feel I cannot possibly thank God enough for the many things I feel he has given me each and every day.
* I found that maybe I could be more acknowledging of me blessings more than one time a day. maybe I could remember to act like Jesus more than once a day or talk to God more than once a day to help me throughout my day.
* I guess the idea of feeling god's love or feeling close to god is not part of my religious experience. I believe that god is in all things and that god is love, but I don't believe that god loves me more than any other person.
* I have a very close PERSONAL relationship to God...
* I have never had to comment on how close feel to God before. Interesting.
* I like that you give this option.
* I like the eighth question.
* I liked them well crafted. I would have added things I read and hear I sense God
* I love the personal relationship only God of the Christian bible offers.
* I question what people do that do not have God in their lives for strength, love, and to move forward. If I am scared, I just ask God to come along and put his arms on my shoulders.
* I refer to what you would call "God" as "The Sacred." I am not at all comfortable with the Christian God-concept.
* I say "as close as possible" yet I feel i need to be more focused to be closer. Cant get close enough.
* I strive to feel closer.
* I struggle with the first question, so I did not respond. I do not experience a "feeling" of God's presence. It is more of a knowledge that he is present, even though I do not sense him in a tangible way. If phrased that way, then every day.
* I think God (or a divine force or spirit) is unique to each being, and we each have an individual relationship with "our" God.
* I think you should always be striving to be closer to God. Hence, the very close answer instead of as close as possible.
* I try to feel close but often feel I've failed.
* I used to have a strong belief in God but now I just don't know and sometimes wish I had that comfort.
* I would feel a lot closer if I could see evidence that God cares about what we feel. I feel for animals enough to have become a vegetarian with a vegan lifestyle many years ago, so I'm hoping that there is a Divine Presence who feels for people and animas enough to intervene in their daily lives to show that they are blessed and loved. I believe in NAMASTE --- the Divine in me honors and bows to the Divine in YOU (whether that YOU is animal or human).
* I'm a strong believer in the adage, "If you don't feel God near you, who moved?" God, or the Divine or Sacred, whatever name I use at any particular time, is present in all things at all times, even in ways I can not perceive of. My degree of spiritual indifference, distraction or drifting away from that spiritual center is a reflection of my limitations as a human being, not God's being. But that's OK-that's how we are created and that's what makes the Divine mysteriously sacred and me human.
* I'm not comfortable with the term "God."
* If you are filled with the Holy Spirit and accept God's Grace you are at peace with your life. Philippians 4: 11for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. 12I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. 13For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.
* Interesting that one question told me what to choose
* My brother committed suicide in my mother's attic last July and she and my dad found him. That event has destroyed my family. I would have answered these questions very differently a year ago. I am seeking counseling for my issues with this situation.
* My closeness to God and Jesus have waivered depending on life's events but I recognize I am not a perfect being but God loves me
* My God is THE UNIVERSE-CREATION- not some supernatural being on high. My religion is the way I live daily and not a doctrine or creed.
* My spirituality is not stagnant. It is a journey. I am still searching for a place to settle in my journey. It's as if I am waiting for something to show me whether or not all this spirituality stuff exists by itself or is it a social construct?
* Nice one with the buried question to make sure people were actually looking at/reading/paying attention to the questions as opposed to just picking random dots. ;) Someone paid attention in Pedagogy and Method. ;)
* none
* Not sure about the second item. "I experience a connection to all of life". What does that mean? I answered this question by thinking about this in terms of "God is in everything"...which I disagree that God is the tree in my backyard or God is the ant crawling across the pavement. So, I'm not sure if that makes sense or perhaps you throw that question out...it was confusing to me without some kind of context.
* not sure how close I feel to god but more spiritual
* Our mortal shortcomings blur that relationship
* Posing the questions I terms of God made it difficult to answer. I tended to answer the questions that anthropomorphized god as "not at all" and the questions that made a vaguer reference to god in terms of my o n beliefs.
* really dumb
* same as previous page
* Some of my questions above have answers which reflect my history in religion - pretty strong Roman Catholic and ELCA Lutheran. It would be great if there were a loving god who cares for us and the world - BUT - there is little evidence for this belief.
* Some of the questions can be interpreted in more than one way. Also, spirituality differs from religion. One may feel spiritually connected to nature but not with a creator/higher being.
* Thank you for the opportunity to share. Namaste!
* The finite and the infinite are not 2. The transient and the eternal are 1. Literally.
* the last question was difficult Because I am climaxed. How can I get closer? It would be neat to watch people buckle to their knees and worship God as I walked by I guess.
* The noun, 'God' bothers me and boxes me in and doesn't meet beliefs other than a perceived story.
* These are some tough but thoughtful questions. I wish I felt closer to God.
* To clarify...I do not feel peace or comfort from religion, but rather my RELATIONSHIP with Christ. My relationship with him is just like any other relationship that is important to me, I spend time getting to know him (through his word) and spend time talking to him (prayer).
* What kind answer are you hoping to find when you deliberately ask someone to choose something?
* What was that question asking us to select "every day" for this item? Weird.
* While I am able to forgive those who have committed wrong I do not care to have them around me depending on what they might have done.
* While I don't buy into religious dogma; I appreciate that it is necessary to try to explain the in-explainable and necessary to support what would otherwise be a chaotic existence.
* While I have a very strong faith and feel that God's plan is my destiny, I also feel room to grow spiritually. I ask that God always guide me to be the best person possible.
* years ago I had much more faith but many waves have crashed me over and my faith is not so strong right now