

Spiritual

The Normal Christian Life

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The involvement of the Holy Spirit in a Christian's life is essential for the saint to be able to properly function in the new position that saint has in the Christ¹ because He is the One who teaches the saint how to abide in Christ², He enables the saint to manifest the character of Christ by filling, and He communicates with God on behalf of the saint³. The saint is to walk by the Spirit, step by the Spirit, be led by the Spirit, be filled by the Spirit, and in order to understand the things from God be Spiritual. Each of these require steps to be taken by the saint to emanate and pertain to the things of the Spirit.

When we were saved, our spirit became alive to God⁴; the Holy Spirit washed and regenerated⁵ us. This regeneration involved a new birth⁶ in which our spirit became alive again to God. Because we are born again, we are now able to receive the things from the Spirit and they are no longer foolishness to us since we understand them⁷. One of the results of this washing and regenerating is that we are no longer in the flesh⁸. One who is in the flesh does not have the inherent

¹ 1 Corinthians 12:12, 13 For just as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of the body, being many, are one body, thus also is the Christ. For also by one Spirit we all were immersed into one body,

² 1 John 2:27 and the anointing which you received from Him abides in you and you do not have need in order that someone should teach you, but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie and just as He teaches you, you abide in Him.

³ Romans 8:26 And likewise also the Spirit assists with our weakness, for the things what we should pray according to necessity, we do not intuitively know, but the Spirit intercedes with groanings not uttered.

⁴ 1 Corinthians 6:17 But the one joined to the Lord is one spirit; John 3:5,6 Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly I say to you, except someone is born out from water and spirit, he is not able to enter the kingdom of God. The one born out from flesh is flesh, and the one born out from Spirit is spirit.

⁵ Titus 3:5 and when the kindness and the fondness of men from God our Savior appeared, not out from works, the ones in righteousness which he had done, but according to His mercy He saved us through washing of regeneration and renewing from the Holy Spirit

⁶ John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly I say to you, except someone is born from above, he is not able to see with discernment the Kingdom of God"; 1 Peter 1:23 having been born, not out from corruptible seed, but incorruptible through a word from a living and abiding God

⁷ 1 Corinthians 2:14, And the soulish man does not receive the things from the Spirit of God for they are foolishness to him, and he is not able to Know them because they are Spiritually discerned

⁸ Romans 8:9 However, you are not in flesh, but in Spirit, since indeed [the] Spirit of God dwells in you. And if, assuming it is true, someone does not have [the] Spirit of Christ, this one is not His.

ability to please God⁹. Being “in the flesh” refers to the frame of mind by which a person governs his or her life. A mind that is set on the flesh is hostile towards God; however, when the mind is set on the Spirit there is life and peace¹⁰. Therefore, it is now normal for us to have a mind focused on Spiritual things, not on fleshly things.

Since we are now born again and connected to God in our spirit, it is with the spirit that worship and communication with God happens¹¹. The spirit of a human is the rational, intellectual part. It is the part that has the ability to intuitively know the things of an individual¹². Humans are made up of three parts: body, soul, and spirit¹³. The physical body is our house, the soul is our emotional center, and the spirit is our rational center. Prior to salvation our spirit was separated from God and therefore the end results of our logics would not produce a proper opinion of the way things really are. For example, in Romans 1:18-32 we see humans rejecting God and serving the creation along with sticks and stones, things that as humans we are superior to in all levels of creation. Now that our spirit is no longer separated from God, we can receive the things of the Spirit, Who puts together spiritual concepts with spiritual words so we can understand the things given to us by God¹⁴ and stop serving false gods. It is this understanding that makes it possible for us

⁹ Romans 8:8 Moreover, the ones that are in flesh do not have the natural ability to please God.

¹⁰ Romans 8:6, 7 For the mind set on the flesh [is] death, but the mind set on the Spirit [is] life and peace. Because the mind set on the flesh [is] hostile unto God, for it cannot be put in subjection to the standard of God, for it does not itself have the natural ability.

¹¹ John 4:24 God is Spirit and the ones worshiping Him it is necessary to worship in spirit and truth

¹² 1 Corinthians 2:11 For what man intuitively knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him?

¹³ 1 Thessalonians 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁴ 1 Corinthians 2:12,13 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

to comprehend the desirous will of God¹⁵. Now, when we emanate the things of the Spirit our reasoning will produce a proper opinion of the way things really are because the opinions that we form come from a renewed mind that when tested will stand approved¹⁶.

