

Session 5: You are spiritual (the Spirit of God) – Romans 8, pt1 (our mind, power, walk)

1. Introduction

- a. What does it mean to be spiritual? Religious practice, self-exploration? Can it be w/o the Spirit?
- b. [\(Barna, 2010\)](#) *Spiritual Maturity* – pastors/people struggle to define what it is (10% Paul's letters)
- c. Pauline Stats: "(S)pirit", 25%; "spiritual" 98% of all Biblical refs; "Spirit" 64x (19x, Romans 8)
- d. [\(Pew RLS, 2017\)](#) 27% ID as "*spiritual but not religious*" most leaving church questioning teachings

2. Discerning Spiritual & Natural Beings

- a. God is Spiritual. Father (Jn4:23-24); Son (1Cor15:45); Spirit of truth (Jn15:26) & angels (Ps104:4)
- b. God's word is Spiritual. Able to quicken, instruct & perfect (Jn6:63; Heb4:12; 2Tim3:16)
- c. Worship is spiritual. God intends man to worship him in spirit & truth (Rom1:25; Phil3:3)
- d. But does belief in God, reading his word & worship make someone "spiritual"? A: No. (Rom8:9)
- e. Man has a spirit. The inner man; but it is blind, ignorant, disobedient, dead (Eph2:1-3; 1Cor2:11)
- f. Natural man's problem. He's *in the flesh* walking after the flesh (1Cor2:11,14; Rom8:9; Eph4:17)
- g. Receipt of the Spirit. Not by Ac2:38, but faith in the gospel of Christ (Rom1:16; Eph1:13; Gal3:2)
 - i. Spiritual man. His dead spirit is made alive = now *quicken*ed (Eph2:1; Col2:13)
 - ii. He now has two natures & a war on his hands (Gal5:17; Cf. 1Cor3:1; Eph4:30; 1Ths5:19)

3. Being Spiritual (Romans 8) – The Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ

- a. Q: If I walked before in Adam, how do walk now in Christ? What do I do/think? How do I live?
- b. "Self-exploration" is not of the flesh (2Cor5:16), but in the Spirit of who you now are (2Cor5:17)
- c. Walk def. ~ Who you're in (position), after (mind) = working through (power) – flesh or Spirit?
- d. Rom 8 is the foundation stone of *being (S)piritual* def. ~ Living by the one good thing in you
- e. By the law of the Spirit (8:1-8). Not the NT law (Eze36:27), but Christ in you (Col1:27)
 - i. Life w/o Christ, his right. & power is unjustified (Rom4:25; 2Cor5:21; 1Tim3:16)
 - ii. You mind (his things), walk (after him), & live (by him) in Christ, **not the flesh (Gal3:3)**
- f. He leads you (8:14-16,26). Not by feeling, under law, but Christ crucified (Gal5:18; 1Cor2:1-16)
 - i. Intercedes. He reveals, teaches, w/ his words, acc. to his will, not ours (Rom8:26-27)
 - ii. Course corrects. You're on a dead-end road & need direction (Eph2:1-3; 4:17-19)
 - iii. Assesses Strength. You're weak & need to be strong (Rom5:6; 8:3; 14:1; 15:1; Eph3:16)
 - iv. Matures. You're carnal & need to grow up (Gal3:3; 1Cor3:1; Eph4:13-15; 1Cor13:11-13)
 - i. Discernment. You need to judge spirit things: flesh/Spirit, law/grace (2Cor4:16-18; 5:7)
 - v. Unites. You need a pattern, path & trajectory (Eph4:3,13; Tim1:16; 1Cor14:37; Phil3:13)
 - vi. Stablishes. In the faith, acc. to the mystery of Christ (Rom1:11; 16:25; Eph1:17; 3:6,16)
- g. He fills you (8:6,27-28). Not Pentecost (Mk13:11; Ac2:4; 1Jn2:20,27), but Eph5:18 & Col1:8-9
 - i. (Rom14:17) Drink, eat, chew his words, be nourished (1Cor12:13; Phil4:8; 1Tim4:6; 6:3)
 - ii. Quality. Deep, full & enlarging (1Cor2:10; Eph3:19; 4:13; Col1:9; 2Cor6:11-13)
- h. He moves you (8:10-13). Not in fear, but by his power of renewal (2Tim1:7; Eph4:21-24; Gal5:25)
 - i. This is the worthy walk by faith: knowledge, wise, circumspect (Col1:8-11; Eph5:15-17)
 - ii. You know the Spirit's course, strength & walk accordingly (Rom12:1-2; 2Cor12:18)
- i. He gives fruit (8:27). You reap from him in you (Gal5:22; 6:8; 1Ths2:13; Phlm1:6; Eph4:16)
- j. He conforms you (8:29). In the end & by a renewed mind, the mind of Christ (2Cor3:18; Col3:10)

4. Conclusion

- a. We are made spiritual by virtue of the Spirit in us – He leads, fills & conforms acc. to his will
- b. Being *made* spiritual & *walking after* the Spirit is different; one is God's work, the other, choice
- c. In order to grow spiritually, we need to take the time to explore the Spirit's things, not the flesh
- d. Minding his things, rightly divided, allows his words/will/power to work in us by faith (Phil2:13)
- e. God give us the spirit of wisdom & revelation in the knowledge of him (Eph1:17-20; Rom8:16)