

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Being Spiritual

(Jerry Fite)

Paul writes, “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. (Galatians 6:1). Paul is calling for Christians to come to the aid of their fellow brethren, when one is overtaken in any sin. The occasion demands someone who does not merely wear the name of Christian, but who lives in the Spirit. Paul calls for brethren “who are spiritual.”

The task of restoring a brother back to a place of usefulness demands one who is meek or humble. Such a Christian knows that he or she can be overcome by temptation and suddenly fall into sin just like the one whom currently needs restoration. Therefore, one who is spiritual is needed for the occasion because it demands one who is meek or gentle, not haughty or judgmental.

One “who is spiritual” is one who is bearing “the fruit of the Spirit.” Paul sets forth the nine facets of the single fruit of the Spirit that is manifested in the life of the Christian: “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Possessing the “love” for

God and His children, wanting “joy” to return to the guilty heart and the consequent “peace” with God, the one with “gentleness” seeks the mending of the fallen brother or sister.

“Being spiritual” will also occur when the Lord’s servants are engaged in correcting doctrinal error. “And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth...” (2 Timothy 2:24-25). The Lord’s servant is not out to promote self, but in humility uses one’s teaching ability to correct the opposition in their ignorance of the truth. What a moment for the spiritually minded servant when the knowledge of the truth is grasped so “they may recover themselves out the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him unto his will” (2 Timothy 2:26).

One is spiritual when he or she minds the things of the Spirit in contrast to fulfilling the lusts of the flesh. Paul sets forth this distinction of the righteous: “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the

things of the Spirit (Romans 8:5). Being spiritual is not something you stumble into, but a determined way of living. One is “in the Spirit” when “the Spirit of God dwells” in the Christian (cf. Romans 8:9). When the revealed teachings of the Spirit continue to abide in the heart and direct one’s life, one is being spiritual.

Manifesting “self-control” against sin is “being spiritual.” Is it not one facet of the fruit of the Spirit? (cf. Galatians 5:23). We can have the Word readily at hand to defeat the wiles of the devil (Psalms 119:11), but it will be the inward saying of no to the devil’s alluring bait that determines successful resistance. Knowing Scripture coupled with self-control will result in a fleeing Devil (cf. James 4:7).

Resisting sin ourselves, while restoring those overcome by sin characterize spiritual people. Keeping self in check when humbly correcting doctrinal error allows deceived people to free themselves from the will of the Devil. Following the lead of the Spirit through the divinely inspired Word, fills the life of the spiritual person. Being spiritual is determined by who you are and what you do, not so much as to how you feel!