

# Prerequisites to Spiritual Living

## Introduction

**Scripture:** John 14:6 “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”

### **Introduction:**

In my current studies I have been challenged to think about spirituality. The first question in my study outline asks what "*spirituality*" is by definition. So, I pulled up my concordance and lo and behold the word spirituality is not in the bible anywhere.

Although the word "*spirituality*" isn't found in the bible it is a word that we have chosen to basically help us describe different levels of closeness with God.

The Wikipedia definition includes the idea of spiritual development, which is the focus of my thought for this lesson.

Spirituality is meant to be a growing process that moves us closer to God. And as brother Truman Scott mentions in his material, the Spirit of God is at the center of growth for each Christian.

### **Transitional Statement:**

Church Spirituality is a growth process, meant to be developed over years of faithful service in God's Kingdom.

### **Lesson:**

#### **I. Biblical Parameters for Spirituality**

Ephesians 3:14-21

*“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.*

*20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, 21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.”*

## **II. Spirituality is marked by the following character:**

- A. Desire/ Devotion
- B. Knowledge Romans 11:33
- C. Commitment to God Revelation 2:10
- D. Depth of trust Matthew 17:20-21
- E. Surrender Matthew 16:24-25

## **III. Mis-conceptions**

- A. Spirituality is either something God gives you or not
- B. No effort involved
- C. Not able to get there
- D. It begins with self awareness.....

## **IV. The path to spirituality is through Jesus**

- A. John 14:6 Jesus is the way the truth and the life and no man comes to the Father except through Him.
- B. Growing closer to God means getting closer to His son

## **V. Spirituality increases as we shape out lives after Jesus**

- A. Studying the gospels and committing them to heart
- B. Study the life of Christ and learn His character and emulate it in our lives.
- C. Study how Jesus touched the lives of people and do the same
  - 1. Nicodemus John 3:1ff
  - 2. The Samaritan Woman John 4:4ff
  - 3. In the life of Peter
  - 4. The possessed man

5. The Hemorrhaging woman
6. The woman caught in adultery
7. Zacchaeus

## **VI. Spirituality is claiming the life style of Jesus**

- Giving himself up**
- Yielding to the Sprit**