

# HOW TO IDENTIFY A RELIGIOUS SPIRIT

By: Fountain Hendricks

(Matthew 5:17-20)

A religious spirit is a **MINDSET**. This mindset is **NOT** discovered by looking at a person's physical appearance. This mindset can be identified by watching how a person **BEHAVES** and how they **SPEAK**. A religious spirit is not necessarily associated with the term "religion."

You can have a religious spirit being in politics. You can have a religious spirit while conducting business. You can have a religious spirit within your marriage. There are **MORE** people controlled by religious spirits who **DO NOT** attend church, than those who attend church.

RELIGIOUS SPIRITS LOVES TRADITION.  
THEY DESPISE CHANGE!

When you encounter a person who loves tradition yet hates change, they are controlled by a religious spirit. You do not have to attend church to be religious. You do not have to believe in God to be religious. Being religious means to operate and behave in the space of **REPETITION**. The cycle of repetition dominates our political system, family structure, cultural backgrounds, marriages and even our faith.

Anyone who is **ALLERGIC** to change is addicted to redundancy. Connecting with people who have religious spirits is detrimental to your development. They will convince you that changing your routine is dangerous. They will discourage you from upgrading your mentality. They will persecute you for challenging the status-quo.

RELIGIOUS SPIRITS ARE ASSIGNED TO  
KILL YOUR GROWTH.

# REPETITION IS NOT THE SAME AS CONSISTENCY

(Matthew 5:17)

It is very important to understand the difference between being repetitive and consistent. It is wise to be consistent. However, it is foolish to be repetitive. Repetition is when you do the **SAME** thing in the **SAME** way. Consistency is when you do the same thing in a **DIFFERENT** way. This is what distinguishes religious people from spiritual people, traditional people from innovative people and open-minded individuals from close-minded individuals.

People who are repetitive recycle the **SAME** method; the **SAME** thought; the **SAME** behavior, the **SAME** perspective and the **SAME** mindset. Consistent people do not recycle anything. They mature in everything. This is why Jesus and the Pharisees had conflicting differences. The Pharisees wanted to keep everything the same, while Jesus wanted to **ENHANCE** what was already in place.

The Pharisees wanted the law of Moses to govern people's lives. Jesus wanted people to be saved by grace.

Jesus was never against the law of Moses. He came to fulfill it. Matthew 5:17 says, "*DON'T think that I have come to destroy the law of Moses or the teaching of the prophets. I have NOT come to destroy them but to bring about what they said.*" Jesus **CONSISTENTLY** served His Heavenly Father. However, He did not do it in the same way all the time. Jesus healed sick people. He cast out devils. He preached to sinners and He turned water into wine.

Jesus was **NOT** repetitious nor was He religious. He was **CONSISTENT!** He did the same thing in a different way. Jesus greatest opposition was **NOT** the devil. It was the Pharisees. Jesus had to fight against their religious and repetitive ways.

## IDENTIFYING RELIGIOUS SPIRITS IN DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENTS

- **RELIGIOUS SPIRITS IN RELATIONSHIPS:** If you are a change-maker involved in a romantic relationship with a person who has a religious spirit, the two of you will have constant conflict. Being in a relationship with a religious spirit will cause you to feel bored, stifled and frustrated. Religious people are **NOT** looking to improve their surroundings. They are looking to **MAINTAIN** their surroundings.
- **RELIGIOUS SPIRITS IN BUSINESS:** Doing business with a person who has a religious spirit will **STOP** the progress of innovation and modernization. If a business refuses to upgrade its practices, it will eventually become obsolete. Doing business with a person who has a religious spirit will limit the company's growth potential.

- **RELIGIOUS SPIRITS IN POLITICS:** Electing a person who has a religious spirit to a political office, will **PREVENT** social change from occurring. This individual will maintain the status-quo, thereby impacting the influence a person can have within their community. A religious person will enforce policies that are **NOT** progressive.
- **RELIGIOUS SPIRITS IN CHURCH:** When religious spirits have taken dominion in the church it will **STIFLE** the move of the Holy Spirit. Religious people love to honor rituals and tradition. Residing in a religious church, with religious people, will hinder the power of God from being demonstrated in that environment. Church congregants will never understand who Jesus is under the guidance of a religious leader.

If you are experiencing a lack of growth you are connected to a religious spirit. A religious spirit has nothing to do with religion. **IT HAS EVERYTHING TO DO WITH REDUNDANCY!!!**

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