

13. Religiosity and Spirituality

Let us consider something about the difference between being religious and being spiritual. Perhaps, you have never thought about it, but the difference is very important for us to understand.

We read in God's Word that, "In the last days there are going to be a lot of people who hold to a form of Godliness but having denied its power" (2 Tim. 3:1, 5). Take for example someone who wants to poison another person, he would not give him a full glass of poison but perhaps a glass full of milk with, may be, just two or three drops of poison that is enough to kill the man. In the same way, when Satan wants to deceive people, he is not going to give people what is an obvious error. He is not going to come preaching sin and unrighteousness. The Bible says that Satan comes as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14, 15). There are many forms in which he comes: he comes as a lion, as a dragon, as a serpent. When he comes in these forms we can easily recognize him. He may frighten us but he cannot deceive us. You are not frightened when you see a lion, or a serpent, or a dragon concerning their intentions. But you can be deceived when you see Satan coming as an angel of light and when his servants are servants of righteousness.

Satan, in order to fulfil his purpose of leading people astray from the true God and from the truth, has invented so many religions. He has also invented versions of Christianity which are different from what we see in the Scriptures. We use the expression nominal Christians to people who are born into a Christian family, whatever denomination they may be, but who have not come to a personal faith in Jesus Christ. Yet many of these people can have a

13. 「屬宗教的」與「屬靈的」

接下來,讓我們思考一下「屬宗教」與「屬靈」的區別。也許你還從沒想過這個,但是理解這個區別對我們來說非常重要。

我們讀到神的話:「在末世,會有很多人具有敬虔的外貌,卻違背敬虔的實意」(提摩太后書 3 章 1 節,5 節)。打個比方說,有人想毒害你,他不會給你一大杯毒藥,而更可能是給你一杯牛奶,裡面就兩三滴足以殺死人的毒藥。同樣地,如果撒但想欺騙人,他不會告訴人明顯錯的東西。他不會直接勸你做邪惡或不正當的事。《聖經》說撒但會裝作光明的天使(哥林多後書 11 章 14、15 節)。他會以很多面貌出現,可能像獅子、龍或者一條蛇。當他以這些面貌出現時,我們其實可以很容易認出他。他可以恐嚇我們,但卻無法欺騙我們。你看到獅子、蛇或是龍的時候,會很害怕。然而,只有當撒但以光明的天使,或假裝是公義的僕人時,才有可能欺騙了你。

撒但,為了能夠使人遠離神和真相,並走上邪路,發明了很多種宗教。他還發明了很多版本的「基督教」,不同于《聖經》的「基督教」。我們說那些只是出生于基督教家庭,無論哪個教派,只要沒有和耶穌基督建立親身的關係,那麼我們稱這些人為「有名無實的基督徒」。很多這樣的人都有一副看似敬虔的外貌。甚至即使那些接受了基督為救主,卻無法區分「屬宗教的」和「屬靈的」,也很可能會變得更「宗教化」,而非「屬靈的」。

form of godliness. Even those who have accepted Christ as their Saviour, if they fail to distinguish between religiosity and spirituality, may develop in becoming more and more religious and not spiritual.

Religiosity is a human thing whereas spirituality is divine - it is from heaven. The Old Testament Law, for example, could not make anybody spiritual. There were people in the Old Testament who rose above the standards of The Law. People like Moses, Elijah, and John the Baptist became spiritually minded, knowing the heart of God. But The Law itself could not make anybody spiritual, because The Law only demanded that you conform to certain standards externally. If you kept the Ten Commandments, i.e. you didn't have any other gods, you didn't worship idols, you didn't take the Lord's name in vain, you kept the Sabbath, you honoured your father and mother, you didn't commit adultery, theft, murder, or bear false witness, or covet something which is your neighbour's, you are okay. Externally The Law cannot find fault with you. If you kept all the commandments concerning the ceremonial law, you would be accepted as a person in very good standing; you would be an outstanding Jew in Israel. But you need not be spiritual.

Now the same thing can happen today. A person can go to the meetings regularly and can conform to the external demands of a particular Christian denomination or a church and have a good standing there. He could even be a board member or an elder there in the church but not necessarily be spiritual at all. He may be only religious. Then he would be the equivalent of the Pharisees in Jesus' time. They conformed to all the requirements of The Law, externally, in the eyes of the people, but were not devoted to Jesus Christ in their hearts. They were

「屬宗教的」是一種人為的產物,而「屬靈的」則是屬天的——是來自天國的。比如說,舊約的律法,是無法讓任何人變得屬靈的。舊約時代,也曾有人超越了律法的標準。像摩西、以利亞,和施洗約翰,就曾經有了屬靈的精神,知道神的心意。但是律法本身無法讓人變得「屬靈」,因為律法只能使人的外在順從一定的標準。如果你守了十誡,即,你沒有別的神,不敬拜偶像,你守安息日,尊敬父母,不犯姦淫、偷盜、謀殺,或是做假證,不嫉妒他人所有的,你就可以了。從表面看,用律法不能挑出你任何毛病。如果你遵守全部律法的儀式,大家會認為你是個很好的人,一個非常好的猶太人。然而,你卻不一定是「屬靈」的。

