

Sunday, July 30, 2023
The Holy Spirit “In Me” Series
True Spiritual Growth

The Most Important Teaching of Jesus

**“Jesus plants God’s Spirit within us
to transform our life and purpose forever.”**

John 4:10-15; “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, “Give Me a drink,” you would have asked Him, and 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.”
(John 4:10; 7:37-39; Mat. 13:3-23; Mk. 4:2-20; Luke 8:4-15)

Spiritual Transformation

The work of the Holy Spirit is a supernatural work of God in the human soul that Jesus taught is necessary for the growth of God’s children.

Jesus’ Teachings About “True Spirituality”

1. The Holy Spirit restores God’s “likeness” and “image” in a person through a Spirit caused birthing of God event. (John 3:2-8; Matthew 18:1-5; Genesis 1:26-27)
2. The Holy Spirit nurtures a person as a “spirit birthed” child of God with truth taught by Jesus to equip the mind with understanding necessary for wise management of the physical body. (John 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-15)
3. Jesus identified primary obstacles in this life that interfered with the ability of people be become and grow as true children of God.
 - The devil interferes with the ability to learn Luke 8:12; Mt. 13:19
 - Temptation interferes with healthy choices Luke 8:13; Mt. 13:21
 - Worry, riches and pleasure dominate thinking Luke 8:14; Mt. 13:22
 - The disposition of a person’s heart determines. Luke 8:15; Mt. 13:23

“But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word with a good and virtuous heart, and hold it firmly, and produce fruit with perseverance.” **Luke 8:15**

True Spiritual Growth (True Spirituality)

1. Jesus taught that “temptation” threatens spiritual growth.

“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**

Temptation:

Temptation persuades us to do something for pleasure or gain.

Temptation is a natural inclination associated with life in the body.

2. Jesus taught that the Holy Spirit does not directly impact the temptations associated with the physical body.

*“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***

Life:

The Spirit gives us life as a gift from God apart from our present body.

The Spirit does not change our body’s inclinations.

The Spirit nurture our understanding of what is healthy and righteous.

3. Jesus taught that eliminating commitment to self-service is essential for true spiritual growth.

*“If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.” **Mat 16:24-25; Luke 9:23***

Management of the Body:

The Spirit informs prioritization of God’s will and people as more important than service of our appetites, emotions and feelings.

True Spirituality

- **The Spirit informs priorities in life of more importance than self.**

*“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” **Mark 10:45***

- **The Spirit equips us with understanding of God’s heart for people so that our self-service conforms with commitment to serve what is best for others.**

We cannot avoid a life committed to the service of the body.

In our self-service, we can prioritize the revealed will of God.