

SPIRITUAL GIFTS  
Part 2  
What Does Spiritual Mean?

1st Co. 2:9-15

INTRODUCTION

- I. THERE IS A MYSTICISM BEHIND THE USE OF THE WORD SPIRITUAL IN THE WORLD.
  - A. The use of the term “spiritual” is primarily used in the New Testament.
    1. There is one Old Testament reference to the word “spiritual” and two New Testament references that deal with spiritual things in the Old Testament.
      - i. The only use of the term in the King James occurs in Hosea 9:7
        1. “Spiritual” translates the word “ruach” which is used in the Old Testament of one who had the Spirit come “upon” them. cf. Num. 11:17, 25
        2. The Holy Spirit’s ministry differed in the Old Testament from the New.
          - a. Old Testament saints were not indwelt by the Spirit.
          - b. Old Testament saints were not renewed in the spirit of their minds.
      - ii. “Spiritual” is used two times in 1st Corinthians 10 to describe things related to the Holy Spirit in the wilderness.
        1. “Meat” -- 1st Co. 10:3
        2. “Rock” -- 1st Co. 10:4
    2. The definitions of spiritual as used in the world are:
      - i. **”Relating to or affecting the human spirit or soul as opposed to matter or physical things.”** – Oxford Dictionary
      - ii. “A sense of connection to something higher than ourselves.” – Positive Psychology.com
      - iii. **To operate within the immaterial, outside of the emotional or physical realm; to operate within the renewed human spirit as filled by the Holy Spirit** – K.D.J.
  - B. The word “spiritual” in the New Testament is comprised of:
    1. “Pneuma” is used in Scripture for wind or spirit; whether beings outside of the physical realm or human. cf. Matt. 8:16 (demons); Rom. 7:6; 1:9 (believers can operate from)
    2. “Ikos” -- is a suffix that **emphasizes pertaining to or emanating from a thing.**
    3. In composition it notes those that relate to use of the renewed spirit of the believer. cf. 1st Co. 2:15 (he discerns all things- to weigh two things together to derive their value) cf. 2 Co. 10:12
  - C. “Spiritual” is the opposite of “carnal”
    1. “Carnal” is the word sarkikos.
    2. Sarkikos is comprised of two words:

- i. “Sarks” which is used in the New Testament of physical flesh that covers the body as well as the fallen nature of man.
  - ii. “Tkos” is *pertaining to or emanating from a thing*.
- 3. It is used 11 times in the New Testament.
  - i. It is used for non-sin nature things.
    - 1. Spiritual weapons are not this. 2 Co. 10:4
    - 2. It is used of animate things used in the world. Rom. 15:27; 1st Co. 9:11 (of things in the world)
    - 3. It is used of a commandment that pertained to fleshly operations. Heb. 7:16
  - ii. It is used of the sin nature related things.
    - 1. It is used of lusts that are driven by the flesh. 1st Pet. 2:11
    - 2. It is used of
- 4. It is contrasted with “spiritual” on several occasions in Scripture. 1st Co. 9:11; 3:1; Rom. 15:27

- D. “Spiritual” is used in Scripture of that which is immaterial that can only be reconciled by the regenerated human spirit.
  - 1. Seen in “the things” God has prepared for those loving Him. 1st Co. 2:9-13
    - i. “Spiritual things” (neuter of pneumatikos) pertain to the immaterial things that God has prepared for those who are loving Him.
    - ii. “Spiritual” (instrumental use) -- with spiritual (words -- pertaining to the things God has revealed in His Word).
  - 2. A spiritual believer is able to discern spiritual things with spiritual words. vs.13

## II. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 25 USES OF THE TERM “SPIRITUAL” IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

- A. Spiritual is used primarily (16 times) in the book of 1st Corinthians to describe the state of one who is operating from his renewed mind as he is filled by the Holy Spirit.
- B. Spiritual is used elsewhere in Scripture to describe the possession or operation of immaterial things provided by the Holy Spirit.
  - 1. The church is seen as a spiritual entity. 1st Pet. 2:5
  - 2. Blessings. Eph. 1:3
  - 3. Songs -- Eph. 5:19
  - 4. Sacrifices -- 1st Pet. 2:5
    - a. Body -- Rom. 12:1
    - b. Giving -- Phil. 4:18
    - c. Faith -- Phil. 2:17
    - d. Praise -- Heb. 13:15
    - e. Fellowship -- Heb. 13:16
    - f. Doing good -- Heb. 13:16
  - 5. Understanding -- Col. 1:9
  - 6. Body -- 1st Co. 15:44
  - 7. Gifts -- 1st Co. 12:1; 14:1

## CONCLUSION