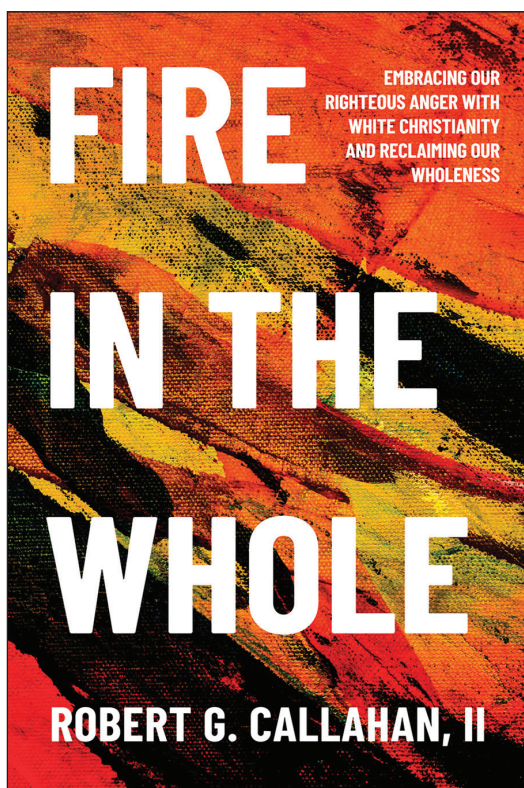


# Is It Time to Go?

## A Personal Inventory from *Fire in the Whole*



Spend time reflecting on these questions privately, by journaling, or in conversation with a trusted friend. Your responses may shed valuable light on your decision to remain or leave your current congregation.

1. How do you rate your church's response to issues of racism and social justice? Does the church proactively address and discuss these issues, react only when current events demand, or avoid addressing them altogether?
2. Have you ever felt the church's response to racial injustice was inadequate or performative? What effect did this have on your faith?
3. How do the teachings and practices of your church align with your values and understanding of Scripture? Do the church's actions align with its own professed values and teachings? Do you find yourself compartmentalizing your faith from the place you worship?
4. Does the church provide opportunities for you to utilize your gifts and talents authentically?

5. How would you rate the support and understanding you receive from church leaders and fellow members regarding your experience as a minority? What improvements are needed?

6. How open are church leaders to dialogue and to addressing concerns about racism and discrimination?

7. Have you ever tried to discuss with church leaders the church's willingness to address racism from the pulpit? If so, how was it received? If not, why not? Does the thought of doing so reveal any anxieties or a lack of security in the worship environment? Do you believe their response could be productive, or do you believe that it's a lost cause?

8. What practical steps could the church take to create a safe space for minorities to express their concerns and experiences? What changes would you need to see to trust that your church was moving beyond performative actions toward meaningful change?

9. Does the idea of leaving your church bring on feelings of fear, sadness, or guilt? What would it take for you to feel confident about leaving an unsupportive community behind?

10. Where might you find a spiritual community that welcomes you in the wholeness of your identity? If such a community does not exist in your area, how can you help build one?