

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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“Characteristics Of The Spiritually-Minded”

By Jefferson David Tant

Do you know anyone who is spiritually minded? This is someone who is more than being merely religious ... more than having been baptized ... more than attending services regularly ... more than giving liberally. A person may do all of this and still not be spiritually minded, for Paul wrote of certain ones who were “holding a form of godliness, but having denied the power thereof” (II Timothy 3:5).

In another place, he writes of those who have a “voluntary humility” (Colossians 2:18). This reminds us of the hypocrites who prayed and gave alms in public and wore elaborate clothing, that they might be seen of men. And being spiritually minded is more than simply having a good knowledge of the word of God, for a person may know the truth, and yet turn away from God (Hebrews 6:4-6; 10:26).

When we speak of one who is spiritually minded, we have in mind one who displays certain characteristics in life, which things may include some of the foregoing matters, but it really goes deeper than that. In [Romans 8:5-8](#), Paul wrote of the contrast between those who have “the mind of the flesh” as opposed to those who have “the mind of the Spirit,” or those who are “spiritually minded.”

Let us consider some of those characteristics that are common to spiritually minded people. May we each examine ourselves.

A Constant Realization of God's Presence

What a great blessing to have this fellowship with God. Note Micah’s words in Micah 6:8, noting that the Lord requires of us that we “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with thy God.” Do you have a sense of walking with God? David had a keen sense of God’s presence in his life, as expressed in Psalms 139:1-12. He knew that wherever he was, in the depths of the sea, in the heavens, in darkness or daylight, he could not escape the presence of his Lord. A poet expressed it in these words: “My God and I go in the fields together, we walk and talk as good friends should and do ... My God and I walk through the meadow’s hue. This earth will pass, and with it common trifles, but God and I will go unendingly.”

This realization of God’s presence in our lives should have a great influence on us. For one thing, it should be a deterrent to sin. We often find that when we are with someone we respect, it is easy to overcome temptation, for we don’t want them to see us do wrong. I can remember visiting with some friends in another town some years ago when the congregation was having a gospel meeting. We had dinner with this family, and after the meal, their children went to their rooms to dress for the assembly. In a few minutes, their 14-year-old daughter came into the living room where I was reading the newspaper. She asked me, “How do you like my dress? I wore the longest one I had because you were here.” Well, it was still a little short, but this was in the days of extreme mini-skirts, and she knew my convictions on modest apparel. Out of her respect for me, she wore the longest she had. I appreciated that. But, if she had the realization of God’s presence in her life, she would have wanted to dress to please him at all times, not just when I was around.

I have known people who drank, smoked, and swore, but never in my presence. One time I asked a young mother why she never smoked in my presence. “Oh, I could never do that!” “Why not?” “Because I respect you too much.” I replied, “Don’t you respect your husband and your children?” She was stymied for an answer. But even beyond that, what about respect for God? In truth, if we had this sense of God’s presence in our lives, it would make a difference.

Furthermore, if we realized God's presence, we would be encouraged to pray. It is only natural and easy to talk to those who are around us. Have you ever been in a home where members of the family are not speaking to one another? "Joanie, ask your mother to pass the salt." "Joanie, tell your father that the salt is behind the potato salad." It's a strange feeling, and we know there has been some trouble there.

Why don't we talk to God more often? What great blessings we deprive ourselves of when we fail to spend time alone with God. Albert Barnes in his commentary noted the prayer life of Christ. "To be alone, he rose up 'a great while before day,' and went into a solitary place and prayed" (Mark 1:35). With him, a grove, a mountain, a garden, furnished such a place, and, though a traveler, among strangers, and without a house, he lived in the habit of secret prayer. What excuse can they have for not praying who have a home, and who spend the morning's precious hours in sleep, and who will practice no self-denial that they may be alone with God? O Christian! Your Savior would have broken in upon these hours and would have trod his solitary way to that mountain or grove that he might pray. He did do it. He did it to pray for you, too indolent and too unconcerned about your own salvation and that of the world to practice the least self-denial in order to commune with God! How can religion live thus? How can such a soul be saved?