A Christian who is Spiritual is emanating the things of the Spirit, which means that this saint's activates are all sourced from the Spirit. The way this saint perceives things, the desires this saint seeks to fulfil, the activities this saint is involved in all start from the Spirit. This begins with a mind that is framed on the things of the Spirit which will result in the saint pertaining to the Spirit and when necessary walking by the Spirit¹⁷ and therefore fulfilling the law of the Spirit of life¹⁸. This law frees the Christian from the grip of the sin nature and allows the Christian life to be lived out without restrictions¹⁹. Walking by the Spirit enable the Christian to have victory over the sin nature, not total freedom from its desires, but an inability for those desires to be fulfilled because the Spirit's desires influences the saint's action to prevent the sin nature from working out sin. Therefore, the consequences of being Spiritual enables the saint to produce righteousness through proper use of the fruit of the Spirit, inhibiting the sin nature's ability to produce unrighteousness. This is the normal way the Christian life is to be lived – by being who they are in Christ, not by works or self-effort to please God to obtain some reward, look righteous before Him, or appear godly before men.

¹⁵ Colossians 1:9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

¹⁶ Romans 12:2 And stop being outwardly conformed to this age, but to be transformed by your renewed mind, for the purpose to test for approval what is the desirous will of God, the good and well pleasing and mature.

¹⁷ Romans 8:5 For the ones according to the flesh being, frame their minds on the things of the flesh, but the ones according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

¹⁸ Romans 8:4 in order that the righteousness of the law should be fulfilled in us, the ones not walking according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit

¹⁹ Romans 8:2 for the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of the sin [nature] and the death.

When we are abiding in Christ, the mind is set on the things above²⁰. Our religious service to God is in our spirit²¹. It is through truth and spirit that we worship²² God²³. In Romans 8:9 Paul writes that since the Spirit of God dwells in us, we are no longer in flesh, but in Spirit²⁴. As ones who are in Spirit, we are to fervently serve God, not hesitantly, but in diligence²⁵. When we help another saint caught in a trespass, we must be Spiritual before we restore this one, while using a spirit of objectivity of mind in order to protect ourselves from being tempted by the very same temptation overtaking that saint²⁶. Even our communication with God is done in spirit²⁷. Therefore, being Spiritual is an essential aspect of the Christian life.

Since our beginning was in the Spirit, we cannot be made mature by the flesh²⁸. If we insist on continuing to live according to the flesh the result is death²⁹ because the flesh cannot produce anything but death³⁰. However, if we walk by the Spirit and therefore allow Him to lead us, we are not under any quality of law³¹, which is what gives the sin nature strength³², and will not fulfill the desires of the flesh³³. Identifying when we are Spiritual take some training and maturing in Christ.

²⁰ Colossian 3:1, 2 Since you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Frame your mind on the things above, not the things upon the earth

²¹ Romans 1:9 For God is my witness, Whom I religiously serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son

²² Giving God full credit for Who He is, Revelation 4:11

²³ John 4:24 God is Spirit and the ones worshiping Him it is necessary to worship in spirit and truth

²⁴ Romans 8:9 But you are not in flesh, but in Spirit, if perhaps the Spirit of God dwells in you.

²⁵ Romans 12:11 in the diligence, not hesitant, in a fervent spirit while giving service to God.

²⁶ Galatian 6:1 Brethren, If perhaps also a man is overtaken in some trespass, you, the spiritual ones, restore such a one in a spirit of objectivity of mind while scoping out yourselves lest also you should be tempted

²⁷ Ephesians 6:18 through all worship and supplication, while worshiping in all to the Lord in spirit and into this while watching in all perseverance and supplication concerning all the saints.

²⁸ Galatians 3:3 thus are you ignorant, having begun in spirit now by flesh are you made mature?

²⁹ Romans 8:13 for is, assuming it is true, you live according to the flesh, you are about to die.

³⁰ Romans 8:6 for the one framing the mind from the flesh is death.

³¹ Galatians 5:18 And if you are led by the Spirit you are not under law

³² 1 Corinthians 15:56 and the sting from death is sin

³³ Galatians 5:16 And I say, you walk by the Spirit and you will never bring to completion the desires of the flesh

As we mature, we are able to better discern what is proper from what is bad³⁴. By having our senses trained, we can identify when we are Spiritual by examining all things; looking at our own fruit³⁵. What type of fruit are we producing in our lives? Peace, love, joy³⁶ or jealousy, rivalry, and dissensions³⁷? Are we thankful for all things, in all things, and through all things³⁸, or constantly ungrateful for the things God gives to us?

