



The Mystery of Loving Spirituality

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Introduction:

Many people say they are spiritual. But what does that really mean? What does it mean to be spiritual and what is it that people are actually pursuing when they say they want to be spiritual? It comes down to two ways of looking at this. There's a spirituality that leads us to the source of all spirituality that is the real path that can help us fulfill that desire to have a reason behind our life and _____ in who we are and what we do.

There's another path that leads to emptiness, fear, confusion and hurting others. We need to be able to know real spirituality.

Section 1

How do we tell who is actually spiritual and who's not? Apostle Paul gave us some pointers.

- There is light; there is dark.
- You will be able to tell by the fruit of their lives.
 - Speech
 - Actions
 - Character
 - Values
- By looking at those things, you will be able to know the source of their spirituality.
- Speech
 - When using the term "God", we Christians have to define what we mean. A lot of people will use the term "God" to speak about their spirituality, but the "God that they're talking about is not the God who has revealed Himself in Scripture. You are not going to refuse to celebrate Jesus Christ as Lord—the only source of real _____ if you are truly being moved on by God.
- Actions
 - When the Spirit moves through someone, it causes an action to happen.
 - The people of Corinth were familiar with the "Oracles". Demons (gods) would take control of certain people and begin to speak out strategies, secrets, and other accurate communication. Paul

told them that they would not only be taken over by these demons, but they would actually have interaction with them.

- When it's the Spirit of God that's moving, it can look a lot of different ways, with different activities and manifestations as well as a lot of different things accomplished as well.

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work" (1 Corinthians 12:4-6).

- Some might have:
 - A Word of Wisdom
 - A Word of Knowledge
 - A Gift of Healing
 - A Gift of Miracles
 - Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues
 - Discernment (to recognize the spiritual source of any activity)
- They are all different, but all _____. It's about each part doing its part. This is true spirituality.
- All of these work together to accomplish the purposes of God.
- Character
 - The activity will always reflect His character.
 - The God who is love always reveals love.

Section 2

Love

- Love is the most important of all the spiritual activity we can do.
 - Spirituality without love is dangerous.
 - Love can wait.
 - Love is kind, it's good to others.
 - It doesn't envy.
 - It doesn't try to impress others.
 - It doesn't demand the best treatment.
 - ◇ It doesn't look down on others.
 - ◇ It takes to account how others feel and what they want.
 - ◇ Love let's others have their way.
 - ◇ Love doesn't get upset easily.
 - ◇ It refuses to _____ of what others did.
 - ◇ Love is never ok with sin, but it loves the truth.
 - ◇ It lets things go, keeps believing, expecting the best.

- All of the spiritual manifestations will disappear; Love Himself will become our whole reality. We will see Him face to face.
 - ◇ Until then, we need all the manifestations; they are important.
 - ◇ They are not the fullness. Jesus is. God is.
 - ◇ God is love.

- The kind of love that proves real spirituality is actually the character of God working its way out in those who are with Him.
 - ◇ People with this kind of spirituality look, act and talk just like Jesus.
 - ◇ Love is the high point of spirituality.

- To go after love also requires that we go after spiritual activity.
 - We should constantly seek spiritual power and spiritual encounters so that we can love well.
 - Love is about the other person.
 - We should be seeking how to help other people around us.
 - By comforting and encouraging others, we are helping them build their foundation so that they can live out the lives that they're intended to live out.
 - ◇ If someone is sick, we should seek out healing.
 - ◇ If we're in a group of people and someone is confused, love would require us to seek out understanding.

 - We should long to be used in the greater gifts—the most loving.
 - The source of someone's spirituality can be known by how they treat people.
 - Jesus loved sacrificially.

As we spend time with the God who is love, we encounter love. As we encounter His love for us, we will be moved to love Him. There's an interaction because He is the God of love.

John's question to you: Have you learned to love well?