

### **3. SPIRITUAL MINDED? NOT NECESSARILY!!**

To see and understand if we are Spiritually minded or not, we need some method, or test, to see whether we do indeed think Spiritually or not.

We will first examine three ways which we might choose to use, that are in fact unreliable ones.

Firstly, we might enjoy listening to good preaching. A good preacher will indeed arouse the interest of the unspiritual as well as the Spiritual. But as the Master taught us in the parable of the sower, as soon as the sermon was over, they forgot what it was all about – this was the seed that fell on the stony ground. They heard the word but there was no root – the soil was too shallow. However, for the Spiritually minded, their faith in God is stimulated, their Spiritual needs are satisfied, and they grow Spiritually.

Secondly, people who can pray fluently are not necessarily Spiritually minded. Some people are gifted in speech, but that does not make them Spiritual. Natural gifts make believers more useful in God's service, but these gifts need to be tied to a sense of humility, reverence for God, and reflect the love of God in their hearts. Our earnestness must be for the Glory of God. Natural gifts are not the indisputable marks of Spiritual mindedness, but they can greatly assist the Spiritual mind to express itself.

We need therefore to examine our motives in our prayer life. The Master has instructed us to pray according to the will of the Father "Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven". One of the very important aspects of praying is the confession of our sins and the asking of forgiveness. God's answer to Solomon in **2 CHRON 7:14** is a prime example of this aspect of prayer. We see it also in the book of Malachi. It has the objective of us humbling us before the mighty Father. We need to be at the right place when we pray, and that is at the foot of the cross of our Beloved Master – nowhere else.

As we examine our motives for our praying, we need to see whether they are sincere. When our prayers refresh our spirits, delight our hearts, comfort our consciences, and calm our minds, then it is true prayer. If our prayers do not have this effect, we need to humbly plead that they should. After all, does not the gracious spirit of God, pray on our behalf?

Believers who sincerely wish to pray aright, will try to live aright. Avoiding anything that would prevent godliness – the callous neglect of sin. If our prayers are expressions of love for Christ, then we may regard them as arising from Spiritual mindedness.

We should also remember that genuine prayer is accompanied by practical actions. If we pray for the welfare of fellow Christians and do nothing practically to assist them then our prayers may become questionable as to their sincerity.

There may be times when we say, “I feel no joy in prayer”. This does not prove that our prayers are not genuine. We know that God’s timing is not our timing in answering prayers. Then let us not stop praying. True seekers will eventually find the sense of God’s presence in prayer.

Thirdly, we may be stimulated into thinking Spiritually while in the company of other Christians who might be discussing Spiritual issues. If Spiritual thoughts are only ever produced by some outside stimulation, then they cannot be arising from Spiritual mindedness within a person.

Are our Spiritual thoughts only guests in our hearts, or are they like children who belong in our home? When guests arrive there is a bustling about to accommodate and entertain those who are only visiting.

Once the visit is over, it is back to normal – whatever that might be.

But if our Spiritual thoughts are akin to children of the house, there is constant attention to their needs, and mutual interaction in a long-term relationship. If the children are absent for any reason, they are missed. This is the reaction of Spiritual mindedness.