

How Spiritual Are You? - 10/2/22

TEXT – 1 Corinthians 15:40-49 *There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.*

INTRO – Everyone can know that they have eternal life. 1 Jn. 5:11-13 *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

After a person receives Christ the next question is, “Now What?”

True salvation means that a saved person cannot lose their salvation, but the real question is, “Since I’m saved and can’t do anything about it I must be the best Christian I can be.”

2 Corinthians 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.*

Vines: Earnest in general usage came to denote "a pledge" or "earnest" of any sort in the NT it is used only of that which is assured by God to believers it is said of the Holy Spirit as the divine "pledge" of all their future blessedness. The first things a new believer should initiate are baptism, daily Bible reading, prayer, church attendance, and witnessing.

I. Many people are not spiritual

A. Lost people can be religious but not spiritual

1 Corinthians 2:14-15 *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. Saved people may or may not be spiritual

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 *And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. 2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. 3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?*

1. Corinthians were marked by division
2. Corinthians were proud
3. Corinthians tolerated sin
4. Corinthians were selfish

II. Some People Are Spiritual

Galatians 6:1-10 *Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. 3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. 4 But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. 5 For every man shall bear his own burden. 6 Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. 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. 9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. 10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*

III. The Marks of a Spiritual Christian

- **What are the marks of a spiritually healthy believer?**

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 *Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; 3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father; 4 Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God. 5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. 6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: 7 So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. 8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing. 9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; 10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.*

In **1 Thessalonians 1:6-10** we find Paul’s thanksgiving to God for spiritually healthy Christians. Paul gives an explicitly positive report to its members.

- A. They became imitators of the apostles and of the Lord.**

1 Thessalonians 2:14 *For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews:*

They became like their teachers, who themselves were imitating the Lord. In practice (not just through organic union with Christ) the Thessalonian Christians became Christ-like. That is to say, in thought, word and deed, their conduct was like their Saviour's.

B. They received the word with joy, even though they were afflicted for it. Reception of the Word with joy--until it bears fruit--is the mark of one who is imitating Christ. The Thessalonians received the Word of God joyfully knowing that it was their very life. They did so, even though they were persecuted for it.

C. They became an example to other Christians. Paul says "*So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.*" **1 Thess 1:7** Spiritually healthy Christians, without drawing attention away from Christ to themselves, set a good example for other believers to follow. **Ephesians 5:18-21** *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; 19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; 20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; 21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.*

D. They witnessed to the Word. Vs.7 "*For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad.*" The members of the church in Thessalonica could not contain their enthusiasm for evangelism. They had a sense that they *had* to declare the gospel. Healthy Christians do not just sit around debating the finer points of Scripture they actually tell others about it.

E. Their faith was evident. Paul explains, "*in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad;*" Spiritually healthy Christians are seen and known for the sincerity of their faith.

Colossians 1:9-10 *For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

F. They had a good reputation. Their reputation as a Christ-like church was well-known.

The church or the Christian can't always control what people think of them, but what a powerful witness it is to be known for being Christ-like.

G. They were separated from the world.

The Thessalonians were idolaters, presumably engaged in all that idolatry involved in those days; yet, they "turned" (they repented) from their sin, left it behind and sought-after God. Their conduct was a complete and drastic change. They previously served idols, they repented, and then they served the "living and true God." We cannot remain in our old sin and claim Christ as our Savior.

H. They lived in expectation. Paul says the Thessalonians "*wait[ed] for God's Son from heaven.*" Part of their vibrancy as Christians was the second coming of Christ. They knew they had been delivered from the "wrath to come" (vs 10) and wanted the same for others. They awaited Christ's coming with eagerness. Spiritually healthy Christians long for Jesus return, and conduct themselves in light of his coming.

CONCL – There are many marks of a Spiritual believer but the idea is that they are spiritually minded and the Holy Spirit is the driving force behind their behavior and every decision.