Another benefit of this sense of God's presence is freedom from fear. *"The Lord is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life: Whom shall I dread? When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, My adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell. Though a host should encamp against me, My heart will not read; Though war rise against me, in spite of this I shall be confident"* (Psalm 27:1-3). A similar thought is expressed in Psalm 46:1-2: *"God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear ..."* The poet has expressed it in the well-known song "Be with me Lord, and then if dangers threaten, if storms of trial burst above my head, if lashing seas leap everywhere about me, They cannot harm, or make my heart afraid" (T.O. Chisolm).

In this, I can see the trust of a little child who walks unafraid in the dark, with a little hand clasped in Daddy's strong hand. I can remember when my oldest daughter, Susan, was a little girl. She was much afraid of the dark, and if I asked her to go to the back of the house or out to the car to get something for me when it was dark, she just didn't want to go. But if Daddy was with her, and her hand was in mine, then that made all the difference in the world. She was unafraid, because Daddy was there, and he would take care of any dangers. What a blessing to have this trust in God — to feel his presence in our lives. The writer of Hebrews expresses the point in these words: *"Be ye free from the love of money; content with such things as ye have; for himself hath said, I will in no wise fail thee, neither will I in any wise forsake thee. So that with good courage we can say, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What shall man do unto me?'"* (Hebrews 13:5-6).

A Recognition of God's Providential Care

Do you believe in the providence of God? Did you ever receive a gift that came at just the right time? I cannot pretend to have an insight into every event so that I can identify which particular event is providence as opposed to coincidence, but I have my "suspicions."

When Flora and I were first married and working with a small church in southeast Oklahoma among the Choctaw Indians, our salary was not calculated to put us in the upper class. My weekly wages were \$25 (in 1959). The nearest drugstore was 37 miles away. And when our son was born, the doctor and hospital were 90 miles away in Ft. Smith, Arkansas. A lot of our salary went into gas for our car. Soon after Jeff was born, a brother in Ft. Worth, Texas sent us a check for \$100, with this note: "Heard you had a boy. Thought you could use this." He had a good thought! Was God seeing to our needs?

On another occasion when things were pretty tough for us financially, we received a cashier's check in the mail for \$100. No return address on the envelope (except ours), and no signature on the check. For over a year similar checks arrived every month or two, usually for \$50. No clue as to the giver. Flora and I tried our best to identify the giver so we could thank the family. We thought we had it narrowed down, and I was going to play detective. Since the envelopes were addressed with a typewriter, I was going to borrow a friend's typewriter and type our address on some paper and compare the typing with that on the envelopes that came to us in the mail. I called the wife and asked to borrow their typewriter. "Why certainly. Is yours broken?" Since mine was not broken, I had to confess the scheme I had in mind. She laughed and replied, "Why, thank you for thinking it was us. But we are not the ones." That was many years ago, and we still don't know whose generosity helped us during that year when we were in need. Could this have been the providence of God? An answer to prayer for our "daily bread?"

Some believe the only benefits of prayer are psychological. That is, if you feel better after praying, then that is all that will happen. Now, it cannot be denied that one who prays, believing, has already received a blessing. But who can deny that the God who could create this universe can and does answer prayer? *"The supplication of a righteous man availeth much in it working"* (James 5:16).

Do you recognize God's providence in your life? That is the mark of one whose mind is "in tune" with things of the Spirit.

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Debbie Keplinger, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Clois and Estell Wright, Linda Hunt, David Taylor, Randy Beaty, Sam Johnson, Sherry Doles, Anna Hearn, Randy Ferrell, J F Dancer, & Earl Mitchell,

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer:	Tim Harris Jr.
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #1:	<i>"Our Accountability To God"</i>
<u>Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:</u>	Fred Johnson
	1 Corinthians (Mike Willis)
	<i>Page 69 , Question #1</i>

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements:	Paul Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:	Nathan Meade
Song Leader:	Paul Busby
Lord's Supper:	Jerry Kennemur
Assisting:	— —
Preaching:	Brian Meade
Sermon #2:	<i>"The Anger Of Jesus"</i>
Closing Prayer:	Paul Johnson

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

September 29th:

Auditorium Bible Class:	Paul Busby
	Ecclesiastes & Song of Solomon (Mike Willis)
	<i>Page #31, Question #11</i>
Invitation:	Brian Meade
Song Leader:	Russell Briggs
Closing Prayer:	Blake Briggs



