

Week 1

Introduction

1. The Spiritual Christian

Our salvation introduced us to an intense struggle for true, biblical spirituality. A battle now exists between our flesh and our spirit (*Galatians 5:17*).

KEY This battle ***cannot be won*** by suppressing the desires of the flesh through our own willpower.

Yet, God made us to have _____ over the flesh. Unfortunately, many believers seem to be losing that battle. As in any warfare there must be an equipping with the proper weapons, accompanied by ample training to use them.

We will seek to accomplish this “*equipping and training*” in order to achieve the overall goal of this series.

As we begin our study please be reminded of these simple facts:

- a. We must allow God’s truth to **TRANSFORM** us, not merely **INFORM** us – *Php 4:9*

NOTE Inform = Learned, Received, Heard, Seen

Transform = _____ ...and the God of peace shall be with you.

Deut 5:1; Mt 5:19-20; 7:21,24-27; Lk 6:46; 8:21; Jn 13:17; 15:14; Acts 9:6; 2Thess 3:4; James 1:22

- b. Spirituality is not determined by what you do **FOR** God, but rather, it is who you are **WITH** God – *Ps 1:1-3; 37:4; 40:8; 139; Gen 5:24 (Enoch); Ps 26:2 (Examine me)*

NOTE A truly Biblical Christian is one who doesn’t just do all the right things, but one who knows God! Superficiality breaks down eventually (*1Sam 15:1-26*). Truly spiritual means changed from deep within (*2Cor 5:17*) and it works its way out!

- c. True biblical spirituality is determined by your **DESIRE** to **KNOW** God and to have an **INTIMATE** relationship with him – *Php 3:1-12; Ps 42:1; 63:1,2; 84:2; 143:6-7*

NOTE Knowing God is what this is all about... (*Recommend: “Pursuit of God”*)

- d. The desire to know him was placed in your heart at salvation and is made operative by the **HOLY SPIRIT** – *Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6*

NOTE The Holy Spirit lives inside of us! How can you get more intimate than that? Yet, we don't often think of it in these terms.

- e. It is possible to _____ and _____ the working of God's Spirit within us – *1 Thess. 5:19; Ephesians 4:30 (25-30)*

NOTE Because He is so close to us...because He is Holy...our sin and our apathy hurts Him! Wow!

- f. Walking by faith and not by sight ... becoming a biblically spiritual Christian is a _____ – *Hebrews 11:25 (23-26)*

NOTE At some point in our Christian life, we must wake up to the realization that we make **critical choices daily** for God's glory or for our own.

KEY That is why we must start our day off with God ALONE!

We NEED Him and His WISDOM and His WORDS and His SPIRIT to LEAD and GUIDE us!

1Peter 5:8; Lk 22:31

EXAMPLES OF "CHOICES" in the Bible:

Joshua	<i>Joshua 24:15</i>	<i>"Choose you this day whom ye will serve..."</i>
Isaiah	<i>Isaiah 1:19-20</i>	<i>"If ye be willing and obedient...but if ye refuse..."</i>
Elijah	<i>1Kings 18:21</i>	<i>"How long halt ye between two opinions?"</i>
Jesus	<i>John 6:67</i>	<i>"Will ye also go away?"</i>