

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. “属宗教的”与“属灵的”

接下来，让我们思考一下“属宗教”与“属灵”的区别。也许你还从没想过这个，但是理解这个区别对我们来说非常重要。

我们读到神的话：“在末世，会有很多人有敬虔的外貌，却违背敬虔的实意”（提摩太后书 3 章 1 节，5 节）。打个比方说，有人想毒害你，他不会给你一大杯毒药，而更可能是给你一杯牛奶，里面就两三滴足以杀死人的毒药。同样地，如果撒但想欺骗人，他不会告诉人明显错的东西。他不会直接劝你做邪恶或不正当的事。《圣经》说撒但会装作光明的天使（哥林多后书 11 章 14、15 节）。他会以很多面貌出现，可能像狮子、龙或者一条蛇。当他以这些面貌出现时，我们其实可以很容易认出他。他可以恐吓我们，但却无法欺骗我们。你看到狮子、蛇或是龙的时候，会很害怕。然而，只有当撒但以光明的天使，或假装是公义的仆人时，才有可能欺骗了你。

撒但，为了能够使人远离神和真相，并走上邪路，发明了很多种宗教。他还发明了很多版本的“基督教”，不同于《圣经》的“基督教”。我们说那些只是出生于基督教家庭，无论哪个教派，只要没有和耶稣基督建立亲身的关系，那么我们称这些人为“有名无实的基督徒”。很多这样的人都有一副看似敬虔的外貌。甚至即使那些接受了基督为救主，却无法区分“属宗教的”和“属灵的”，也很可能会变得更“宗教化”，而非“属灵的”。

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

“属宗教的”是一种人为的产物，而“属灵的”则是属天的——是来自天国的。比如说，旧约的律法，是无法让任何人变得属灵的。旧约时代，也曾有人超越了律法的标准。像摩西、以利亚，和施洗约翰，就曾经有了属灵的精神，知道神的心意。但是律法本身无法让人变得“属灵”，因为律法只能使人的外在顺从一定的标准。如果你守了十诫，即，你没有别的神，不敬拜偶像，你守安息日，尊敬父母，不犯奸淫、偷盗、谋杀，或是做假证，不嫉妒他人所有的，你就可以了。从表面看，用律法不能挑出你任何毛病。如果你遵守全部律法的仪式，大家会认为你是个很好的人，一个非常好的犹太人。然而，你却不一定是“属灵”的。

现今这个时代同样的情况也会发生。一个人经常参加聚会，并且严格遵守他那个教派或是教会的规定。他甚至可以是那个教会的执事或长老，但那一点都不代表他是个“属灵”的人。他有可能就只是个“宗教性”的人。那样，他就和耶稣时代的法利赛人没区别。在人眼里，他们遵守一切能看得见的律法，但里面却没有把自己的心献给耶稣基督。这些人不是“属灵的”。他们没有把自己完全交给神。他们没有用全部的心、全部的灵魂、力量和思想来爱神。他们有可能爱的是钱（路加福音 16 章 14 节）。这只是个例子。

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

这些属宗教的人可以每天祷告、读经，参加各种晚间禁食，祷告聚会，交什一税，上交土地等等。然而，除了这些事情以外，他们仍然在寻求世人的认可，为了自己而活，爱钱，喜欢讲闲话，等等等等。他们似乎看不到生命里这两个方面是矛盾的。好像这两方面毫无联系似的。一方面，他们有一副虔诚的外表；另一方面，内里那能够使人真正敬神并脱离自我为中心的力量却不在那。下面是一个例子：如果你更在意世人对你的看法，胜过在意神对你的看法，那么很有可能，我的朋友，你就只是一个“属宗教的人”。

直面这件事是有益的。我们说这些不是在轻蔑谁，而是如果我们把自己的人生放在神的话语面前扫描的话，便能够看出我们的信仰生活是多么的肤浅。直接面对是有好处的。若等到基督再来，我们站在祂面前的时候才发现，那么还是现在就明白比较好。如果我们今天认识到自己只是“属宗教”而非“属灵”，我们还有机会可以来做些什么。

一个“属灵的”人更在意神对他生活的看法，而不在意人对他的看法。一个属灵的人对活出圣洁的人生更感兴趣，胜过对参加团聚的兴趣。他参加团聚的目的是为了能够活出更圣洁的人生，因为圣洁的人生比聚会要更重要。对于一个敬虔的人来说，在家里对他妻子孩子的态度，比周日早上是否在聚会上讲道更为重

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."

