

## **14. ANOTHER EVIDENCE OF GENUINE SPIRITUAL**

### **CHANGE SPIRITUAL**

Many people enjoy going to Church. It could be for the social contact, or the show of Spirituality, or for the singing of the hymns and many other moral boosting reasons. This does not demonstrate true Spirituality. Yet it could be for the genuine purpose of worshipping God. We need to know the reason to know whether it is Spiritually motivated or morally motivated.

There does need to be carefulness and order in our worship, but the Spiritually minded are seeking to worship God, not make a spectacle of themselves. Satisfaction from a religious service can simply arise from a sense of having done one's duty, and even lessen one's guilt for known sins committed. But for believers it is to be fed the word of God in order for us to grow and make progress in our Spiritual walk.

The reason some people attend religious services is to earn credits with God. They may even think that reading their Bible early in the morning will provide them with the necessary protection for the day, - having done their "duty" – now the day is mine to do as I please!!! **ROM 10:3** "Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness."

To those who seek a good reputation as the way to preferment, a pride in being thought of as devout, is what they seek. There is a sense of pleasure to them as they feel that they are contributing to the service, to their own credit. But they forget that God sees into the heart, and their duplicity is wide open to the eyes of God.

Superstitious practices play a major role in the Catholic, and Orthodox Churches. Superstitions even play a role in our everyday lives. For example, one belief goes that if your left hand is itchy, you are going to receive money. But if your right hand is itchy, you are going to pay out money. But superstition in the Christian Church is the improper worship of the true God. Superstitions seem to be as inbuilt to our character as is sin. We use them as some sort of insurance against “bad luck”. And we do so to take control of our lives against the constant threats that we daily face. **EPH 4:22-24** “Put off the old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the Spirit of your minds, and put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness”.

Superstitious practices detract from our trust in God. No Spiritually minded person draws comfort from worship for such a reason. These practices make us feel good for the wrong reasons and are not acceptable to God.

If we are to have a good relationship with God, we need to remember that we need to regularly cleanse our hearts from sin **PSM 51:7** “Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean **v 10**” Create in me a pure heart O God and renew a steadfast Spirit within me”. It is God who washes our hearts clean by the blood of Christ. We have no relationship with Christ if we hide sin in our hearts. **1 JN 1:9** “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify (cleanse) us from all unrighteousness”. We are to seek this cleansing from God, who is the only one who is able to do so for us.