

Principles on Spirituality

Definition:

1. Spirituality is a term that refers to the filling of the Holy Spirit but whose meaning escapes far too many in Christendom and must be defined.
2. Most systems of pseudo spirituality are associated with legalism emerging from flawed interpretations of Scripture.
3. Legalism emerges from poor exegesis from pulpits and gladly adopted by parishioners who suffer from the blindness of self-righteousness and expressed by self-justification.

The tragic flaw of such a system is the over-emphasis on self.

4. Self must be removed from one's evaluation of Scripture and concentration must be focused on what the Holy Spirit illuminates in the categories of spiritual phenomena.
5. The biblical meaning of spirituality is based on grace and is totally dependent upon the ministries of the Holy Spirit.
6. The filling of the Holy Spirit is accomplished by the grace provision of confession alone to God alone which takes the position that personal sin is an impediment to spirituality.
7. Where human sin is evident, the Bible encourages the believer to take corrective measures:

Ephesians 5:18 - Do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation [resulting in personal decline mentally, morally, & physically due to addiction to "spirits"], but be filled [πληρώω (*plērōō*): fully possessed & influenced] with the Spirit.

8. The distracting sin in this example is drunkenness from over-imbibing in “spirits.” The recovery is to sober up and then rebound to reacquire the filling of the Holy Spirit which takes us to 1 John 1:9.
9. Once done, the believer is in fellowship with the Holy Spirit:

Philippians 2:1a - If there is any encouragement in Christ; if there is any comfort from love; if there is partnership with the Spirit [**the filling of the Spirit**] ...

10. The believer is spiritual when the Holy Spirit controls the soul inside the bubble. He is carnal when outside the bubble under the control of the sin nature.
11. Without the filling of the Holy Spirit, the believer cannot experience the copacetic spiritual life: no contentment, no personal sense of destiny, no occupation with Christ, no tranquility of the soul.