

I am writing these answers pretty honestly and hoping that we do not have a data breach because there might be stuff in here that I have not told many other people. (How's that for pressure on the first week??)

1. I find that the portions of scripture that I like to read has changed over time. I have always like the gospels and psalms. I like reading about Jesus first hand. And the psalms have always appealed to me for their honesty. As I have aged I have also found comfort in the psalms, once I learned to read them "better" and see the promises of God that abound in them. When I was younger and before I came to ALCC I could have easily just chopped off all Paul's letters. They did nothing for me. But here at ALCC we spend a lot of time in Paul's letters so I have come to appreciate them much more. They are challenging on many levels: purely academic, for correction of thought and behavior.
2. I have never avoided the psalms. Now, Numbers and Leviticus, those I avoided!! 😊
3. Anxiety & scarcity, though mostly anxiety, have caused me the most struggle in my faith walk and in my life walk. It was embedded in me from the very early years and I have just relatively recently begun to actively fight to remove it from my life. It is a long hard process to undo so many years, but God is faithful and helpful and kind.
4. Anything with trust I need to develop. I don't trust many people for positive reasons. There are many people I can trust to act a certain way, but it is not always helpful or kind. Because of my lack of practice in trusting people, or my fear of them, I really don't know how to fully trust God. I am not sure what is lacking but I know that the anxiety is the polar opposite of trust because it is the fear of something (depends on the day, right) and not trusting that God will either provide it, provide something better than it, or help you know that there is something different that you need right now. (I am not sure this makes sense to you, but I know it does to me).
5. I can honestly say that I am not swayed by technology and have for many years seen it for what it is. I have also witnessed the detrimental effect that it has on young people right before my eyes in my students. It saddens me that so many adults have become so addicted to technology or social media and cannot even go to an event without pulling out their phones and posting something, even a picture of a plate of food. I spend a small amount of time on social media, just to keep in touch with real friends and family. I use technology because it is required in my job. But I also try to use my mind. For example I rarely use navigation devices....I use mapquest or google maps to see where the place I am looking for is, and then I write down how to get there. If I am lost, I don't shun the technology, but I also don't want to be so dependent on it. There are so many people who have no idea how to get anywhere anymore!
6. I think I am more of a dialogue person. I like to listen to people more than I like to talk, except for a few special people in my life. So I am very happy to be just listening and maybe offering a comment or two. The world has enough noise right now. We need more listeners. I actually feel like I'm ahead of the curve on this one! 😊

Prayer: Father – I pray for my students today. I pray that you would open their ears and eyes during the pandemic to something other than technology based entertainment. I pray that those in large families would come to know that there is no scarcity in You. And I pray that You would give me grace and patience so that there's no scarcity in me in the classroom. That there is enough of me for all of them and that they know it and can feel secure in it. And as always give me wisdom to guide them. And help them to know above all else that you love them!! Thanks.