



Choleric

The Apostle Paul was a prime example of a **choleric** personality in action. His life before his conversion is an example of how even the strengths of your personality if used for the wrong purpose cause can be harmful. Before Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus he was determined to rid the world of Christians. Feeling strongly that this new religious following was a threat to all that he felt was right. He was unsympathetic to their cause and was willing to do whatever it took to see that Christianity was ended. It took an extreme situation to cause Paul to stop and see that what he was doing was not in God's will (read the whole story in Acts 9). After being blinded by God on the road to Damascus and approached directly by the Holy Spirit he was humbled, confessed of us his wrong ways, and became an advocate for Christianity. Paul was a huge participant in the start of many churches across his region. He was determined and would stop at nothing (prison, stoning, accusations, etc...) to further God's agenda.

Choleric is a strong personality type. It happens to be my dominate personality type so I know very well the strengths as well as the pitfalls of the choleric personality. Being a woman I often feel even my strengths can be seen as improper or ungodly. I have found the key to working within my gifts is to consistently weigh my decisions against what God, through scripture, reveals. It is also important for me to not allow cultural beliefs to diminish what God designed for good. For example, I often find myself having to approach men who are in authority positions to express an idea or plan for a project that I want to start. During these meetings I am faced with overcoming the social expectations of a woman in leadership, and also my personal struggle with forcing my ideas without showing respect for the people that I am trying to influence. Understanding how to work within my strengths while submitting my weaknesses to the Lord has been a life long challenge.

Cholerics are "take charge" type of people. Determined and head strong a choleric can act quickly in emergencies and make things happen at a moments notice. Choleric people make great team leaders and are gifted at delegating and keeping people on track. A choleric doesn't get discouraged easily and is able to keep their emotions in check. A choleric is goal oriented and won't stop until the project is complete.

If you have choleric people in your life you might feel a little defeated when trying to have your ideas be heard or get your way. People with the choleric personality type actually enjoy debate and will allow you to argue your case. Just a warning though, the choleric person has thought their position through and feels that they are right. When confronting a choleric, make sure you have thought through your stand and are ready to clearly and calmly articulate your cause.

For those of us who are choleric it is important to remember that other people don't all function the same way we do. Remember to give compliments, to encourage and to reinforce when others are doing well. Try to fight the urge to micro-manage, give people freedom to use their own gifts and abilities and be patient with their results.

Cholerics have great potential to be awesome leaders. As a choleric, it is crucial for you to humbly admit that you do have weaknesses. The first step in overcoming weaknesses is to admit the traits that can be used to distract from God's plan. Pride, selfishness, the need to be right or jump ahead of what God is doing can be big stumbling blocks for those of us who are choleric. It is important to be a good listener and patient with God and others. Being bossy, impatient or quick tempered might keep others from seeing your vision as a positive idea. Remember to slow down and leave time for the people in your life to enjoy the process. Be willing to apologize when you are wrong as well as forgive when others make mistakes. Acknowledge and actively look for other's successes and accomplishments. Listen to input and give respect to other people's ideas.

As the Apostle Paul submitted to God's agenda he found a new fullness and purpose for his life. People with a strong choleric personality have gifts and abilities that can be used in incredible ways. Realizing how God wired the choleric and allowing God the ultimate control in our lives is the beginning of experiencing the abundant life that He promises.