

The Spiritual

Intro: As the Lord's people the church has always tried to speak where the Bible speaks and remain silent where the Bible is silent. This principle is as God commands in 1 Pet. 4:11 ¹¹ "If any man speak, *let him speak* as the oracles of God; if any man minister, *let him do it* as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." As a result of this Bible principle, we should call Bible things by Bible names. We have correctly applied this principle to the use of the term "pastor" (it does not refer to the preacher, but to the elders of the congregation, thus it is sinful to call the preacher pastor). In this lesson let us apply this principle in seeing who the person is who is spiritual. Who is the person whom the Lord considers to be spiritual? The spiritual person:

I. IS LED BY THE SPIRIT.

A. Rom. 8:14 ¹⁴ "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

B. How does the Spirit lead men?

1. The Spirit does not lead men by a direct leading.
2. The Spirit directs men by His Word recorded in the Bible.
 - a. 1 Cor. 2:9-15 ⁹ "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. ¹⁰ But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. ¹¹ For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. ¹³ 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."
 - b. Eph. 6:17 ¹⁷ "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God:"
 - c. Rev. 2:7 ⁷ "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

C. Those who are not spiritual.

1. Thus the person who sees visions, hears voices, receives promptings is not spiritual.
2. The person who is filled with emotionalism, claiming the direct leading of the Holy Spirit is not spiritual.
3. Those who claim to work miracles, speak in tongues, etc. are not spiritual.

II. IS OBEDIENT TO THE TRUTH.

A. John 8:32 ³² "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."; **John 17:17** ¹⁷ "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

B. Obedience to the truth is necessary.

1. Mat. 7:21-23 ²¹ "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

2. Rom. 6:17-18 ¹⁷ But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. ¹⁸ Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”
3. Rev. 22:14 ¹⁴ Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”

C. Thus, some things which some claim to make them spiritual does not make them spiritual.

1. Merely consenting to the deity of Jesus; Jam. 2:19-20, 24, 26 ¹⁹ Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. ²⁰ But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? ²² Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? ²³ And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. ²⁴ Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. ²⁵ Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent *them* out another way? ²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”
2. Merely audibly calling Jesus, Lord; Luke 6:46 ⁴⁶ And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”
3. Claiming to be religious;
 - a. Paul
 - (1) Acts 23:1 ¹ And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men *and* brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.”
 - (2) Acts 26:9-14 ⁹ I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰ Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against *them*. ¹¹ And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled *them* to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted *them* even unto strange cities. ¹² Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, ¹³ At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me. ¹⁴ And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? *it is* hard for thee to kick against the pricks.”
 - b. The Athenians
 - (1) Acts 17:22 ²² Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars’ hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious [very religious—ASV, NKJV].”
 - (2) Yet, they were idol worshippers: Acts 17:23 ²³ For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.”

III. HAS BEEN BAPTIZED INTO JESUS CHRIST.

A. One becomes a Christian when he is born into the family of God.

1. John 3:3, 5 ³ Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ⁴ Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born? ⁵ 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.”
2. Tit. 3:5 ⁵ Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”

B. This is a birth of water and spirit; John 3:5 ⁵ Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

1. The Spirit begets us through the Word (New Testament).
 - a. 1 Pet. 1:22-23 ²² Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye* love one another with a pure heart fervently:

²³Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”

- b. Jas. 1:18 ¹⁸“Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”
2. The Spirit instructs us to be baptized in water for the remission of his sins.
 - a. The element of water:
 - (1) Acts 8:36-39 ³⁶“And as they went on *their* way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here is* water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? ³⁷“And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. ³⁸“And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. ³⁹“And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.”
 - (2) Acts 10:47-48 ⁴⁷“Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? ⁴⁸“And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.”
 - b. The purpose of the remission of sins, or salvation.
 - (1) Acts 2:38 ³⁸“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
 - (2) Acts 22:16 ¹⁶“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”
 - (3) 1 Pet. 3:21 ²¹“The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:”

C. Through baptism we enter into the house of God.

1. 1 Cor. 12:13 ¹³“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”
 - a. That body is the church.
 - b. Col. 1:18 ¹⁸“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.”
2. The church is the house of God.
 - a. 1 Tim. 3:15 ¹⁵“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”
 - b. God’s house comprises His family.

