

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS

By: Fountain Hendricks

(2nd Timothy 3:1-5)

A religious person and a spiritual person **DO NOT EXHIBIT THE SAME BEHAVIOR**. Religious people focus on tradition. Spiritual people focus on transformation. Religious people focus on honoring ancient rituals. Spiritual people focus on empowering the people. Religious people care more about a church building than a person's heart.

Spiritual people focus on the content of a person's character. Religious people focus on what a person possesses. Spiritual people honor a person's integrity. Religious people are fascinated with the title a person holds. Religious people will serve the church while spiritual people will serve God.

SPIRITUAL PEOPLE PUT THEIR TRUST IN JESUS
CHRIST!

JESUS DID NOT CATER TO RELIGIOUS PEOPLE

Throughout the four Gospels of the New Testament the Bible shows us some interesting facts about Jesus. Jesus was a spiritual person. He was **NOT** religious. Jesus was persecuted because He wasn't religious. Everything He did was **CONTRARY** to the religious culture. Here's what I mean:

- Jesus **DID NOT** talk about the traditions of the temple. He talked about the condition of the people.
- Jesus spent **LESS** time in the temple and **MORE** time with people.

- Jesus spent **MORE** time healing people than dialoguing about church issues.
- Jesus **DID NOT** focus His attention on building the temple. His attention was focused on transforming lives.
- Jesus **DID NOT** teach people about church etiquette. He taught them how to live in the Kingdom of God.
- Jesus **DID NOT** attempt to abide by church protocol. He was focused on making a difference in the lives of His people.
- Jesus **DID NOT** neglect the pain of people to honor the tradition of religion.
- Jesus honored the **VOICE OF HIS HEAVENLY FATHER** over religious authorities. *(In other words, spiritual people honor the voice of the Holy Spirit over the voice of their Pastor.)*

SEPARATING RELIGION FROM SPIRITUALITY

2nd Timothy 3:1-5

Religious and spiritual people have similarities. They will express love for God verbally. They will quote scripture. They will preach and teach the Gospel. However, there is one difference and that is **POWER!** Religious people **CANNOT** walk in the power of God. Spiritual people **WALK** in the power of God.

This was the major difference between Jesus and the Pharisees. The Pharisees talked about power. They **COULD NOT** demonstrate it. The Pharisees quoted scripture. They knew how to preach. They honored the principles of God but they **COULD NOT** heal people. They **COULD NOT** cast out demons. They **DID NOT** have power over demonic strongholds. They **COULDN'T** transform lives.

Their **INABILITY** to be spiritual **DENIED** them from accessing the power of God. 2nd Timothy 3:1-5 says
"Remember this! In the last days there will be many troubles, because people will love themselves, loving money, brag and be proud. They will say evil things against others and will not obey their parents or be thankful or be the kind of people God wants.

*They will not love others, will refuse to forgive, will gossip, and will not control themselves. They will be cruel, will hate what is good, will turn against their friends, and will do foolish things without thinking. They will be conceited, will love pleasure instead of God, **AND WILL ACT AS IF THEY SERVE GOD BUT WILL NOT HAVE HIS POWER.** Stay away from these people."*

Spiritual people will have the ability to demonstrate the power of God because they are **SUBMISSIVE** to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Godly power is funneled through the Holy Spirit. Not through traditionalism. When a person **DOES NOT** have a relationship with the Holy Spirit they are religious. When a person does **NOT SUBMIT** to the Holy Spirit they are **RELIGIOUS**. When a person **DOES**

NOT OBEY the voice of the Holy Spirit they are **RELIGIOUS**.

When a person is **IGNORANT** of the Holy Spirit they are **RELIGIOUS**. Without the Holy Spirit you cannot demonstrate the power of God. Religious people will always portray the **APPEARANCE** of Godliness. Spiritual people will be able to **MANIFEST** the power of God.

Luke 24:49 says, "*And now I will send the Holy Spirit just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and **FILL YOU WITH POWER** from Heaven.*" All of God's power is funneled through the Holy Spirit.

**GOD WANTS YOU TO BE SPIRITUAL, NOT
RELIGIOUS.**

**SPIRITUAL PEOPLE GO TO HEAVEN.
RELIGIOUS PEOPLE GO TO HELL!**

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