

Bible Study – Growing in Spirituality and Embracing the Rewards

Pastor Charles A. Hall – January 11th, 2024

Spirituality: Experiencing a quality of life produced and cultivated by the Spirit of God. Believers who trust and follow God experience His power and presence in their daily life. To receive this type of spirituality we must allow the Holy Spirit to direct and guide our journey in this world. The rewards of a spiritual relationship with God are spiritual maturity, holiness, and the manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit in your daily lives.

As a result of seeking God for His guidance in 2024, the Holy Spirit has revealed to me the need to focus on St John's Spiritual well-being in 2024. The primary purpose for this area of study is not to challenge or question anyone's salvation. Although some may be enlightened on their spiritual status as result of greater illumination and revelation of God's holy and righteous Word. Each one of us should have a desire to know the spiritual condition of our individual spirituality. The condition of our spirituality can determine the level of spiritual rewards that we experience on a daily basis. For example, weak or limited spirituality may result in the absence of spiritual joy, the same way that the lack of love in a marriage can affect the quality of one's life, and therefore affect the joy in their relationship. Spirituality is the relationship between God and man that can be broken down into four areas (1) ***holiness***, which mean being separated or set apart by God, (2) ***the gift of the Spirit*** which comes with God's divine power that gives us everything we need to live a life of godliness through the knowledge of God, (3) ***life in the Spirit*** which mean setting our affection on spiritual things rather than fleshly things, and (4) ***the discipline of the Spirit*** are things that help us to develop our relationship with God, such as prayer, bible study, fasting, worship, confessions and many other. Spirituality is our purpose and motivator for following God. This relationship between man and God is sealed by the gift of the Spirit. As believers we maintain a constant relationship with God through the presence of the Spirit. The presence of the spirit of God enables us as believers to live a life of obedience to the commands of God.

Holy Spirit: Also referred to as the Spirit of God, or the breath of God is the third Person of the Trinity, or God head. The Holy Spirit is the presence of God in the life of a believer

Spiritual: Is the manifested result of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Spiritual is the result of what happen when the Spirit of God meets the non-material or physical part of man, and a change occurs as a result.

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- **John 1:12-13** - (12) But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: (13) Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
- **John 3:5-8** - (5) Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (7) Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. (8) The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.
- **1 John 4:7** - Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.
- **1 Peter 1:3** - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
- **Romans 12:1-2** - (1) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. (2) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
- **Hebrews 12:10** - For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

As we continually grow Spiritually in the Lord through constantly searching God's Holy Word for greater biblical truths, we will experience the rewards of our relationship with God. One of these precious rewards is living in a state of **Joy**, based on our future standing with the Lord for all of eternity in heaven.

Our first memory verse for 2024:

- **Psalms 51:10-12** - (10) Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. (11) Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. (12) Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.