

## Becoming Spiritual is Critical for the Believers Survival

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A good rule of thumb is this – when it comes to religious ideology ... Whatever you have been taught in the past doctrinally ... The opposite is probably closer to the truth – especially when it comes to becoming a spiritual son of the living God ... This is not a criticism – but a natural reality ... It is the innate nature of man to “humanize” spiritual truths – through intellectual means – in order to make spiritual matters – comprehensible to their natural mind ... Even though we all know:

### Isaiah 55:8-9 The Voice

Eternal One: My intentions are not always yours, - and I do not go about things as you do. ... 9  
My thoughts and My ways are above and beyond you, - just as heaven is far from your reach here on earth.

Man’s desire to intellectually comprehend the things of the spirit – seem to supersede this well-known verse ... Always be aware of this natural inclination ... If you don’t – you will easily fall into the trap of leaning upon your own understanding.

### Proverbs 3:5 Easy-to-Read Version

Trust the Lord completely, - and don’t depend on your own knowledge. ... *(trust the Lord completely; don’t ever trust yourself.)*

So, the first principle – we all must be aware of – and be diligent at working upon in our life – so that we may become a true child of God is:

### Principle #1 Be on Guard against any Ideology that is contrary to the Word of God

#### Proverbs 4:23 Expanded Bible

Be careful what you think [Above all that you guard, protect your heart], ... because your thoughts run your life [life flows from it].

Be careful of the information you consume ... Be choosy when it comes to those you allow to speak into your life ... Take all the information you receive and seek discernment from the Holy Spirit as to its validity ... Now, if incorrect information has crept into your soul

### **2 Corinthians 10:3-5 New Life Version**

It is true; we live in a body of flesh. But we do not fight like people of the world. ... 4 We do not use those things to fight with that the world uses. ... We use the things God gives to fight with and they have power. ... Those things God gives to fight with destroy the strong-places of the devil. ... 5 We break down every thought and proud thing that puts itself up against the wisdom of God. ... We take hold of every thought and make it obey Christ.

I have been sharing with you for weeks now this issue of ideology ... When I shared with you – how to destroy imbedded ideologies ... I heard a comment made – “Well – it is easier said than done” ... That is an interesting comment – as I have heard many people use that statement when dealing with many issues concerning change ... Are you hearing me? ... Let me ask you – Who told you – “It is easier said than done?” ... Who programmed that demonic lie into your heart? ... When you get confronted with change – why is that your go to response? ... See that response is a deceptive thought that rises itself up against the very word of God.

### **Philippians 4:13 Amplified Bible**

**I can do all things** [which He has called me to do] through Him who strengthens and empowers me [to fulfill His purpose—I am self-sufficient in Christ’s sufficiency; I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses me with inner strength and confident peace.]

### **John 8:31-32 New Living Translation**

Jesus said to the people who believed in him, ... “You are truly my disciples - - if you remain faithful to my teachings. ... 32 And you will know the truth, - - and the truth will set you free.”

So – let’s work this passage backwards ... The truth is designed to set you free ... If you are still bound {or believe “it is easier said than done” – which indicates you are still bound} ...

This indicates you do not know the truth because you are not remaining faithful to Jesus' teaching ... You are listening to "other voices" ... Believing those other voices ... Which in turn your "it is easier said than done" belief is indicating God is the liar and those "other voices" are true ... Whenever you believe the "other voices" over the word of God – you are in danger of:

### **Revelation 22:18-19 New King James Version**

For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, - God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; ... 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, - God shall take away his part from the - Book of Life, - from the holy city, - and from the things which are written in this book.

This is a great segway into our next principle about becoming a child of God

### **Principle #2 Understanding the Operations and Protocols of the Spirit Realm**

Let's look at the issue of prayer ... How many sermons have been preached on prayer? ... How many bible studies have been taught about prayer? ... How many books have been written on prayer? ... What is one of the biggest struggle believers have is in this area of prayer ... Let me get this out of the way here ... We all have been taught religious ideologies concerning prayer ... Let's get down and dirty for a few minutes:

### **John 14:13-14 The Voice**

Whatever you ask for in My name, - I will do it - so that the Father will get glory from the Son. ... 14 Let Me say it again: - if you ask for anything in My name, - I will do it.