Speaker: **Billy Randolph**
Location: **Meeks Street Church of Christ**
Date: **October 17th -- 20th**
Starting Time: **7:00 PM Nightly (Except Sunday)**

“Our Accountability To God”

Lesson Text: **Romans 14:9-13.**

I. What Is Accountability?

- the quality or state of being accountable, *especially* : an obligation or willingness To accept responsibility or to account for one's actions. (Webster)
- Bible Picture of Accountability Requires: **Authority, Responsibility, And Judgment.**
 - Accountability Illustrated in the Bible:
 - (1) **Matthew 18:23-24.**
 - (2) **Matthew 25:14-30. (Vs. 19).**
 - (3) **Matthew 25:31-46.**
 - The Characteristics Of Accountability:
 - (1) Individual- **Romans 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10.**
 - (2) Fair And Impartial- **Hebrews 4:13.**
 - (3) Just And Righteous- **2 Timothy 4:8; Revelation 19:2.**
 - (4) Sure And Certain- **Hebrews 9:27.**

II. Who Are We Accountable To:

- Children To Parents- **Ephesians 6:1-2.**
- Citizens To Government- **Romans 13:1-2; Acts 19:40.**
- Workers To Company- **1 Peter 2:18.**
- Lawbreakers To Police- **Romans 13:3.**
- All Men To God- **Ecclesiastes 11:9-10.**

III. Areas Of Accountability.

- Be Reminded That God Knows Our Deeds- **Proverbs 15:3; Revelation 2:19.**
- Our Service And Worship To God- **Luke 12:42-47; Matthew 7:21.**
- Our Words- **Matthew 12:36.**
- Our Time- **Ephesians 5:15-16; 1 Peter 1:17.**
- Our Evangelism- **Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Romans 1:14-16.**
- Our Sins- **Colossians 3:5-6.**

IV. Accountability Realized.

- In God's Providence & Punishments Before The Final Judgment- **Matt. 23:35.**
- A Full Accountability When Jesus Comes- **2 Peter 3:1-14.**
- Are You Ready For That Day?

“The Anger Of Jesus”

Lesson Text: **Mark 3:1-5.**

What do we think about anger? Is anger always condemned in the Scriptures?

1 Timothy 2:8; Ephesians 4:26. Does anger have a place in the Christian life?

orge (ὀργή, 3709), originally any “natural impulse, or desire, or disposition,” came to signify “anger,” as the strongest of all passions. It is used of the wrath of man, **Eph. 4:31; Col. 3:8; 1 Tim. 2:8; Jas. 1:19–20;** . Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Vol. 2, p. 26).

I. God Teaches Us That Anger/Wrath Is Undesirable.

- What Are We To Do With Anger in **Ephesians 4:31**? _____.
- What Are We To Do With Anger in **Colossians 3:8**? _____.
- **James 1:19-20**; What Kind of Anger/Wrath Does **James 1:20** Condemn?
_____.
- That Uncontrolled anger leads to other sins- **Genesis 4:1-8.**
 - (1) Can lead to hatred, bitterness, vengeance, violence, and even murder.
 - (2) **1 Samuel 18:8; 18:10-11.**
 - (3) **Proverbs 29:22.**
 - (4) **Ecclesiastes 7:9.**
- What did Jesus say in **Matthew 5:22**? _____.
- What kind of things should we NEVER get angry about?
_____.

II. God Teaches Us That Anger Is Not Always Sin.

- **John 2:13-17.** Jesus had a Righteous Indignation; Controlled Anger.
- Why Was Jesus Angry? See **Hebrews 1:8-9.**
_____.
- God Is Right In His Anger Toward Sin- **Romans 2:8-9; Revelation 6:16.**
- Men Moved With Anger For Misdeeds- **Matthew 18:34; Matthew 22:7.**
- What kind of things should we BE angry about?
_____.
- What Should Limit Our Anger? See **Ephesians 4:26.** _____.

III. Anger That Results In Good.

- Keeps Us From Sinning Ourselves- **Psalms 119:128.**
- Motivates Us To Restoring The Erring- **2 Corinthians 7:11; Gal. 6:1.**
- With Right Motives, We Are Following Jesus’ Example.

Notes: _____.