

# **CSM**

Student Notes

## ***The Spiritual Life***

## THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

God **did not** just save us from sins and to eternal life but He also saved us unto Himself in a special spiritual relationship.

### **Gods' purpose for man was fourfold:**

1. Relationship
2. Character
3. Function
4. Reproduction

The "Spiritual Life" is the earthly expression of that special relationship to God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

- Salvation is more than escaping "hell" and being with Christ after we die.
- It is also living our earthly lives in a manner which pleases God and is worthy of Him.

#### **Colossians 1:10**

that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

We are called to live godly, righteous lives in the midst of an ungodly sinful world and thus glorify God.

The Apostle Paul divided the whole human race into three groups:

### **1. The "natural" man. – The unsaved and un-spiritual.**

The natural man cannot accept or understand things of God.

1Cor.2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

2. **The “Carnal man - The saved man.** Who is carnal, fleshly, and immature.

The danger of being carnal is that we can be born-again by God’s Spirit (Justified) and yet spend 90 percent of our time in the soulish or fleshly realm.

### **A great example of this is with the nation of Israel.**

In the great deliverance from Egypt ( a type of the world)

Israel was saved by:

1. The Blood of the sacrificial lamb.
2. Water baptism by the sea.
3. The Spirit: The pillar of Cloud by day and fire by night.

But they were a very carnal people.

- However, the wilderness was a transition for them.
- They were covered,
- taught and led by the Spirit.

### **Carnal Christians will not produce any real godly fruit.**

*John 6:63 Jesus said... "It is the Spirit who gives life; **the flesh profits nothing.***

### **Carnal Christians. . .**

- Quench the power of God from coming forth through their lives, in so during hindering the Spirit,
- They also hinder the salvation in others.
- They give a false impression of what a true Christian is really like.
- They can actually become stumbling blocks to passing along the true gospel because non-believers look at them and say, *“Hey! If that’s a Christian, I want no part of it,*

### **3. The “spiritual” man. Is spiritually minded, godly and mature.**

The spiritual man (Individual) is one who is...

- Filled by the Spirit
- Led by the Spirit
- Walks in the Spirit.
- The spiritual man has the ability to understand and receive a certain body of Truth.
- Things revealed by the Spirit. Corinthians 2:9-3:4

#### **Scripture speaks of. . .**

1. Those who “abide in Christ” and those who “abide not.”
2. Those who are “walking in the Light” and those who “walk in darkness”
3. Those who “walk in the Spirit” and those who “walk as men”.
4. Those who “walk in the newness of life” and those who “walk after the flesh”.
5. Those who are “spiritual” and those who are “carnal.”
6. Those who are “filled” with the Spirit and those “who are not.”

All this has to do with the quality of daily life of saved people.

- There is the possibility of a great transition for those who are carnal into the reality of true spiritual living.
- But this transition is only for serious and earnest believers who are faithfully seeking to honor God in their daily life.

For these who yield and rely on God's strength rather than their own, will find...

- Peace
- Power
- Blessings
- And will experience a greater manifestation of the presence and power of His Spirit.

### **This is being “FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT”.**

*2Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed** into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

### **What is the difference between the. . .**

1. Baptism of the Holy Spirit/ Ghost.
2. The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
3. Being Filled with the Spirit.

### **There are three terms used in Scripture relative to the Holy Spirit.**

#### **1. Baptize with the Holy Ghost.**

Matt. 3:11; He shall baptize with the Holy Ghost.

Mark 1:8; He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

Luke 3:16; He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

#### **2. Indwelling of the Spirit**

**John 14:17** Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and **shall be in you.**

**Roman 8:9-10** But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that **the Spirit of God dwell in you.** Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

**I Cor. 3:16** Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

### **3. Being Filled with the Spirit.**

Luke 1:5; Luke 1:41; Luke 1:67; Acts 2:4; Acts 4:8; Acts 4:31; Acts 9:17; Acts 13:9. **Ephesians 5:18 Be filled with the Spirit.**

### **The Baptism of the Holy Spirit/Ghost**

1. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost/ Spirit is the baptism into the body of Christ.

Paul said: By one Spirit are we all baptized into one body. 1 Cor. 12:13; Rom. 6:3

2. We are baptized into that one body for Service.

### **The Symbol of Water Baptism verses Spirit Baptism.**

- Water baptism is an outward symbol of an inner spiritual regeneration.
- Water baptism symbolized the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

#### **Romans 6:3-6**

3 Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

The act of baptism denotes dedication to the service of him in whose name we are baptized.

One of its designs is to dedicate or consecrate us to the service of Christ.

1Corinthians 10:2 the Israelites are said to have been "baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;"

In this they became consecrated, or dedicated, and bound to him as their leader and lawgiver.

From this the Apostle Paul is saying...

- That we have been consecrated by baptism to the service of Christ.
- It means, being baptized unto his service; devoting our lives unto him and His cause.