現今這個時代同樣的情況也會發生。一個人經常參加聚會,並且嚴格遵守他那個教派或是教會的規定。他甚至可以是那個教會的執事或長老,但那一點都不代表他是個「屬靈」的人。他有可能就只是個「宗教性」的人。那樣,他就和耶穌時代的法利賽人沒區別。在人眼裡,他們遵守一切能看得見的律法,但裡面卻沒有把自己的心獻給耶穌基督。這些人不是「屬靈的」。他們沒有把自己完全交給神。他們沒有用全部的心、全部的靈魂、力量和思想來愛神。他們有可能愛的是錢(路加福音 16 章 14 節)。這只是個例子。

not spiritual. They were not devoted to God. They did not love God with all their heart, soul, strength and mind. They loved money (Lk. 16:14). That is just one example.

Religious people can pray, read the Bible daily, attend all night fasting and prayer meetings, tithe their income, give out tracts. But, along with all that, they will also seek honour from men, live for themselves, love money, be interested in gossiping, etc. They don't seem to see that there is a contradiction between these two aspects of their lives. There doesn't seem to be a connection between these two. On one side, there is a form of godliness, but on the other side, the inner power that delivers a person from a self-centred life and makes him really godly is not there. These are some examples. If you are more interested in the opinion of men; in what men think about you than in what God thinks about you, the chances are, my friend, that you could be just religious.

It is good to face up to it. We are not saying anything insulting to anyone but when we expose our life to the scan of the Word of God and God's Word shows us that our Christianity is only superficial, it is good to face up to it. It is better to recognize it now rather than when Christ comes again and we stand before him. That will be too late. If we recognize today that we are only religious and not spiritual, we can do something about it.

A spiritual man is more interested in God's opinion of his life than the opinion of all men. A spiritual man is more interested in living a godly life than even in attending the meetings. His attendance at meetings is only to help him to live a godly life, because godly life is more important than a meeting. The way he

這些屬宗教的人可以每天禱告、讀經,參加各種晚間禁食,禱告聚會,交什一稅,上交土地等等。然而,除了這些事情以外,他們仍然在尋求世人的認可,為了自己而活,愛錢,喜歡講閒話,等等等等。他們似乎看不到生命裡這兩個方面是矛盾的。好像這兩方面毫無聯繫似的。一方面,他們有一副虔誠的外表;另一方面,內裡那能夠使人真正敬神並脫離自我為中心的力量卻不在那。下面是一個例子:如果你更在意世人對你的看法,勝過在意神對你的看法,那麼很有可能,我的朋友,你就只是一個「屬宗教的人」。

直面這件事是有益的。我們說這些不是在輕蔑誰,而是如果我們把自己的人生放在神的話語面前掃描的話,便能夠看出我們的信仰生活是多麼的膚淺。直接面對是有好處的。若等到基督再來,我們站在祂面前的時候才發現,那麼還是現在就明白比較好。如果我們今天認識到自己只是「屬宗教」而非「屬靈」,我們還有機會可以來做些什麼。

一個「屬靈的」人更在意神對他生活的看法,而不在意人對他的看法。一個屬靈的人對活出聖潔的人生更感興趣,勝過對參加團聚的興趣。他參加團聚的目的是為了能夠活出更聖潔的人生,因為聖潔的人生比聚會要更重要。對於一個敬虔的人來說,在家裡對他妻子孩子的態度,比周日早上是否在聚會上講道更為重要。

behaves with his wife and children at home is far more important for a godly man than whether he preaches on a Sunday morning in the meetings or not. There you can evaluate yourself.

If you are very careful to prepare your sermon for your Sunday morning message but not careful in the way you speak to your wife at home, you are probably just religious, not spiritual. It is people who have a form of godliness who have got a reputation that they are very holy people, but they not really spiritual. If a person is satisfied that he fasts and prays and tithes, but doesn't seem to bother whether he can control his speech during the day or not, is not disturbed by the fact that he is a lover of money, then he is religious. A person could be interested in evangelism - reaching out for the lost, which is a very good thing and a very necessary thing, but if he, along with that, not interested in personal sanctification, he is just religious. A spiritual man will be interested in both.

A lot of these activities which the religions people are involved in are very good, but the question is of priorities. Priorities are what make a man spiritual.

You see a religious person is very often interested in the written word - the letter of the law. Bible says that "... the letter of the law kills, but the spirit brings life" (2 Cor. 3:6). That means, God's word, if taken just according to the letter, without understanding its spirit, won't bring life, it will kill you. Have you thought of that? We must understand this in the context of entire verse, particularly the first part; "We are servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but the Spirit, because the letter kills but the Spirit gives life."

