

Covington Family News

August 17, 2025

What Does It Mean to Be Spiritual?

It is rather popular in our day for a person to be “spiritual.” One might ask, “What does it mean to be spiritual?” The answer(s) to that question will vary from person to person. If you ask the “experts,” you will find that being a spiritual person could involve anything from practicing yoga to caring for animals. It might also involve loving the planet, daily meditation, and loving yourself. It seems there is no general consensus among the “spiritual advisors” about what is involved in being spiritual. However, there is one thing upon which the experts agree—being spiritual does not involve a belief in the Bible. In fact, some seem to have an agenda to separate faith in the Bible and spirituality. In their writings, those who push this agenda warn: “Believing in the Bible and going to church do not make a person spiritual.” In fact, some imply that faith in the Bible and attending church services are hindrances to “true” spirituality. Being “spiritual” is considered as being “cool,” enlightened, sophisticated, and modern; believing the teachings of the Bible and going to church services are for those who are “religious” at best and ignorant at worst. But consider this. Why is there no agreement among the “experts” about the definition of a spiritual person? It seems to me that there is no agreement among them because there is no objective standard being used to determine what it means to be spiritual. In the absence of an objective standard, one person may claim that being spiritual is “becoming one with nature,” and another person might claim that it means to do yoga exercises. In essence, being “spiritual” is defined individually and is based on nothing more than fallible human opinion.

It is at this point that Christians have an advantage in defining true spirituality because the Christian has an authoritative standard, the Bible. The Bible has a lot to say about being spiritual: “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted” (Galatians 6:1). “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace” (Romans 8:6). According to the Bible, a spiritual person is one who “sows to the Spirit” (Galatians 6:7-9), lays up “treasure” in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21), and sets his affections on things above (Colossians 3:2). A spiritual person, therefore, focuses on the value of souls, and salvation from sin. Let the “experts” say what they will, but, true spirituality is defined by God, not by men. Are you spiritual?

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BulletinDigest.com



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SERVING THIS WEEK 8/17/25 AM Worship Service

Announcements Ken Bringle Jr.
Song Leader: Jimmy McMahan
Sermon Wayne Dalrymple

Presiding Over the Lord's Table:

Head: Hadley Mason
Garrett Howard, Jon McCain, Craig Robinson, Robert Brownlee, Donnie Benjamin, Ken Mason, Myles Benjamin, Gordon Cartwright
Opening Prayer: Robert Charnock
Closing Prayer: Robert Brownlee

Nursery Worker: Teri Robinson

Attendance Card Collectors: (8/17)
Levi Teems, Houston Davis, Kyle McCain

Bus Driver (8/17 & 8/20)

Terry Wall

August Door Greeters:

Main Lobby Entrance: Alan & Debbie Otts
Auditorium Entrance: Brad & Becky Evins

PM Worship Service

Youth Led Service

Mid-Week Bible Study August 20

Song Leader: Jimmy McMahan
Opening Prayer: David Keith
Closing Prayer: Alan Otts
Speaker: Jermal Blanchard

Sunday Bible Classes	165
Worship AM	222
PM	123
Wednesday Bible Study	167

VISITORS ARE OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

David & Erin Howard	Prattville, AL
Cyril & Jamie Roethlisberg	Atoka, TN
Alexis Armstrong	Atoka, TN
Cindy Randle	Antioch, TN
Canon Posey	

Covington Church of Christ
1690 Highway 51 South – PO Box 9
Covington, TN 38019

Schedule of Services

SUNDAY

Bible Classes 9:00AM

Worship 10:00AM & 5:30PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes 7:00 PM