D. Those who do not have an obedient faith are not spiritual.

1. John 12:42 ⁴²“Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess *him*, lest they should be put out of the synagogue:”
2. 2 The. 1:6-9 ⁶“Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; ⁷“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, ⁸“In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: ⁹“Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”

IV. IS A LIVELY STONE IN GOD’S SPIRITUAL HOUSE.

- A. 1 Pet. 2:5 ⁵“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”
- B. That spiritual house is the church; 1 Tim. 3:15 ¹⁵“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

C. We must be in that church to be spiritual.

1. Glory is given to God in the church; Eph. 3:21 “²¹ Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”
2. Jesus promised to build His church.
 - a. Mat. 16:18 “¹⁸ And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
 - b. He purchased the church; Acts 20:28 “²⁸ Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”
 - c. Those who are saved are added to that church.
 - (1) Acts 2:41 “⁴¹ Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.”
 - (2) Acts 2:47 “⁴⁷ Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”

D. We must be active participants in that house.

1. We must be lively stones offering spiritual sacrifices to God.
 - a. Rom. 12:1-2 “¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
 - b. 1 Pet. 2:9 “⁹ But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;”
2. Our life must be given to God for service to Him and His cause.

E. Thus it is not spiritual:

1. To be in a religious plant that God did not plant; Mat. 15:13 “¹³ But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.”
2. To be a Sunday morning only Christian, not to be active in the work of the church.

V. WORSHIPS GOD IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH.**A. John 4:23-24** “²³ But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. ²⁴ God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.”

1. That worship directed to God, not for the entertainment of men.
2. That worship done according to God’s pattern (the truth), set forth in the Bible.
 - (1) Singing.
 - (2) Praying.
 - (3) Partaking of the Lord’s Supper.
 - (4) Preaching and Studying God’s Word.
 - (5) Giving or Contribution.
3. That worship done with the heart, with the proper attitude.

B. This worship done when we gather together.

1. 1 Cor. 11:18, 20 “¹⁸ For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it. ¹⁹ For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you. ²⁰ When ye come together therefore into one place, *this* is not to eat the Lord’s supper.”

2. Assembling with the saints upon each first day of the week to engage in all five acts of worship to God.
 - a. Acts 2:42 ⁴² And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."
 - b. Acts 20:7 ⁷ And upon the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight."
 - c. 1 Cor. 16:1-2 ¹ Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. ² Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."
 3. Availing ourselves of other times when we can worship God in song, prayer and study.
 - a. Acts 2:46 ⁴⁶ And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,"
 - b. Acts 12:12 ¹² And when he had considered *the thing*, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying."
- C. The Person who does not gather together with the saints to worship God regularly is not spiritual.**

VI. BEARS THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT.

- A. Gal. 5:22-23 ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."
- B. **He puts to death the deeds of the body.**
 1. Col. 3:5-10 ⁵ Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: ⁶ For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: ⁷ In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. ⁸ But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. ⁹ Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; ¹⁰ And have put on the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:"
 2. Gal. 2:20 ²⁰ I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."
 3. 1 Cor. 9:27 ²⁷ But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."
 4. Rom. 8:13 ¹³ For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."
- C. **He must follow the teachings of the Spirit.**
 1. Rom. 8:14 ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."
 2. Gal. 5:16-18, 24-25 ¹⁶ *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. ¹⁸ But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law... ²⁴ And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."
 3. Gal. 6:7-8 ⁷ Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ⁸ For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."
 4. This is the person who develops the proper attitudes and behaves in the way the Bible instructs.
- D. **Thus, the person who has hatred, lusts, anger, malice, etc., or continues to live in adultery, drunkenness, lying, backbiting, etc., is not spiritual.**

VII. TRUST IN GOD'S GRACE.

- A. Rom. 4:16** ¹⁶ Therefore *it is* of faith, that *it might be* by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all;
- B. He realizes that man cannot save himself.**
1. God's ways are not man's ways.
 - a. Isa. 55:8-9 ⁸ For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the Lord. ⁹ For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."
 - b. Jer. 10:23 ²³ O Lord, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself: *it is* not in man that walketh to direct his steps."
 - c. Pro. 14:12 ¹² There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death."
 2. Eph. 2:8-9 ⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast."
 3. Tit. 3:5 ⁵ Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"
- C. He realizes that he must obey out of a loving heart.**
1. Heb. 5:8-9 ⁸ Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; ⁹ And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;"
 2. Rom. 6:17-18 ¹⁷ But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. ¹⁸ Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."
 3. 1 Pet. 1:22-23 ²² Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye* love one another with a pure heart fervently: ²³ Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."
 4. Acts 2:40-41 ⁴⁰ And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. ⁴¹ Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls."
- D. He realizes that God will reward the faithful.**
1. Rom. 6:23 ²³ For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
 2. 1 Pet. 1:2-4, 9 ² Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: ⁷ That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: ⁸ Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: ⁹ Receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your* souls."
 3. 2 Pet. 1:10-11 ¹⁰ Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: ¹¹ For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."
 4. 2 Tim. 4:8 ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

E. Thus, one is not spiritual who:

1. Does not depend on God's grace
2. Trust only in the grace of God to save them.
3. Who tries to direct his own ways.

Conclusion: Are you a spiritual person? Are you spiritual by your own standard or by God's standard? If you are not a spiritual person by God's standard, obey His will today and become a spiritual person in His eyes.