

# THE HOPE OF SPIRITUALITY

by Dan Trygg

What is spirituality? Life lived by the guiding, life-creating influence of the Holy Spirit characterized by an affirming yieldedness of faith to the leadings and inworkings of our Divine Indweller.

## Marks of Spirituality

1. Poor in spirit - The word “poor” can be literally translated as “beggarly”. Thus the spiritual man is one who knows his own self-poverty well enough to “beg” for the Spirit’s fullness. He deeply knows his need. Matt. 5:3; II Cor. 2:15,16; 3:5,6; 4:6-7; Jn. 15:5; Prov. 2:1-4; Jas. 1:5; cf. Gal.6:3; Rev. 3:17-20.
2. Mourning over sin and self-will - Sees sin as hateful and is truly grieved over its presence and expression within him. Matt. 5:4; Prov. 8:13; Psa. 97:10; Jas. 4:1-10; I Cor. 5:1,2; II Cor. 7:8-11. The spiritual person will never have a complacent attitude towards sin. Prov. 1:32 (NASB).
3. Meekness - Matt. 5:5. The Greek word carries three intertwined ideas:
  - 1.) Humility - Not considering yourself as self-sufficient or as more important than others. Not trying to impress others. Prov. 18:12; Jas. 4:6-10; I Pet. 5:5,6; Phil. 2:3-4.
  - 2.) Teachableness - Being open to rebuke, correction, and instruction. Always willing and eager to learn. Prov. 26:12; Prov. 11:2; I Cor. 8:1,2; Prov. 6:23; Jas. 3:13-18 (Especially vs. 17 in the KJV - “easy to be entreated”)
  - 3.) Consideration - Because you see others as important, you treat them with care, love, and gentleness. Eph. 4:1,2; Jas 3:17; Gal. 5:22,23; Col. 3:12,13; Matt. 11:28-30.
4. A hunger and thirst for righteousness - Matt. 5:6; Prov. 2:1-4; Isa. 55:1-7; Jn. 4:13,14; 6:48ff.; 7:31-39; Lk. 11:9-13; Phil. 3:12-21; Prov. 1:32; II Cor. 6:12.
5. Mercifulness or compassion - Matt. 5:7; 9:13; 12:7; Col. 3:12-14; Phil. 2:1,2.
6. Purity of heart - Purity means unmixed with any other substance or affection, i.e., single-hearted. Matt.5:8; Lk.9:23; Phil. 3:7ff.; Lk.10:38-42; Psa. 27:4; Matt. 6:24; II Cor. 6:12-7:1; II Tim 2:19-22.
7. Peacemaker - A maker of peace, not just a non-agitator! Matt. 5:9; Gal. 5:22; Eph. 4:1-3; Psa. 34:14; Heb. 12:14; 1 Pet. 3:1; II Tim. 2:22; Jas. 3:17,18.
8. Persecution - Matt. 5:10-13; 10:16-33; Jn. 15:18-21; II Tim. 3:12 - This is probably the strongest, clearest statement made regarding the persecution of genuine Christians. Paul makes this a universal mark of those who desire to be godly. If there is no persecution, then either (1) one is not living the genuine Christ-life; or, (2) one has hidden his life in a non-hostile sub-culture.
9. Victory over sin - In I Jn. 3:8, John declares that Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. These works of the devil, according to the surrounding context, are sin-creating effects of his working. We ought to expect freedom and victory over sin as the Spirit’s ministry of Christ’s benefits to us. Gal. 5:16,17; Rom. 6; 8:2,12,13; I Jn. 2:1.
10. Freedom from legalism - Rom. 6:14,15; 7:1-8:4; Gal. 3-5; I Cor. 15:56,57; II Cor. 3:5,6,17.
11. Supernatural, Spirit-originated insight, knowledge, and wisdom - (supernatural = beyond natural) Isa. 11:2,3; I Cor. 2:6-16; Jn. 14:16,17,26; 16:13-15; Psa. 119:97-104; Prov. 28:5; Jn. 7:15,16,45,46; Acts 4:13; 6:8-10.
12. Supernatural power or strength - Isa. 11:2; Jn. 14:12; I Cor. 2:4,5; 4:19,20; Phil. 4:13; Isa. 40:29-31; I Tim. 1:12; 4:17; II Tim. 1:7; II Cor. 12:9,10; II Cor. 4:6-11; Rom. 8:2; Jn. 15:26,27; Acts 1:8; I Cor. 12.