Mike’s Message

Annual Leadership Retreat

Leadership retreats are extremely valuable in the corporate world and also in churches. At the top of my values for leadership retreats is communication. Communication is the weakest aspect in most churches. The lack of effective communication hinders church work because people are unaware of the work of others to reach the common goals. Leadership retreats can help break down the barriers to effective communication so that we all understand our roles. A second value for leadership retreats is to help with understanding boundaries, i.e., what is my job? Leadership retreats provide opportunities to ask and learn how one deacon’s job reflects and overlaps with the work of others. Working together toward a common goal is essential for a church to grow and positively influence the community. Another purpose of leadership retreats is to set goals and plan a strategy to meet those goals. Through a common approach, every deacon will have an idea for how they can work to reach the goal through their ministry. Another value for leadership retreats is building positive relationships that result in better unity, cohesiveness, and harmony within the church. The more time we spend together focusing on a common goal, the closer we become. The closer elders, deacons, and ministers are, the closer the church will be, because positivity and unity will spread like soft butter on hot toast through the congregation. Having laid the foundation for the value of leadership retreats, all deacons, elders, and ministers of the Covington church are **STRONGLY** encouraged to be present for our “Leadership Retreat” on September 5th and 6th at Pinson Mounds Archaeological Park located at 460 Ozier Rd, Pinson, TN 38366. The elders will go on Thursday evening and use Friday to set up. Deacons may arrive at any time on Friday. We will have a meal prepared for Friday evening. **You will need to bring bedding.** We will develop a theme for 2026, discuss what has worked in 2025 and what has not, give every person an opportunity to be heard, and plan our work, which will help us plan our budget. Every member of this congregation is vital to the work of God in this place. Your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions are valuable. We hope every deacon will plan or even change plans to be at this meeting. P.S. We will share some news that we want you to know first.

--Your Elders

Prayer List

Bear Phillips—Children’s LeBonheur, neonatal unit
Patsy Moore—Recovering from surgery
Elaine Watkins
Bobby White
LaVerne Baxter
Rita Benjamin—Received good test results
Jeremy Pierce—Baptist East, cousin of Brenda Mason, recovering from surgery
Laura Craft—Health problems
Joseph Little – Friend of the Mason family
Larry Newman
Israel, Our Country, Our Missionaries, Flood Victims, Heath Billings, Heather Bowner, Captain Mike Shipley, Georgia Cook, Steve Cook, Jeff Cooper, Larry Coughlan, Kenneth Coulston, Alan Davis, Jason Elliott, Malissa Garner, Kay Gatlin, Pat Gatlin, K.C. Haynes, Helen Kennedy, Kathy McMahan, Stan McDevitt, Phyllis McLillie, Judy Merritt, Gigi Miller, Dorothy Morris, Sophie Nolan, Larry Osbourne, Randy Rhoads, Bonita Rogers, Tim Scott, Upton Shelton, Donna Sonwineski, David South, Clint Stacks, Paulette Watkins, Larry Whaley II, Michael Wyatt
NURSING HOME: Covington Care: Shirley Laxton, Cynthia Wilson
Ripley Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center: Vicki Mayfield
MILITARY: Killian Bridgeman, Logan Bridgeman, Major Creel, Brad Evins, Dayana Fendley, Tanner Mason, Chris Nowak, Michael J. Pena, Jedidiah Phillips, Jacob Sampson, Parker Speight, Isaac Stewart
SYMPATHY
We extend our deepest sympathy to Jeremy Leonard in the death of his aunt, *Linda Sue Clark*.

DIAPER SHOWER



In lieu of a baby boy shower, a table has been set up in the foyer for diapers/wipes honoring *John & Hannah Moody*.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE AUGUST 17-23

- August 17 – Isaiah 43-45
- August 18 – Isaiah 46-48
- August 19 – Isaiah 49-51
- August 20 – Isaiah 52-54
- August 21 – Isaiah 55-57
- August 22 – Isaiah 58-60
- August 23 – Isaiah 61-63

Calendar of Events

AUGUST EVENTS

- 13 – Summer Series; Speaker: Tim Alsup
- 16 – Birthday Party at Magnolia Creek Nursing Home
- 17 - Devotional at Covington Care, 3PM
- 18 - Monday Night for the Master, Group 3
- 20 - Summer Series; Speaker: Jermal Blanchard
- 25 - Monday Night for the Master, Group 4
- 27 –Devotional/Worship in song

There will be an Ice Cream/Dessert party, Sunday, August 24 after the PM Worship Service. Bring your favorite homemade ice cream and/or dessert.