**This is true when we are BAPTIZED with the Holy Spirit/Ghost.**

We are being baptized into His body (church) for service.

- Christ was full of the Spirit (Luke 4:1)
- Zacharias, Elisabeth, and John was filled with the Spirit ( Luke 1:15; 41;67)
- The disciples and others were filled again and again after their real ministry had begun. ( Acts 2:4; 4:8,31; 6:3; 7:55; 9:17; 11:24; 13:52.)

**Ephesian 5:18** And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

**Note:** Three times in the New Testament the effect of strong drink is put over against the Spirit-Filled life. Luke 1:15; Acts 2:12-21; Ephesians 5:18.

- Often people are pronged to alcohol to drown them from their troubles and life's issues.
- Strong drink stimulates the physical forces and men are prone to turn to it for help over difficult places.
- Paul is saying that the child of God, facing an impossible responsibility in their heavenly walk and service must turn to the Spirit as the source of all sufficiency.

**Being “filled” with the Holy Spirit/Ghost means that** you are to be under the total influence of the Holy Spirit.

**It is God, dwelling in you, ordering your steps.**

### **Four Reasons Why We Need the Holy Ghost**

1. **POWER TO BECOME:** All that the Lord wants us to be.
2. **POWER TO BE:** Christ Like in our character, lifestyle and daily walk.
3. **POWER TO OVERCOME:** To live a victorious life over the flesh, world, the devil.
4. **POWER TO SHARE:** The Testimony of His Word and the word of our Testimony.



## WHAT IS TRUE SPIRITUALITY?

### **True Spirituality is Being Filled with the Spirit.**

Being filled with the Spirit is an ongoing sense of God's Spirit working in a person's life, not a one-time experience.

As the believer lives out his or her faith in Christ, the Holy Spirit increasingly controls or fills his or her life.

The true “**evidence**” of one being filled with the Holy Ghost is not “tongues” but rather...

1. The Power and demonstration of one's changed life and character. 2 Corinthians 5:17
2. In one's convictions and manner of living. 2 Corinthians 7:1; Ephesians 4:24
3. The testimony of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Acts 1:8
4. One's change in nature. 2 Peter 4:1
5. The demonstration of the fruit of the spirit in one's life. Galatians 5: 22-26

The “fruit of the Spirit” is change of nature and character of Christ out lived in one's life.

### **The spiritual person . . .**

Is one who experiences the divine purpose and plan in his daily life through the indwelling Spirit.

- **The character** of that life will be the out-lived Christ.
- **The cause** of that life will be the unhindered indwelling Spirit. Ephesians 3:16-21; II Corinthians 3:18.

## **The nature of spiritual life**

Spiritual life refers to the process of growing up and maturing in our relationship to God by living in the power and enablement of the indwelling Holy Spirit, so that.

- We increasingly view life from God's perspective.
- We increasingly follow God's ways and obey His Word.
- We increasingly manifest the character of Jesus Christ in our attitudes and actions.

The believer **who is not** living the spiritual life is...

- Still viewing life from the world's perspective.
- Still following the ways of the world and not God's Word.
- Still manifesting his own character and not that of Jesus Christ. ( 1 Cor.2: 12-3:4)

## **The conditions of true spirituality.**

### **1. By grieving not the Holy Spirit.**

Ephesians 4:30 And **grieve not the holy Spirit** of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

The word "grieve" means "to burden; to make sorrow; to make sad; to distress; be in heaviness".

What is it that grieves the Holy Spirit? Read Ephesians 4:17-32

## **Ephesians 4:17-32**

17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

20 But ye have not so learned Christ;

21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

27 Neither give place to the devil.

28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

What are some ways that we can grieve the Holy Spirit?

- And do not *grieve* God's Holy Spirit by the way you live.
- We are appointed to live every moment of our lives with the Holy Spirit.
- We don't turn the Holy Spirit on when we walk into our worship services and leave it there when we leave.

## 2. To Quench not the Holy Spirit.

1Thessalonians 5:19 Quench not the Spirit.

The word "Quench" means the act of resisting the Spirit.

The Spirit is "quenched" by any unyieldedness to the revealed will of God.

- It is simply saying "no" to God especially to matters of the divine appointments for service.
- His Spirit may also be "quenched" by any resistance of God's will in our lives.

We are to "Yield" ourselves to God and His will for our lives.

### **Romans 6:13**

Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

We are no longer our own but we have been bought with a price.

1Corinthians 7:23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

The same word is found in Romans 12:1

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present** (*Yield*) your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

### 3. We are to “Walk in His Spirit”

#### Galatians 5:16-17

This I say then, **Walk in the Spirit**, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

We cannot in own strength walk in the Spirit.

- The human responsibility is that of a whole dependence upon the Spirit.
- By this is meant a definite reliance upon the ability and power of the Holy Spirit that indwells us.

In verse 18 is reads “... be **led** of the Spirit...”

