

# TRUE SPIRITUALITY

## The Holy Spirit in the New Testament

1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
 Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades  
 October 16, 2011 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

### Introduction:

These days, it's COOL to be spiritual.

Not just the Dalai Lama or Mother Teresa. Even celebrity spirituality ...

Quiz ... MatchQuotes with the author.

1. I don't care if people worship turtles or frogs – if they're good people, that's all I care about

Madonna, Martha Stewart, Oprah, Marie Osmond

2. Dude, read your Bible ... the Bible, you know, B-asic, I-nstruction, B-efore, L-eaving, E-arth

Stephen Baldwin, Kirk Cameron, Keanu Reeves, Ashton Kutcher

3. I believe my soul and my faith are what are sexy about me

Jessica Biel, Jessica Lange, Jessica Alba, Jessica Simpson

4. I'm a sinner who has been saved by grace. It's by the grace of God that I'm here ... Every day I come home asking for a new cleansing

Hulk Hogan, Dog the Bounty Hunter, Mr. T, Donald Trump

5. I pray more than most people, I honestly think I pray more than a lot of church going Christians

Adam Sandler, Jimmy O'Fallon, Andy Dick, Conan O'Brien

Ill. Lots of people say they are spiritual ... "I'm a very spiritual person." Can almost mean anything.

WSJ Magazine ... Fashionistas from Congo "When I dress like this, it's like I have the Holy Spirit in me.

I'm at ease, as if I were sinless." If look good, must be good? Goes beyond appearances.

Distortion, confusion. What is TRUE SPIRITUALITY?

Please open your Bibles to 1 Corinthians 12. **Page 813**

TRUE SPIRITUALITY produces healthy believers and healthy churches, that function in unity, celebrating differences, reflecting the unity of the Father, who sent son to die for us and Spirit to live in us.

Overflowing with gifts, given by the Spirit.

Give glory to God, live life in the supernatural, experience miraculous transformation ... TRUE SPIRITUAL

### Read vv. 1-3

The church in Corinth had all the gifts, which did not translate into spiritual transformation; instead they were a source of spiritual pride. TONGUE IN CHEEK, "I don't want you to be unaware" (arrogance).

They were a bunch of know-it-alls who had completely missed the point of spiritual gifts.

v. 1 "the greek text" does not contain the word "gifts". Italicized in NASB.

The word gift is not in the sentence ... but it is added because Chapter 12-14 focuses on the gifts of the Spirit. However, the significance of the way Paul wrote this, while subtle,

**While about spiritual gifts, the relationship between True Spirituality and Spiritual Gifts.**

The Corinthians were unspiritual, unhealthy Christians who had the gifts, all of them, but misused them and abused them. Divisions, lawsuits, immorality.

Using gifts as weapons to beat others up rather to as a tools to build others up; self-promotion, so they could feel spiritual, and as a means of spiritual superiority. **Showing off.**

Picture of unhealthy church, picture of most churches. This spiritual body was sick, unhealthy.

This church was dying (eaten away from the inside out ... ecclesiastical cancer) which is why Paul writes a potent prescription to resurrect it back to life.

## **TRUE SPIRITUALITY is produced by the Holy Spirit when we confess Jesus as Lord.**

PRODUCED -- It cannot be manufactured.

Ill. DAILY. Washing and transforming. **Mr. T WASH** ..Fill me with your Spirit. Make me come alive.

CONFESS -- On the throne. In control. Not just have you confessed Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9) but have you invited Jesus to sit on the throne today; or have you reverted back to your old way of life?

Many days I allow fear to sit on the throne, or self, or self-pity, or ingratitude.

Ill. DAILY. I give you my life, I give you my heart. Use me. Open doors.

SO WHAT? Have you invited Jesus to rule in your life? Believe and receive.



Self-Directed

## **Read vv. 4-6**

### **TRUE SPIRITUALITY celebrates and honors different gifts and passions.**

Different Gifts = supernatural God-given abilities. Ill. Personal ... LEADERSHIP.

Different Service = wired to be passionate about ministry, using abilities to minister in the body of Christ.

Ill. Steve and Diane Tallant, Andy and Bonnie Bales.

Different Works = the obvious results of true spirituality, the fruit. Not look spiritual or feel spiritual. Not the path to spirituality, but the expression of the Spirit's filling.

### **TRUE SPIRITUALITY mirrors the unity seen in the Trinity.**

Trinity ... Spirit, Son (Lord), God (Father). John Eldredge ... "God has never been alone"

Same Spirit, Same Savior, Same heavenly Father.

Ill. Everything they do, they do together. Creation. Cross. Resurrection. Salvation. Transformation.

SO WHAT? We are better together, we are different, made to live in community ... we compliment each other. Are you noticing and celebrating others. Cheering them on. In the grandstands.

## **Read vv. 7-11**

### **Everyone who receives the Holy Spirit has a spiritual GIFT.**

#### **TRUE SPIRITUALITY uses gifts for the good of others and not for personal glory.**

Cors had the gifts and were using them, but for the wrong reason ... for personal glory, competing.

Ill. What are your gifts? Can you name them? Can you give them an order of priority?

Everyone has one, but some have 2,3,4. Possible for them to change. Probably not an exhaustive list.

Gifts are supernatural abilities ... no other explanation but the Holy Spirit.

#### **TRUE SPIRITUALITY joyfully receives the gifts God gives.**

Ill. How are you using it? If not, get busy.

Ill. Who am I doing this for? Am I just showing off, or reflecting the glory of God?

### Conclusion:

TRUE SPIRITUALITY is not about the gifts (everyone has them), true spirituality is about how we handle the gifts ... how we use the gifts, why we use the gifts we've been given.

True Spirituality begins with getting off the throne and bowing. Receiving gifts and using them for His glory and for the good of His body.