**** September 5-6—Elders, Deacons, & Minister’s Retreat***

COLLEGE STUDENTS

Abby Edmonds—Freed-Hardeman University
Eason Robinson—Ole Miss
Garrett Howard—Christian Brothers University
Braxton Brown—University of Memphis
Chloe Coughlan—University of Memphis
Emma Matlock—Austin Peay State University
Addie Kidd—University of Tennessee-Martin
Adisyn Whaley—University of Tennessee-Martin
Leah Max—Arkansas State University
Lauron Chaney—University of Mississippi
Noah Maxwell—University of North Alabama
Scholarships from Covington church of Christ have been awarded to:

Eric Keith—Harding University
Carmen Starck—Harding University
Melea Edmonds—Freed-Hardeman University
Brandon Stacks—Freed-Hardeman University
Isabella Stacks—Freed-Hardeman University
Anna Kate Dalrymple—Freed-Hardeman University
Case Maxwell—Freed-Hardeman University
Joshua Evins—Freed-Hardeman University

AUGUST YOUTH EVENTS

- 24 – Middle/High School Devo
- 30 – CIA Beach Day

BIRTHDAYS -AUGUST 17-23



- 17—Donnie Benjamin
- 19—Marley Maness
- 21—Kaitlyn McCain

ANNIVERSARIES

- 22—Tracy & Tricia Speight
- 23—Alan & Debbie Otts

Carpenter’s Apprentice

When the doctors came in and said, “We can no longer maintain both his blood pressure and proper oxygen saturation with the equipment we have, we need to transfer him.” The “OK” came quickly. They loaded him into a life saving bubble, took him to see his momma and drove off to a better more equipped NICU. They said, “Give us a couple hours and you can come see him.” To pass the time, his brothers and I visited the Build-a-Bear Workshop for the first time ever. They picked out a big fluffy white bear, put green scrubs on it and named it Doc Jed. Doc Jed sat with his new owner in the NICU as a reminder of how much he was loved. It made sense to me for Jennifer and I to visit the Workshop again last week. If you have never been, the shop has a whole lot of “skins” for you to choose from then an associate will take you to the filling machine and you can watch as they put in the stuffing. When the stuffed animal has the right amount of stuffing, customers are asked to pick out one of the hearts to place inside the toy. Each associate says something different, some say, “Just put the heart in here,” while pointing to the small opening. Ours said, “Take that heart and rub it on his ears so he will have a heart for listening. Rub it on his head so he will have a heart for learning. Rub it on his arms so he will have a heart for serving and rub it on his back so he will always have yours.” Jennifer asked if I was crying. I said in a deep, manly voice, “Yep.” I wish training the heart were that easy! So much of our time is spent on the outside, the cute clothes, bows and outfits; we paint the nursery and buy changing stations and fancy beds. Grandparents take and show pictures while bragging on their beauty and perfect eyes, ears, smile and nose. They have ten fingers and they have ten toes. We plan big one year birthday celebrations and as they get older, we sacrifice for the best teams, best equipment, best cars and best schools. We want them to fit in; we want them to be cool. I couldn’t help but think, it’s the outside we’re addressing and to often the inside is empty and depressing. It’s not by intention but none the less, often the truth. We sometimes fail to equip our children with a heart of service, a heart for learning, of listening and understanding. But in the words of Jesus, “The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart” (Luke 6:45). Let us commit to **training hearts** and “be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit” (1 Peter 3:8-9).

-jeff