

# Biblical Spirituality



“ESTABLISH THY WORD TO THY SERVANT, AS THAT WHICH  
PRODUCES REVERENCE FOR THEE.” – PSALM 119:38

# Types of Spirituality

“Having the appearance of godliness but denying its power. Avoid such people” (2 Tim.3:5)

## Religious Spirituality

Legalistic Spirituality

Traditional Spirituality

Creedal Spirituality

Experiential Spirituality

Sensual Spirituality

## Contemporary Spirituality

New Age Spirituality

Mystical Spirituality

Contemplative Spirituality

Iconic Spirituality

Rational Spirituality



# BIBLICAL CONCEPT OF SPIRITUALITY


**“Not by might, nor by power, but by my  
Spirit, says the Lord of hosts” (Zec.4:6)**


*“NOT BY MIGHT NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT, SAYS  
THE LORD OF HOSTS.” ZECH 4:6*



# Pneumatic Christianity

CHRISTIAN LIFE LIVED IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- 
- ❖ **Holy Spirit-generated, empowered, controlled, and dominated Christian life.**
  - ❖ **Guided and led by the Spirit.**
  - ❖ **Fruit & Gifts of the Spirit.**



1. Pneumatikos (1 Cor. 12:1): “spirituals”, “spiritual things”, “spiritualities”, that which has spiritual characteristics/qualities, characterized by the Spirit, derived from the Spirit, Related to the Spirit, in the realm of the Spirit, under spiritual control.

2. Cannot be produced by the flesh, or artificial and carnal methods/means.

3. Related Concepts: “Fear of God”, “Piety”, “Godliness.”

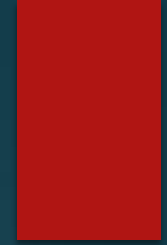
## 4. Religiosity vs. True Spirituality

5. *Spirituality* is more easily characterized than defined

6. A spiritual man belongs to the Spirit, depends on the Spirit, controlled by the Spirit, draws power from the Spirit, and lives by the Spirit

7. The Holy Spirit is preeminently involved in producing spirituality

# Spiritual Formation





# Distinctive Usage of “Spiritual” in the NT

1. The growth and maturing in Christian life – spiritual maturity.
2. Apostle Paul contrasts the *spiritual man* with the *natural man* who is an unbeliever; the one having not the Holy Spirit (1 Cor.2:14-15; Jude 19).
3. “He who is spiritual appraises all things” (1 Cor.2:15) – he can scrutinize, discern, sift, understand, grasp God’s truth. He can spiritually evaluate things.

# Distinctive Usage of “Spiritual” in the NT

4. Needs time, cannot be achieved overnight. It is a progressive journey.
5. Level of growth and maturity.
6. *Spiritual maturity* holds the key to the concept of spirituality in the NT

# Factors Involved in Spirituality

1. **Regeneration.**
2. **Determination.** A consistent and ongoing choice to surrender to the ministry of the Holy Spirit, leading to a Spirit controlled/filled/dominated/influenced and dependent life.
3. **Vision.** For spiritual priorities.

# Factors Involved in Spirituality

4. **Decision.** A choice we make to know and grow with intentional spiritual disciplines toward maturity.
5. **Duration.** Christian maturity is the growth which the Holy Spirit produces over a period of time in the believer.

# Definition of Christian Spirituality

1. Spirituality is spiritual maturity which the Holy Spirit produces in a believer over a period of time as he/she lives under His total control, resulting in transformed character, conduct, attitudes and priorities leading to Christlikeness.
2. “Spirituality arises from a creative and dynamic synthesis of faith and life forged into the crucible of desire to live out the Christian faith authentically, responsibly, effectively and fully” (*Alister McGrath*).

# Definition of Christian Spirituality

3. Our definition is based on the description of a spiritual man in 1 Cor.2:15. He experiences a grownup relation to the Holy Spirit and will be able to discern all things and at the same time will not be understood by others.
4. Most religions define their spirituality as a process of personal transformation in accordance with religious beliefs. It is the product of human effort.

# Other Dimensions of S. Theology



- ▶ Zoeology (Floyd H. Barackman, *Practical Christian Theology*)
- ▶ Israelology (Arnold Fruchtenbaum)

# Contemporary Relevance/Need

- ▶ Biblical Shepherdology (Poimenics)
- ▶ Exegesis – Exposition- Application
- ▶ Spirituality
- ▶ Religiosity vs. Spirituality
- ▶ Spiritual Formation



# Contemporary Relevance/Need

- ▶ Spiritual Growth
- ▶ Contemporary Spirituality
- ▶ Types of Spirituality (Contemplative, Mystical, Iconic, Rational etc).

# Spiritual Disciplines

- ▶ Disciplines of Abstinence
- ▶ Disciplines of Engagement



# V-I-M

▶ **V**ision

▶ **I**ntention

▶ **M**eans



# Three Types of Men (1 Cor.2-3)

- ▶ Psuchikos (soulish, natural)
- ▶ Sarkinos/sarkikos (carnal, fleshly)
- ▶ Pneumatikos (spiritual)



# Spiritual Man

- ▶ Belongs to the Spirit
- ▶ Depends on the Spirit
- ▶ Controlled by the Spirit
- ▶ Draws power from the Spirit
- ▶ Lives by the Spirit
- ▶ Produces the fruit of the Spirit



# Christ-likeness

## ▶ Eternal Purpose (Rom.8:29)

▶ *“Predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son...”*

## ▶ Historical Purpose (2 Cor.3:18)

▶ *“But we...are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory.”*

## ▶ Eschatological Purpose (1 Jn.3:2)

▶ *“When He appears, we shall be like Him because we shall see Him just as He is.”*

# Dedication (Rom.12:1-2)

- ▶ The subjection of my life to Jesus Christ as long as I live.
  - ▶ The **Basis** of Dedication: Redemption (“mercies of God”).
  - ▶ The **Area** of Dedication: “Your bodies.”

# Dedication (Rom.12:1-2)

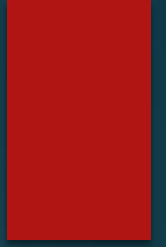
- ▶ The ***Components*** of Dedication:
  - Presentation
  - Separation
  - Transformation



# Dedication (Rom.12:1-2)

- ▶ The **Frequency** of Dedication:  
Decisive, once for all.
- ▶ The **Result** of Dedication:  
Recognition of the will of God (the knowing, doing, enjoying the will of God).

# Dedication (Rom.12:1-2)



**START**



Spiritual Journey

▶ Rededication or Restoration?

# Ten Questions to Diagnose Your Spiritual Health

1. Do you thirst for God?
2. Are you governed increasingly by God's Word?
3. Are you more loving?
4. Are you more sensitive to God's presence?

# Ten Questions to Diagnose Your Spiritual Health

5. Do you have a growing concern for the Spiritual and temporal needs of others?
6. Do you delight in the Bride of Christ?
7. Are the spiritual disciplines increasingly more important to you?

# Ten Questions to Diagnose Your Spiritual Health

8. Do you still grieve over sin?
9. Are you a quick forgiver?
10. Do you yearn for Heaven and to be with Jesus?

(Donald S. Whitney)