### **Matthew 18:19-20 New Century Version**

"Also, I tell you - that if two of you on earth agree about something - and pray for it, - - - it will be done for you - by my Father in heaven. ... 20 This is true - because if two or three people come together in my name, - I am there with them."

If this truly was the case – then every prayer meeting called by the church would be so well attended that there would be standing room only ... Case in point – our prayer and worship time

this month had three in attendance ... I have not announced this in a long time now but you can show up early for service for a time of prayer.

### **Mark 11:17 New Life Version**

He taught them saying, - - “Is it not written, - ‘My house is to be called a house of prayer for all the nations’? ... You have made it a place of robbers.”

So – where is the disconnect? ... All those sermons – bible studies – books on prayer – yet we do not see the realities of the scriptures occurring in our life ... Religious ideology which has led to a violation of spiritual protocols has left many dry and frustrated ... Know what is interesting? ... There is this guy in Acts 10 named Cornelius ... He is not born again nor filled with the Holy Ghost ... I’m sure he has not listened to hundreds of sermons on prayer nor attended innumerable bible studies on the subject ... I’m sure his book shelf is not filled with books on prayer ... Yet – he caught God’s attention to the place where God sent an angel to him in response to his prayer

### **Acts 10:1 New Living Translation**

In Caesarea there lived a Roman army officer named Cornelius, who was a captain of the Italian Regiment.

### **Acts 10:2-4 Expanded Bible**

Cornelius was a ·religious [pious; godly] man. ... He and all ·the other people who lived in his house [his household] ·worshiped the true God [feared God; “God-fearers” were Gentiles who worshiped the one true God of Israel]. ... He gave much of his money to ·the poor [or the Jewish people; the people] and prayed to God often. ... 3 ·One afternoon about three o’clock [About the ninth hour of the day], Cornelius clearly saw a vision. ... An angel of God came to him and said, “Cornelius!” ... 4 Cornelius stared at the angel. ... He ·became afraid [was terrified] and said, “What do you want, ·Lord [or sir]?” ... The angel said, “·God has heard your prayers. ... He has seen that you give to the poor, and He remembers you [Your prayers and your alms have gone up to God as a memorial/memorial offering].

### **Acts 10:22 Good News Translation**

22 “Captain Cornelius sent us,” they answered. “He is a good man who worships God and is highly respected by all the Jewish people. ... An angel of God told him to invite you to his house, so that he could hear what you have to say.”

### Acts 10:25 Common English Bible

25 As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in order to honor him.

**How did Cornelius – who was never trained in this doctrine of prayer – attract God’s attention?**

### He Feared and Worshipped God vs 2

### Hebrews 12:28-29 New Living Translation

28 Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshipping him with holy fear and awe. ... 29 For our God is a devouring fire.

### John 4:24 New Living Translation

For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

### He was financially generous to God’s people v2

### Acts 10:2 Amplified Bible

A devout man and one who, along with all his household, feared God. ... **He made many charitable donations to the Jewish people**, and prayed to God always.

### 1 John 3:17 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

But if anyone has this world’s goods (resources for sustaining life) and sees his brother and fellow believer in need, yet closes his heart of compassion against him, how can the love of God live and remain in him?

### He Prayed Often v2

### 2 Timothy 1:3 New King James Version

I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayer's night and day,

### **1 Thessalonians 5:17 New Living Translation**

Never stop praying.

### **He was a man of Honor**

### **Acts 10:25 Common English Bible**

As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in order to honor him.

### **Catch this by the Spirit Acts 10:4**

The angel said, "God has heard your prayers. ... He has seen that you give to the poor, and He remembers you [Your prayers and your alms have gone up to God as a memorial/memorial offering].

### **Ephesians 5:1-3 New Living Translation**

Imitate God, therefore, - in everything you do, - because you are his dear children. ... 2 Live a life filled with love, - following the example of Christ. ... He loved us and offered Himself as a sacrifice for us, - - **a pleasing aroma to God**. ... 3 Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people.

### **Psalms 141 Contemporary English Version**

I pray to you, Lord! ... Please listen when I pray and hurry to help me. ... 2 Think of my prayer as sweet-smelling incense, - and think of my lifted hands as an evening sacrifice.

### **Philippians 4:18 NCV**

And now I have everything, and more. ... I have all I need, - because Epaphroditus brought your gift to me. ... It is like a sweet-smelling sacrifice offered to God, - who accepts that sacrifice - and is pleased with it.