諸如此類,你可以來衡量一下自己。

如果你非常仔細地準備周日早上的牧道內容,然而在家對妻子說話的態度就沒那麼仔細,你很可能就只是個「屬宗教」而不是「屬靈」的人。有些表面看起來非常虔敬,被公認非常聖潔的人,實際上卻並沒有「屬靈」。如果一個人滿足於自己齋戒、祈禱,交什一稅,卻並不在意平時是否管控自己的言語,對於自己愛錢的事實毫不感覺困擾,那麼他肯定只是「屬宗教的」。一個人可以非常熱衷於傳福音(尋找那些迷途的是非常好非常重要的),只是,除此之外,若他對於自我犧牲沒有興趣,他就只是「屬宗教的」。一個屬靈的人對兩者都感興趣。

這些「屬宗教」的人參與的那些活動都是非常好的,但問題是,他們更看重的是什麼。一個人更看重的東西決定了他是否「屬靈」。

你知道一個「屬宗教」的人,通常對寫下來的文字感興趣——比如一本律法。《聖經》說「那字句叫人死,而聖靈叫人活」(哥林多後書 3 章 6 節)。這是在說,如果只按字面意思來看待神的話語,而不明白其中的靈(精神),那是使人死的。你有想過這個嗎?我們必須把這話從上下文的意思來理解,尤其是上半部分「我們是這新約的僕人,不是文字的僕人,而是聖靈的僕人,因為那些字句叫人死,而聖靈給人生命。」

Remember once when Jesus said, 'You have got to eat my flesh and drink my blood', a lot of people got offended, as they thought Jesus was preaching cannibalism. We read this in John 6. They got so offended that they went away and they never walked with Him anymore. Jesus said one last word to them before they left. He said to them, "The words I speak to you are Spirit and life, the flesh profits nothing" (Jn. 6:63). And so, what Jesus spoke was spiritual.

You can take the word of Scripture - the letter, and obey it down to the last detail, and just be a religious person, not spiritual at all. It takes more than just keeping the letter of the law. It takes a heart attitude towards God - towards His words for a person to become spiritual. Our goal in life should be to be spiritual, not a religious person like the Pharisees of old covenant. They were more interested in justifying themselves before men and proving to men that what they were standing for is right and what they were doing is right. The spiritual man is not really bothered about what people think about him.

Jesus never lived wondering what people were thinking or saying about him; He lived only to please the Father. A spiritual person cares for God's opinion. Religious people can often meditate for years on the words of praise that somebody has said about them. A spiritual person, on the other hand, refuses to receive testimony from men. They know that other men do not know the corruption that is in their own heart. They know that the praise of men is worth less than nothing. So they live for God's opinion, they live to please Him.

If our goal in life is to please God, that is not easy, we have to fight a battle and say, 'Lord, I do not

記得嗎,在約翰福音第 6 章,耶穌曾說過,「你們必須要吃我的肉,喝我的血」,很多人聽了這話覺得非常不舒服,他們以為耶穌在教他們食人。爾後很多人離開了再也不跟隨祂了。耶穌在他們離開前說的最後一句話是:「我對你們說的這些話,是靈,是生命,肉體是無益的。」(約翰福音 6 章 63 節)因而你可以看出,耶穌所說的是屬靈上的意思。

你可以從《聖經》裡拿出一些詞句——那些詞,爾後完全的去順服,但卻只是個「屬宗教的」人,完全沒有「屬靈」。因為「屬靈的」生命所需要的,超過單單遵守那些律法。要成為「屬靈的」人,需要有向著神的心——向著神之道的心。我們生活的目的,是要成為一個「屬靈」的人,而不是像舊約時代的法利賽人那樣單單是個「屬宗教」的人。那些人更看重如何在人前證明自己,對世人證明自己所代表的是正確的,證明自己所做的是正確的。而一個「屬靈」的人是不會在意世人如何看待自己的。

耶穌在世的時候,從來沒去在意人們怎麼看待祂或是怎麼評價祂。祂活著就只為了討天父的喜悅。一個「屬靈的」人,在意神對他的看法。然而「屬宗教」的人,可能甚至會花幾年的時間來尋思人們對他們的誇獎。「屬靈的」人,卻會拒絕接受那些世人對自己的見證。因為他知道那些世人是無法看見他心裡的腐壞的。他知道世人的誇獎,是毫無價值的。因而他們只為了神的意見而活,他們活著就只為了討神的喜悅。

如果我們人生的目標是去討神喜悅,其實並不是容易的事,因為我們需要做屬靈的交戰,並對神說:「主啊,我不

want to please man, I want to please you.' And if that is our determined goal, then we will find that Spirit of God shows us the way to be truly spiritual. Then we will not only have the external form of godliness, but the inner power as well.

想去討人的喜悅,我想要討你的喜悅。」這如果是我們堅定的目標,那麼我們將會看到,神的靈指引我們通向真正「屬靈」的道路。爾後,我們就不止會擁有表面上的聖潔,還會擁有內在的力量。