

Danny Anderson
Being Spiritual, week 1

All people are Spiritual beings.

- “God is Spirit...” - John 4:24

True Spirituality is a matter of another reality.

- “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” - Matthew 4:17
- “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” - John 3:3
- “The ‘spirituality’ that comes from Jesus is nothing less than an invasion of natural human reality by a supernatural life from above.” - Dallas Willard
- “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.” - John 6:47
- Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. - 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

What is the problem?

Most of our lives are not under the direction of the Spirit.

- But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? - 1 Corinthians 3:1-3

So what do we do?

- We must learn how to live in the Kingdom of God.
- It means that we must surrender to the leadership of the Spirit.

- But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. - Galatians 5:16-17

- Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. - Romans 6:13

- “...I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.” - John 5:30

The results are nothing short of miraculous.

- But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control... - Galatians 5:22-23
- “That life will be poised to become a life of the same quality as Christ’s because it indeed is Christ’s. He really does live on in us.” - Dallas Willard
- For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. - Galatians 6:8

Father, today I surrender all of me to the leadership of your Spirit. Take my hands and feet, eyes and ears, my mind and mouth, my legs and arms, my fingers and my toes, and use them for your purposes in this world. I am not my own. I yield to your Spirit.

WEEKLY BIBLE READING			
One Year New Testament	SUNDAY Hebrews 9:1-10	MONDAY Hebrews 9:11-28	TUESDAY Hebrews 10:1-18
This Week →	November 8	November 9	November 10
WEDNESDAY Hebrews 10:19-39	THURSDAY Hebrews 11:1-16	FRIDAY Hebrews 11:17-31	SATURDAY Hebrews 11:32-12:13
November 11	November 12	November 13	November 14
WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE: ROMANS 6:13			

FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

1. New research shows that one of every five Americans say they are spiritual, but not religious. What do you think this research reveals? How do you think the average American would describe a spiritual person?

READ John 3:1-12. According to this passage, when does true spirituality begin? Briefly share when this happened in your own life.

Do you think it is possible for a person to be “spiritual” but not be “born-again?” Why or why not? Is it possible for someone to be “born-again” but not be “spiritual”? Why or why not?

2. READ 1 Corinthians 3:1-3. Paul describes the readers of this letter as being “in Christ”, but not as “spiritual people”. What was missing from their spiritual journey that would cause Paul to feel this way?

READ Galatians 5:16-17. How does this passage describe our natural cravings and desires? READ Romans 6:12-14. What does it mean for us to “present” or “give” ourselves to God? What does this look like for you on a practical, day-to-day level?

3. Danny said, “To live in the Kingdom of God means I have surrendered my personality, thoughts, hopes, appetites, and motivations to the leadership of the Spirit.” READ Galatians 5:19-21. What are the things from this list that you find almost impossible to surrender to the leadership of the Holy Spirit? How do they come out in your everyday life? What are some ways you have attempted to deal with these issues in the past? How do you think your life would change if the Holy Spirit was in charge?

4. Being spiritual is not something you do – it is something you become. READ Galatians 5:22-25. Where do you see evidence of spiritual fruit the Holy Spirit has begun to “blossom” in you? What old parts of your sinful nature would you say are “dead and buried?”

READ Galatians 6:8. How will you be intentional about “sowing to the Spirit” so you can surrender to the Holy Spirit’s leadership this week?