- We do not lead, or direct, the Spirit but rather we are to be dependent on the Spirit.
- It is an unbroken reliance upon the Spirit to do what He has come to do and what alone can do.

The spiritual life is all about progressing from being worldly Christian to a spiritual Christian.

In order to move from being worldly to spiritual a believer must. . .

- **Understand the principles** of the spiritual life. These principles are taught in His Word.
- **Obey the principles** of the spiritual life.

- There essential elements used in the maturing process:
  - Time
  - Word of God
  - Obedience/practice
  - Fellowship with other believers
  - Prayer, worship and praise
  - Dependence on the Holy Spirit

All of this is the responsibility of the Pastor and ministry of the church to minister and teach.

Just as it takes time, energy and the right nourishment for a baby to mature physically into an adult, the same is true of the process of growing from spiritual infancy to spiritual maturity.

### **False concepts of spiritual life**

- **Self-reformation** – that I just need to be better and do better in my own strength to gain spiritual maturity. Ro. 7:14-20; Gal. 5:16-25
- **Annihilation of old sin nature** – That the old sin nature has been completely eradicated or destroyed. Ro.8:12-13; Eph. 4:20-24
- **Sinless perfection** – that it is practically possible to be perfect in this life and never commit another act or attitude of sin. Ro. 6:11-12; 1John 1:8-2:1
- **Self-crucifixion or dying to self** – that I must somehow crucify and destroy my old self life. Gal. 2:20; Lk. 9:23
- **Legalism** – that the Christian life is composed of a set of rules of do's and don'ts which if I keep will make me spiritually mature. Col. 2:16-23; Rom. 14:17-18
- **Let go and let God** – It's all God's part and man has to do nothing in the process. Col.1:28-29; Philippians 2:12-13
- **Heaven is the only important thing** – How we live this life doesn't really matter to God and it makes no difference to us. 2 Cor. 5:10; Titus 2:11-15.

All of these false concepts are totally contrary to the Word of God and must be rejected if the believer is to mature spiritually.

### **The real goal of the spiritual life**

The spiritual life is only the means to an end.

The goal is for the believer to be conformed to the image of Christ in character, conduct and conversation over the course of his life through ever...

- Dependence on the power and enablement of the Holy Spirit.
- Obedience to the Word of God.
- Realization of his position in Christ.
- Practice of the principles of the spiritual life.

### **The goal of the process is two-fold.**

- Personal conformity to the image of Christ  
Rom. 8:29  
1 Cor. 15:49  
2 Cor. 3:16-18  
1 John 3:2  
James 1:22-25
- Practice usefulness to God to accomplish His purpose in the world.  
Acts 13:36  
2 Cor. 5:14-15

It is the consistent practice over time of God's principles in the power of the Spirit that will accomplish God's purpose in our lives and enable us to grow to spiritual maturity.

God will not do for the believer what He has commanded the believer to do for himself.

- Read and study the Word.
- Pray.

There is no power or enablement to live the spiritual life in our own strength without the Holy Spirit/Ghost in our lives.

**We must:**

- **Yield** to the Holy Spirit so He can **fill us** in order to direct, control, empower and influence every area of our lives for God. Ephesians 5:18 ; John 7:37-39
- **Allow** the Holy Spirit to put to death the deed of the sinful nature ( to deal with sin decisively). Romans 8:12-14
- **Cooperate** with the Holy Spirit in manifesting His fruit in our lives. Galatians 5:22-23
- **Live daily** in the strength and enablement of the Holy Spirit as a mind-set or way of life ( walk by means of the Spirit). Romans 8:5; Galatians 5:25

**The spiritual man will personally reflect His Glory:**

In the Old Testament the Shekinah Glory was the visible manifestation of God shown forth by light, fire, or a cloud.

The word “Glory” simply symbolizes the “presence of God”.

God’s purpose in calling us is to glorify Him in everything we do.

**1Peter 4:11**

If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: **that God in all things may be glorified** through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever.



## **To glorify God means. . .**

- To personally reflect His presence.
- To manifest and show forth His Life and His radiance.
- Displaying His Character and all the fruits of the Spirit to the world.
- God's glory is seen by the transformation of a believer's life.

Matthew 5:14-16

14 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

## **The question is. . .**

Do others know we are born again Christians by our behavior, our words, our Love?

- Without saying anything, do they know we are believers?
- Do we show them God's compassion and His gentleness?
- Are we able to forgive them when they have wronged us?
- Do we show love, comfort and encourage them in their difficult times?

When Jesus walked the earth, He was a living illustration of the invisible God.

- He did this by constantly glorifying the Father.
- He not only honored Him. He also gave the world a reason to believe in His reality.

## **We are to do the same.**

- Our words alone are not enough to communicate the Gospel.
- Our actions must go along with it.

## **How should we then live?**

Scripture exhorts us to do whatever is necessary to be prepared and to reflect Christ in all we do.

This brings us to the subject of Sanctification which is our next focus for study.