

Sunday, July 23, 2023
The Holy Spirit "In Me" Series
Learning from God's Spirit

The Most Important Teaching of Jesus

**"Jesus plants God's Spirit within us
in order to transform
our life and purpose forever."**

= Spiritual Transformation

John 4:10-15; "He would have given you living water." ...but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." See also John 7:37-39; Mat. 13:3-23; Mk. 4:2-20; Luke 8:4-15

Teachings We Have Considered:

1. The Spirit of God restores God's likeness and image in a person through a Spirit caused spiritual birth. (John 3:2-8; Matthew 18:1-5; Genesis 1:26-27)
2. The Spirit of God nurtures a person as a "reborn" child of God with truth taught by Jesus to make decisions honoring to God as typical of Jesus. (John 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-15)
3. Jesus identified obstacles that keep a child of God from learning from Jesus with the help of the Spirit of God:
 - the devil interfering with understanding. Luke 8:12
 - falling away in times of temptation. Luke 8:13
 - choking with worries, riches and pleasures. Luke 8:14
 - receiving truth with an honest and good heart. Luke 8:15

**The teaching of Jesus with the help of the Spirit of God redirects
our life priorities if we are willing to listen and learn.**

True Spirituality and the Management of Our Body

1. **Jesus taught that a major threat to the choices we make in life is temptation.**

"Keep watching and praying, so that you do not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." **Matthew 26:41; Mark 14:38**

What is temptation?

Temptation persuades a person to do something for pleasure or gain.

Temptation is a natural inclination of our body and not necessarily bad.

"I was tempted to stay home, sleep and relax for a day"

Temptation becomes a threat to our life when it ignores what is righteous.

Righteousness involves the choice to serve what is in the best interest of others rather than self. Romans 3:21-26

2. **Jesus taught that the desires associated with our physical bodies are not changed by the Spirit.**

"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh provides no benefit; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit, and are life." **John 6:63**

God blessed us with physical bodies through which we enjoy life.

The Spirit informs choices in the management of our body but does not change the desires and impulses associated with the body.

Jesus can change our values so that serving righteousness becomes more important than serving the body. Mat. 16:24-25

Our Life Challenge is Spirit Informed Choices

- **Jesus knew the physical body is God's creation for our connection to life, but it interferes with healthy choices.**
- **We live in a world where we can see the degree to which the appetites associated with the body mess up lives.**
- **The greatest problem associated with the earthly body is the degree to which it controls the mind.**
- **Jesus taught that the ministry of the Spirit is to restore a healthy understanding of what matters most in life.**

"If you continue in My word, then you are truly My disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." **John 8:31-32**

- **Spirit-informed growth involves a lifelong process of learning from Jesus and practicing righteousness.**

"Allowing the mind to be more informed by Jesus than by the physical body takes time."