In Ephesians 5:18 we are instructed to be filled with the Spirit. Filling is not the same as Spiritual, but we must be Spiritual to be filled. There are two types of filling expressed in Scripture. A filling that involves mental control and one that fills up where lacking. The filling of the Spirit in Ephesians 5:18 means to fill something up where it is lacking, not to have a mental control over it. Which means we are involved in the process of being filled. Since filling in Ephesians 5:18 is passive, our involvement is to permit this filling, not fill ourselves with the Spirit. Paul writes, “Stop being drunk with wine, in which is no savingness, but be habitually filled with the Spirit.” Therefore, the filling of the Spirit is something that we will regularly experience in our lives as we emanate the things of the Spirit. In Acts 6:3 the Apostles instruct the assembly to select men full of the Spirit and wisdom to serve as Deacons so they can focus on teaching the Word of God. In Acts 6:5 Stephen is described as a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit. Barnabas is also described as a man full of the Holy Spirit and faith, being a good man in Acts 11:22. These instances help us understand that

³⁴ Hebrews 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, the ones through practice trained the senses having discernment facing both proper and bad.

³⁵ 1 Corinthians 2:15 But the spiritual one discerns all things, but himself by no one is discerned.

³⁶ Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness

³⁷ 1 Corinthians 3:3 for yet you are carnal. For where among you is jealousy and strife, are you not carnal and walk according to man?

³⁸ 1 Timothy 2:1 Therefore I encourage you first to make supplication, prayers, requests, thanksgivings concerning all men; Philippians 4:6 Stop being anxious, but in all things with worship and supplication after thanksgiving make known your request before God; 1 Thessalonians 5:18 in all things give thanks for this is the desirous will of God in Christ Jesus unto you.

others can identify when someone is full of the Spirit, which would be by their actions. They are not envious, divisive, hostile, or seeking their own; rather, they seek the best for others, are content in their situations, and are at peace in their minds along with being kind, faithful, beneficial, and maintaining an objectivity of mind while being self-controlled and expressing long suffering.

As we are Spiritual, our walk, or the way we govern our lives, will be affected so that we are emanating the things of the Spirit. Since we are in Christ, the way we manage our lives is different from when we walked by the flesh. Now we should be walking as children of the light, not walking in darkness³⁹. Since we abide in Christ, we should naturally walk in the same way He walked – seeking to do the will of the Father, not our own⁴⁰. When the flesh, and therefore the sin nature, seeks to govern the way we manage our lives, we need to walk by the Spirit, so we can have victory over it⁴¹; otherwise, we should be being filled by the Spirit so we manifest the character of Christ in all aspects of our lives. Therefore, to be Spiritual means to pertain to or emanate the things of the Spirit. He is the One Who teaches us how to properly abide in Christ so that we now feel at ease in this new life we have, rather than constantly feeling uncomfortable and continually trying to go back to a life lived by the flesh, which is not possible and leads to a very frustrated Christian. Now that we are in Christ and abiding in Him, we should also be stepping by the Spirit. Stepping involves paying

³⁹ 1 John 1:6, 7 If perhaps we say that we have fellowship with Him and walk in the darkness, we lie and do not do the truth. If perhaps in the light we should walk, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus keeps on cleansing us from all sin; Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now light in the Lord, as children of the light walk.

⁴⁰ 1 John 2:6 The one saying to abide in Him is obligated, just as that One walked also he thus should walk; Colossian 1:10 to walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, in all working good, while producing fruit and increasing in the full experiential knowledge of God

⁴¹ Galatians 5:16,17 And I say, walk by the Spirit and you will never bring to maturity the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh, these oppose one another, in order that that which you desire you will not do.

close attention to the standard by which we live⁴². It is only natural that since we live by the Spirit, we would take each step by the Spirit⁴³. Being Spiritual is therefore the natural state in which we are to live, emanating the things from the Spirit, learning and using the things given to us by God, living free from slavery to the sin nature, producing righteousness, and walking in the light while leaving the things of darkness forever behind as we walk into eternity with our God.

⁴² Galatians 6:16 And as many as by this rule step, peace upon them and mercy and upon the Israel of God; Philippians 3:16 Nevertheless, unto that which we attain by this standard to step, to have the same frame of mind.

⁴³ Galatians 5:25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us step by the Spirit.