13. Intimacy with God - the voice of the Lord. Psa. 25:12-14; Prov. 3:32; Job 29:4; Isa.30:18-21; Jn. 15:15; Jn. 14:21; Jn. 14:16,17; 16:7,13-15; I Cor. 2:12,13; cf. Acts 8:26,29; 9:11; 10:10-17, 19,20; 11:12; 13:2,4; 16:6,7.
14. The fruit of the Spirit - Gal. 5:22,23.  
Especially *agapē* love, the perfect bond of unity and the mark of a true disciple.  
Col. 3:14; Jn. 13:34,35; I Cor. 13.  
Joy - Neh. 8:10; Isa. 61:1-3; Jn. 15:11; Rom. 14:17; 15:13; Psa. 16:11; Phil. 4:4-9.  
Peace - Jn. 14:25-27; 16:33; Col. 3:15; Isa. 26:3,4; Psa. 119:165; Rom. 14:17; 15:13;  
Phil. 4:4-9; Heb. 13:20,21.
15. Body-consciousness - An awareness of the possibilities and responsibilities of sharing and ministering in the Body of Christ. Heb. 3:12,13; 10:19-25; I Cor. 12-14; Eph. 4:11-16; 5:18-21; Col. 3:12-17; I Pet. 4:7-11; Rom. 12:1-21; Phil. 1:27-2:4; Rom. 14:1-15:7; I Cor. 8:7-13; 10:23-33; Psa. 16:1-3.
16. Readily submissive to authorities and to fellow brethren. Rom. 13: 1-7; I Pet. 2:13-20; 3:1-7;5:5; Heb. 13:7, 17; Eph. 5:18-21; Tit. 3:1,2; I Cor. 8:7-13; 10:23-29.
17. A servant's heart - II Cor. 4:5; Phil. 2:3-11; Mk. 10:42-45; Jn. 13:1-17.
18. A disciplinemaker - Matt. 28:18-20; Mt. 4:19; II Tim. 2:2; Heb. 5:12 (Note - "by this time you ought to be teachers" implies that we *all* should be teaching someone as we grow. This fits in with the great commission of Matt. 28:19,20, where Jesus tells us to "make disciples ... baptizing ...[and] teaching them to observe *all* that I commanded you...". We are all to be teachers and instructors of those who are following Jesus. This does not necessarily mean that we all have the spiritual gift of teaching, or that we even will be teaching in a formal classroom situation. It *does* mean that we are responsible for each other and for the growth of the Body. It means preparation to exhort, instruct, and encourage one another when we meet. Cf. Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:18-21; I Cor. 14:26; Heb. 10:24,25. Ultimately, it also requires a vital spiritual life and personal sacrifice to faithfully transmit the true life of Jesus, to bear fruit, and to effectively nurture the immature. Our adequacy must be in God. Cf. II Cor. 2:14-16; 3:5,6; Jn. 12:24.)
19. A life of rest - Heb. 3:7-4:13. In 4:10, the life of rest is defined as "having rested from one's own works". The works from that time on are prepared and inspired by God. Eph. 2:10; cf. Jn. 5:19,20,30; 7:16; 8:28; 12:47-49; 14:1-12; Phil; 2:13.
20. Continual discovery - We are to:
  - Walk in newness of life. Rom. 6:3; 7:6; II Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15; Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:1-3.  
There is much to learn!
  - Have our thoughts remade. Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23; Col. 3:2,10; Rom. 8:5-8.
  - Learn truths of deliverance. Jn. 8:31-36.
  - Discover our inheritance. Eph. 1:15ff.; II Pet. 1:2-4.
  - Know the uncomprehendable. Eph. 3:14ff.; Phil. 4:6,7; I Cor. 2:6-16.

Many, but not all, of the above qualities can be imitated or mimicked by the self-effort of religious zealots. The watchword of the spiritual life is *freedom* (Gal. 5:1; II Cor. 3:17), something that the flesh can never create. Its nearest imitation is antinomianism, which is more cop-out than freedom. The freedom of the spiritual life is produced by the outflow of the Holy Spirit Himself from within, as the heart is willing and open to Him (Jn.7:37-39; Jn. 6:63; Rom. 8:2,12-14; Jn. 15:1-5; Gal. 5:16-25). The life unhindered at once becomes Christ living in us (Cf. Col. 1:25-27; 3:4; Gal. 2:20), and righteousness is as naturally and easily produced by Him as apples are produced by the apple tree (Matt.7:16-20;12:33-35; Jn. 15:1-5; Gal. 5). This is the supernatural life that turned the world upside down! It has been said that **no one can live the Christian life but Jesus Christ Himself**. Amen! *That* was God's plan from the beginning!