

SOME QUESTIONS (and answers, hopefully) ABOUT THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

1. How is the word spiritual used?

Of demons, Eph 6;12; Of the law, Rom. 7:14. Of the resurrection body, 1 Cor 15:44; Of some believers, 1 Cor 2:15. Of things related to spirit. For Xn emphasis on HS but true of whole person.

2. What does 1 Cor. 2:15 teach about spirituality?

Requires regeneration (cf. natural) and is in contrast to carnality, 3:1-4. Flesh=carnal. Babes, diapers, diet, 2; disturbance, 4

3. How many years between the founding of the church at Corinth and writing of 1 Cor.? 5.

4. What factors are involved in producing spirituality?

As expected, ministries of HS prominent Regeneration. Teaching, gifts, Eph 6:17 sword, pray in HS, 6:18. Time required for learning and discerning.

In one word, maturity, Heb 5:11-14. Knowledge of Word, Melchizedek. Practice righteousness so can discern (diakrino, distinguishes) (2:15 anakrino, examines and judges).

Filling of HS. Eph 5:18, control. 2 aspects: event of being overpowered by HS. (piplemi) Acts 2:4; 4:8, 31. State or character of being controlled (pleroo), Acts 6:3,5;13:52; Eph 5:18 en is both agent and content.

5. How define spirituality? A mature and maturing rel. or grown up and growing rel to HS.

6. What are some ramifications of the concept of maturity?

A new Christian can be filled with the Spirit but not yet spiritual

A long time Christian will not necessarily be spiritual.

Maturing implies stages and progress in growth.

Backsliding does not necessarily lose everything.

Spirituality and carnality can co-exist in a believer.

7. Does a believer have 2 natures?

On theological level. The Reformed view. No. "Grace is progressively extirpating the old nature now. Gradual extermination.. No perfection. Sanctification is automatic, guaranteed. BBW.

Emphasis on sovereignty of God accomplishing this. Includes to greater or lesser degree our human responsibility. "The sovereign God of the universe will develop you to maturity in His timing and your will has little to do with it." "We must not fall into the error of quietism and fail to take account of the activity of the believer himself" Murray.

On popular level. MacArthur 4/90. "It is a serious misunderstanding to think of yourself as having both an old and new nature. Means dual personality. Old nature dead. And buried. No carnal Xn. Eph 4:21-22. Not commands but statements of fact. "Old man has ceased to exist." Calls old our humanness. Rom 7:17 P specified what part of him was responsible,,the sin that dwelled in his flesh. 2 Cor 5:17 parenchyma, passed by, lose force.

Caution: whatever the source of sin and goodness, I do it.

8. What do some movements say about spirituality?

(1) Keswick. Sun, worship. M, sinfulness, T, God's provision. W, consecration. Th, Spirit filled life. Fri service. "Received the Keswick blessing." Almost let go and let God.

John Ortberg. "When you flourish ... you don't just become holier. You become you-ier. ,

(2) Spiritual mysticism. Richard Foster. Life with God: Reading the Bible for Spiritual

Transformation. 2008. 30 yrs ago wrote Celebration of Discipline introducing Xn mystics to evangelicals. Quaker. Bible study imp't but can become bibliolatry. Emphasizes spiritual formation by means of spiritual disciplines. Spiritual masters incl Ignatius, Wm Law, Gregory Gt. Dallas Willard, Aimee Semple McPerson, John Wimber, Rauschenbusch. Mother Teresa, Kierkegaard. Approach Bible and allow HS to speak beyond the written Word. Can achieve spiritual perfection. Others use and promote prayers of ch fathers.

(3) Be anointed. 1 Jn 2:27 received (a0r) abides (present).. For discernment not special power.

(4) Tongues. Like X without tongues.

8. How will spirituality be seen?

(1) in yourself, Heb 5 Word, discernmt. Thankfulness, Eph.:20. Character, Gal 5:22-23 re filling of HS.

(2) in church life. 1 Cor 3:4 no dissension (11:19). Gal 6:1. Gifts, Eph 4:12 perfecting (restore) no longer infants. 14 as 1 Cor 3:1 and Heb 5:13.

9. How do I nurture my spiritual life?

(1) Learn Word.

(2) Discernment. Worldliness=leaving God out. Name and work on 1 thing for a period of time. Use, abuse, 1 Cor 7:31. Enjoy, don't love, 1 Tim 6:17; 1 Jn 2:15. Involved, unspotted, 1 Cor 5:10; Jas 1:27.

(3) Pray without ceasing. 1 Thess 5:17. 2x in Thess + Rom 1:9.

10. What are some key verses and concepts relative to spirituality?

(1) Dedication, Rom 12:1-2 unfashionable, 1 Pet 1:14. Anything etc.

(2) Discipline, Rom 8:13

(3) Dependence, Gal 5:16. (2) and (3) have to work together

(4) Development, 1 Jn 1:7. Identify and work on one thing.

Fight is good sign.

11. How am I doing?