

How Spiritual Are You? — 08/2/20

TEXT- 1 Co 2:13-16 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. 16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

INTRO – Tract of young man preacher's son

Religious vs. Spiritual

Spiritual vs. Carnal

Rom 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

How deeply spiritual are you?

Do you know what makes a tumbleweed so susceptible to the wind? Tumbleweeds only put down one root, and that root is very shallow. So, tumbleweeds are easily uprooted when the wind blows. Soon the tumbleweed is blowing wherever the wind pushes it, without any sense of direction or stability.

Contrast a tumbleweed with a tree, like an oak, that puts down roots that go deep. Even in the midst of strong winds, oaks stand firm, because their root structure is strong and deep.

Is your spiritual life more like a tumbleweed or an oak?

Eph 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

I. At salvation the Spirit enters

A. Born of the Spirit

John 3:5-6 Jesus answered, *Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

B. Indwelt by the Spirit

1 Co 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

C. Sealed by the Spirit

2 Co 1:21-22 Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; 22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

D. Adopted through the Spirit

Gal 4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

II. The Christian life is a Spiritual Life

A. Believers must live after the Spirit

Rom 8:5-7 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

B. We must feed the Spirit

1 Co 10:3-4 And did all eat the same spiritual meat; 4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

Bible reading, church attendance etc.

C. Spiritual discernment

1 Co 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

D. Embrace the Word of God

1. It keeps us from going astray.
2. It protects us from harm and misery.

My children probably thought their names were "NO-NO" and "STOP."

Total Absorption in God's Word.

Psa 42:1-2 As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. 2 My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?

III. It is having the following qualities:

- **Great Faith:** Acting on the Scriptural direction that God gives to us as we seek Him with our whole heart.
- **Genuine Love:** First dying to selfish desires, and then sacrificially investing in the lives of others.
- **Mature Wisdom:** Knowing the ways of God and following them in fulfilling personal responsibilities.
- **Keen Discernment:** Distinguishing between right and wrong and recognizing the motives of other people.
- **Joyful Enthusiasm:** Responding to others with a warm smile and encouraging words and actions.

IV. It Is Renewing The Inner Man Daily

2 Co 4:16-18 *For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

V. People Who Lack Spirituality

A. Act immaturely

1 Co 3:1 *And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.*

B. Dull of hearing

Heb 5:11-14 *Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. 12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. 13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

C. Superficially live by the law

Rom 8:1-4 *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

CONCL –