

INTRODUCTION.

- A. This short study deals with some practical things a Christian can do to develop a devotional life to God that will further their spirituality.
- B. Three things make us spiritual people:
 - 1. To live by faith according to the Word.
 - 2. To pray properly.
 - 3. To love unconditionally.
- C. Spiritual things have their origin in God; there are Spiritual:
 - 1. Blessings (Eph. 1:3).
 - 2. Gifts (1Cor. 12:1).
 - 3. Songs (Col. 3:16).
 - 4. Law (Rom. 7:14).

I. SPIRITUALITY COMES FROM LIVING BY FAITH.

- A. Spiritual people:
 - 1. Want to be righteous (Mt. 5:6).
 - 2. Respect and obey the apostles (1Cor. 14:37).
 - 3. Know what the Word says (1Cor. 2:14-15).
 - 4. Know the Law is spiritual (Rom. 7:14).
 - 5. Desire spiritual understanding (Col. 1:9).
 - 6. Receive the message in their hearts (1Cor. 2:6-13).
 - 7. Seek a Spirit-controlled life (Eph. 5:18; Gal. 5:22-23; Rom. 8:14).
 - 8. Desire to have spiritual gifts (Rom. 1:11).
 - 9. Offer up spiritual sacrifices (1Pet. 2:5,9,10; Rom. 12:1,2; Phil. 4:18; Heb. 13:15).
 - 10. Glorify God through the church (Eph. 3:21).
- B. "Spirituality is not some strange magic or something unreal; it is not an imaginary abstraction. It is the total character qualities of Jesus Christ, gradually learned from the Bible, and constantly transferred by the Christian to himself."

II. SPIRITUALITY COMES FROM PRAYING TO GOD.

- A. The "manner" of prayer is spiritual:
 - 1. Complete reverence and gratitude toward God (Mt. 6:9).
 - 2. Unwavering obedience (Mt. 6:10).
 - 3. Complete trust in God for every daily need (Mt. 6:11).
 - 4. Complete dependence on His mercy, and forgiveness (Mt. 6:12).
 - 5. Unfaltering trust that God will lead and guide us each day (Mt. 6:13).
- B. Now prayer can become that which gives us the peace that passes understanding. We rise above the temporal by doing the spiritual (Phil. 4:6,7).
- C. A Christian show pray for three things to become more spiritual:
 - 1. A growing trust in God and seeking a closer walk with Him.
 - 2. A constant and growing love for God and all people.
 - 3. An increasing awareness of inadequacies and how God can help him/her overcome.

III. SPIRITUALITY COMES FROM SHOWING LOVE.

- A. Spiritual people are about the work of restoring the erring (Gal. 6:1).
- B. Spiritual people are mature and do not harbor envy, strife or division (1Cor. 3:1-3).
- C. Spiritual people know how to make the right choices morally (Heb. 5:11-14).

IV. DEVELOPING YOUR DEVOTIONAL LIFE.

- A. First, ask yourself what you desire from your devotional time?
1. Do you want Bible knowledge?
 2. Do you want comfort and assurance?
 3. Do you want to work out problems or worries?
- Define exactly what you want to accomplish.
- B. Second, set simple & definite goals of what you want to see come out of your devotional times in a month, in 6 months, and in a year.
1. Write these goals down and review them once a week.
 2. If you aim at nothing, you will probably hit it.
 3. If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.
 4. Goals not realized still produce progress and growth.
 5. Goals minimize mistakes and maximize productivity.
- C. Third, find a place and time where you will not be disturbed.
1. Make it a consistent time each day.
 2. Make it a quiet place so you can concentrate.
 3. Make it a place where you don't draw anyone's attention.
- D. Fourth, make a list of things you want to pray about.
1. Get names from the bulletin Family Prayer List.
 2. Add your own names of others you want to pray for.
 3. List things you need in your own life.
 4. Be specific on all items.
- E. Fifth, if necessary, get whatever resource materials you need.
1. Obtain any Bibles, books, diaries, commentaries, etc.
 2. Begin a personal journal of your prayer requests and Bible passages studied.
 3. Be looking for good, positive devotional materials.
 4. Share back and forth, with other brothers and sisters things that have helped you.
- F. Sixth, realize that prayer, meditation, and Bible study is hard work.
1. Mental fatigue sets in quicker than physical fatigue.
 2. It is difficult to concentrate for long periods of time.
 3. Bad habits are hard to break, and good habits are hard to develop.
 4. Become a more disciplined person in the use of your time.
 5. Don't allow a few devotional times missed discourage you, begin again immediately.