



# **RELIGIOUS SPIRIT**

## 1. **Definition**

- The term religious spirit does not appear in the Bible.
- These are people who focus on :
  - Appearance
  - Structure
  - Ceremony
  - Formula
  - Liturgy
  - Ritual

## 2. **Operation of a religious spirit**

- Arrogant
  - A religious spirit is found in those who seem to think they've obtained righteousness through works, style of dress and the number of times they attend church functions.
  - But Jesus said that no one is righteous apart from Him so that we cannot boast in our own efforts.
- Fear
  - Ephesians 2:8 - 9 explains clearly that we are saved by grace, not by works. Many find themselves manipulated by legalists who give more reverence to the law than to the finished work of the cross.
  - This creates a religious spirit that motivates from fear rather than love.
- Tradition
  - an agent of Satan assigned to prevent change and maintain the status quo by using religious tools
  - These religious tools can include a lot of rules made by man, not God.
- Deceived
  - A religious spirit tends to insinuate that it is the church and holding to long standing traditions that saves a person. The Bible, however, clearly states that no man or woman comes to the Father except through Jesus. Church bylaws, practices and traditions are man made and save no one.
- Have a form of Godliness – 2Tim 3:5
- Always critical – Lk6:41-42
- Gossip – 3 Jhn 9-11
- Always want to be seen – LK 18:9-14
- Voice of tradition – 1 Tim 4:4-5

### 3. **26 point Self Test**

1. Will often see their primary mission as the tearing down of whatever they believe is wrong.
2. Will be unable to accept rebuke, especially from those they judge to be less spiritual than themselves.
3. Will have a philosophy that, "I will not listen to people, but only to God.
4. Will be inclined to see more of what is wrong than what is right with other churches, people etc.
5. Will be subject to an overwhelming feeling of guilt that they can never measure up to the Lord's standards.
6. Will keep score in their spiritual life.
7. Will believe that they have been appointed to fix everyone else.
8. Will have a leadership style that is bossy overbearing and intolerant of the weakness or failure in others.
9. Will have a sense that they are closer to God than other people, or that their lives or ministries are more pleasing to Him.
10. Will take pride in their spiritual maturity and discipline, especially compared to others.
11. Will believe that they are always on the cutting edge of what God is doing. They believe if God will work in their city, it will be through them first.
12. Will have a mechanical prayer life. Will feel relief when they have finished their prayer list.
13. Will do things in order to be noticed by others.
14. Will be overly repulsed by emotionalism.
15. Will use emotionalism as a substitute for the work of the Spirit. In other words, they
16. Will fake manifestations to look good.
17. Will be encouraged when their ministries look better than others.
18. Will glory more in what God did in the past than what He is doing in the present.
19. Will tend to be suspicious of or opposed to new movements, churches, etc.
20. Will tend to reject spiritual manifestations that they don't understand.
21. Will overreact to carnality and immaturity in the church.
22. Will be overly prone to view supernatural manifestations as evidence of God's approval.
23. Will be unable to join anything they do not deem perfect or nearly perfect.
24. Will be overly paranoid of the religious spirit.
25. Will have the tendency to glory in anything but the Lord, especially their commitment and their church.
26. Will read these warning signs and think of all the people they know who need to hear this, without even examining themselves.

### 4. **Summary**

## **Break the Religious Spirit**