要。诸如此类，你可以来衡量一下自己。

如果你非常仔细地准备周日早上的牧道内容，然而在家对妻子说话的态度就没那么仔细，你很可能就是个“属宗教”而不是“属灵”的人。有些表面看起来非常虔敬，被公认非常圣洁的人，实际上却并没有“属灵”。如果一个人满足于自己斋戒、祈祷，交什一税，却并不在意平时是否管控自己的言语，对于自己爱钱的事实毫不感觉困扰，那么他肯定只是“属宗教的”。一个人可以非常热衷于传福音（寻找那些迷途的是非常好非常重要的），只是，除此之外，若他对于自我牺牲没有兴趣，他就只是“属宗教的”。一个属灵的人对两者都感兴趣。

这些“属宗教”的人参与的那些活动都是非常好的，但问题是，他们更看重的是什么。一个人更看重的东西决定了他是否“属灵”。

你知道一个“属宗教”的人，通常对写下来的文字感兴趣——比如一本律法。《圣经》说“那字句叫人死，而圣灵叫人活”（哥林多后书 3 章 6 节）。这是在说，如果只按字面意思来看待神的话语，而不明白其中的灵（精神），那是使人死的。你有想过这个吗？我们必须把这话从上下文的意思来理解，尤其是上半部分“我们是这新约的仆人，不是文字的仆人，而是圣灵的仆人，因为那些字句叫人死，而圣灵给人生命。”

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

记得吗，在约翰福音第 6 章，耶稣曾说过，“你们必须要吃我的肉，喝我的血”，很多人听了这话觉得非常不舒服，他们以为耶稣在教他们食人。尔后很多人离开了再也不跟随祂了。耶稣在他们离开前说的最后一句话是：“我对你们说的这些话，是灵，是生命，肉体是无益的。”（约翰福音 6 章 63 节）因而你可以看出，耶稣所说的是属灵上的意思。

你可以从《圣经》里拿出一些词句——那些词，尔后完全的去顺服，但却只是个“属宗教的”人，完全没有“属灵”。因为“属灵的”生命所需要的，超过单单遵守那些律法。要成为“属灵的”人，需要有向着神的心——向着神之道的心。我们生活的目的，是要成为一个“属灵”的人，而不是像旧约时代的法利赛人那样单单是个“属宗教”的人。那些人更看重如何在人前证明自己，对世人证明自己所代表的是正确的，证明自己所做的是正确的。而一个“属灵”的人是不会在意世人如何看待自己的。

耶稣在世的时候，从来没去在意人们怎么看待祂或是怎么评价祂。祂活着就只为了讨天父的喜悦。一个“属灵的”人，在意神对他的看法。然而“属宗教”的人，可能甚至会花几年的时间来寻思人们对他们的夸奖。“属灵的”人，却会拒绝接受那些世人对自己的见证。因为他知道那些世人是无法看见他心里的腐坏的。他知道世人的夸奖，是毫无价值的。因而他们只为了神的意见而活，他们活着就只为了讨神的喜悦。

如果我们人生的目标是去讨神喜悦，其实并不是容易的事，因为我们需要做属灵的交战，并对神说：“主

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.

啊，我不想去讨人的喜悦，我想要讨你的喜悦。”这如果是我们坚定的目标，那么我们将会看到，神的灵指引我们通向真正“属灵”的道路。尔后，我们就不会拥有表面上的圣洁，还会拥有内在的力量。