

THE TRUE SPIRITUAL LIFE

GALATIANS 5:16-26

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The church is not primarily about the buildings, programs, or events. It is about something much deeper. It is not primarily about the soul (mind, will, and emotions). It is much deeper.

John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

- B. The Christian life is first and foremost a spiritual life. It is about the inward depths of my being. It is not about surface behaviors or tricking my mind to believe something, positive thinking... It is about a new life, a new creation, a profound change at the nature of my heart.

II. A PICTURE OF WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SPIRITUAL.

- A. What happens when the Holy Spirit dwells in us? He manifests. If you have Him, then there is evidence of Him in your life. If there is no evidence, you probably don't have Him.
- B. It is in contrast to the works of the flesh. These are things that are opposed to the things of God. They are contrary to the Spirit of God living in you. And they will make you miserable.
- C. It can give an individual an idea of where their heart is at. His Word can show us the state of our hearts (Heb. 4:12)
- D. If you are not having the fruit of the Spirit, then not spiritual no matter what you think or say. Spiritual is not just about gifts, miracles.

"Therefore by their fruits you will know them. ²¹ " Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³ "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' (Matt. 7:20-23)

1. This passage is dealing with false prophets. Jesus does not consider signs and wonders to be proof of ministry fruitfulness. These people were surprised that they were not allowed to enter into heaven.
2. I don't want to be surprised when I stand before Jesus on that day. He looks at the heart.
But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (1 Sam. 16:7)
3. We can have spiritual experiences, but we have to ultimately look for the fruit.. Do I love God and my neighbors more?

III. WHAT FRUIT SHOULD WE LOOK FOR?

- Do the people have a greater love and concern for others than they have for themselves?
- Do they radiate a contagious joy that others feel and take on?
- Do they ooze a tranquil peace when life's events do not go the way they anticipated?
- Do they show a steadfastness or unwavering nature in the midst of long suffering, betrayal or deep • disappointment?
- Do they display gentleness with others who appear weaker or less capable?
- Do they have an overriding goodness that seeks the wellbeing of others over their own wellbeing?
- Do they have a faith in the unseen and the “not yet” purposes of God?
- Do they radiate a meekness or softness, evidenced by how they handle others when they disagree with them?
- Do they display a temperance or an ability to master their passions and desires?

- A. All deeply spiritual people will have fruit that is spiritual. That which is Spirit will always have spiritual fruit. If we do not exhibit the fruit, then we have to question if it is the Holy Spirit.
- B. The positive side of that is also true. It gives us assurance. There is no law against such things.
- C. It is not meant to be used as a legalistic thing (that's the whole point of Gal.) Don't look at yourself, flesh. This is not a checklist to say oh, I must try harder. Focus on God, then the fruit will show.
- D. It is not that you try to get perfect by your works or efforts. How did you get born again/saved? By believing, receiving by faith. How do you grow? In the same way: by faith. Believe HS dwells in you, focus on Him, and you will see the fruit of the HS.

Gal. 3:3-5 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?. ⁵ Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? --

- E. The fruit of the Spirit is a picture of emotional wholeness. Whatever God touches is good, brings life, joy, love, peace. Multiplication, fruitfulness. These things come about from Him. This is not you trying to do it on your own.

Gal. 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Matt. 11:28- 30 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.