

The Issue of Spirituality, Part 1

John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

- A. The prophetic office is primarily directed towards the people of God.
- B. There are deeply serious things that must be brought to light in the Word of God.
- C. There are many things in the church that are not right that must be addressed.

II. Charismatics teach that experience is equivalent to spirituality.

- A. They teach two levels of Christians—those who have the experience of the Baptism of the Spirit and those who do not.
- B. A spiritual person is one who functions according to the Spirit—it is not merely a spiritual experience.

III. The natural man is the unregenerate man. The spiritual man is the regenerate man. (1 Corinthians 2:15)

- A. “Spiritual” means to possess the Holy Spirit. One cannot be a Christian and not spiritual. (Romans 8:6)
- B. While we are all spiritual, we do not always act like it. (1 Corinthians 3:1)
- C. Two things that guarantee spirituality are receptivity to the Word and obedience to its principle.
- D. We walk in the Spirit (one moment at a time) to deny the power of the flesh. (Galatians 6; 5:16)
- E. The ultimate objective of spirituality is to be like Christ. (1 Corinthians 11:1, Philippians 1:21, Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 4:13, Philippians 3:9)

IV. There is no basis for continued spirituality. (1 Corinthians 1:7; 3:1)

- A. Spirituality is not consequent to some gift.
- B. Gifts have no preventative power against the lust of the flesh.

Application Questions:

1. What is true spirituality?

2. What place should experience have in the Christian life?

3. What is the relationship between the spiritual gifts and spirituality? Explain.
