

The Spiritual Man

By Peter McArthur

“Being truly spiritual”

1. THE SPIRITUAL MAN

- ◆ The Spiritual Man lives from his spirit, not from his mind life, the soul.
- ◆ We need to learn how to come into an “Assembly of Believers” and not just be individuals in a Meeting.
- ◆ Be a congregation of one spirit, mind and heart.
- ◆ When we meet in true spiritual unity there is a sense of the quality of the Holy Spirit’s presence
- ◆ There are “laws of unity” which have nothing to do with agreement of doctrines but are “spiritual laws”. Our growth in the Spirit depends on how much spiritual substance or character we have.
- ◆ We need the “discerning of spirits”. But he who is spiritual judges (=discerns) all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. (1 Cor 2:15)
- ◆ Such a spiritual man is beyond human and soulish judging because he is a “mystery” to people. He lives in and from a different realm, the spiritual!
- ◆ Our minds might think like Jesus but without the Holy Spirit it still cannot produce “life” or fully comprehend the things of God.

2. THE MIND OF CHRIST

- ◆ We have the mind of Christ: For “who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?” But we have the mind of Christ. (1 Cor 2:16).
- ◆ This mind is not in our soul but in our spiritual life. It is gained both by being Born Again and by habitually abiding in the presence of the Lord.
- ◆ The unregenerate or carnal mind of man cannot receive the things of God (1 Cor 2:14), if they do try to hold these, it can only be done so by memorizing them in our minds, not our spirits.
- ◆ By abiding in the presence of the Lord we can begin to receive all He has for us. The fruit of this will show in the divine effect our words and actions leave behind us as a deposit.
- ◆ Jesus always left a supernatural effect and deposit.
- ◆ If we don’t have such an effect it means our soul is displacing Jesus. The mind sets itself up as “God” in the Temple of God. But if we walk in the Spirit we’ll never have failures.

3. BECOME A FATHER PLEASER 2 Cor. 5:9

- ◆ Jesus was a Father Pleaser (John 5:19 and 8:29).
- ◆ Since the Father is a spirit we cannot know Him except by the spirit and we cannot “see” Him except by spiritual eyes.
- ◆ Pleasing the Father is doing the things He shows us and saying the things He speaks to us (Jhn 5:19 compare Lk 2:49).
- ◆ Enoch’s testimony was that he pleased God: “for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.” (Heb. 11:5)
- ◆ Faith pleases God: “But without faith it is impossible to please Him “ (Heb 11:6)

- ◆ The flesh cannot please God: "So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God." (Rom 8:8).
- ◆ Jesus lost nothing even though He gave the Father all the glory! When we please the Father rather than ourselves we will in fact benefit much more than we can ever hope for.
- ◆ This is a spiritual secret that the spiritual man has learnt, to please the Father even to the hating of his own needs.

4. MIND OR SPIRIT?

- ◆ All our Knowledge and Learning cannot produce spiritual results. We can learn about truths but they won't work.
- ◆ If we don't learn how to distinguish (=divide) our soul and spirit, then our minds will play "God" and attempt to direct and control us.
- ◆ The mind / soul might even "talk like God" and sound "spiritual" but it won't be Him. Many Christians fall into deception about hearing the voice of God thinking He has spoken to them when in fact it's been their own soul "playing God".

5. EXPERIENCE BY THE SPIRIT

- ◆ It's with our spirit that we experience God. Growing up in Christ isn't simply about "learning" Biblical truths, but also experiencing them as a reality.
- ◆ During a message or sermon "lean forward in your spirit into" the teaching. Never become passive in your spirit-man.
- ◆ The Holy Spirit has much to say when listening to a preacher, teacher, etc. We should be able to draw 10 times more from the preacher than he's in fact saying, by the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ Learn to mix the Word with true Faith. This is not just an ability of the mind but of the spirit also: "but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. (Heb 4:2).
- ◆ The consequences of not doing this is that the Israelites died! There are drastic consequences when we don't live from the spirit.
- ◆ We grow through intimacy, both in the natural and spiritual realms. Intimate acts are done in a private, secret place. So too in the spiritual realm – intimacy with God is found in the secret place in the prayer closet (Matt 6:6).
- ◆ It's been said that "Living in the Spirit and living from our spirit-man is living and walking, saying and hearing, thinking and speaking, and working by faculties and senses that are non-existent in the natural man." Let's learn to exercise these spiritual senses (Heb 5:14).

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