

Article Title— “...Like Streams of Water”

Article Category— Practical Christianity

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Human Nature is The Sin Nature. Like streams of water after a rain, it follows the course of least resistance and most comfort. We're told to crucify it and to put on the mind of Christ. Subjective, *feelings*-based rationalizing is the course of least resistance. Passive, it requires no work but consistently yields less-than-desirable outcomes. Christ-like OBJECTIVE REASONING takes work but consistently yields desirable outcomes. It is practiced by – and is typically observable in – mature(ing) Christians.

Although He is spirit, none of God's discernible characteristics are irrational, mystical or hyperspiritual. They're purely intellectual and pragmatic. He is the original scientist, physicist, astronomer, mathematician, chemist, logistician, physician, sociologist and psychologist. His written Word clearly depicts Him as logical, sensible, objective, practical and reasonable. That message is demonstrably consistent throughout the Bible. Hyperspirituality and mysticism are simply NOT mindsets that can lead believers to the knowledge of God.

- > "My people are destroyed for lack of [*righteousness?*] [*sincerity?*] [*worship?*] [*hyperspirituality?*] [*prayer?*] [*faith?*] [*holiness?*] [*regular church attendance?*] [*believing "what 'we' believe"?*] [*getting "truly 'saved'?"*] KNOWLEDGE."  
—Hosea 4:6

But aren't we spiritual creatures? Isn't it the Holy Spirit that is to lead us into all Truth? Aren't we told that we must worship God in spirit and in truth? At 2 Timothy 2:15, Paul told Timothy to study to gain God's personal approval. Why do you think he didn't instruct Timothy to pray for increased knowledge and understanding and for God's approval? Wouldn't that have been more *spiritual*?

Sensible men acknowledge that God's logic, sensibility, objectivity and reasoning exist on a plane to which we can aspire and admire but never attain. The Old Testament records His attempt to teach men logic, sensibility, objectivity and RATIONAL thinking. His message, there, is also consistent. It is reasonable. It is logical. It is simple. It is law. This is the essence of it—

- > "These are the boundaries for your behavior. Stay within them and you will enjoy my blessings and my protection. Step one foot outside these boundaries and you're on your own."

Does that sound even remotely *spiritual* to you?

In what ways do God's New Testament messages differ? They don't. At Matthew 5:18, Jesus insisted that not even one jot nor tittle of Old Testament Law was to pass away during or after the First Century A.D. Analyze the content of His sermon on the mount. Logical? Sensible? Objective? Reasonable? Is it mystical? Is it *spiritual*? Not! Dissect all the other recorded teaching and communicating events of Jesus: Are they predominantly mystical/spiritual or are they pragmatic? If you've been objective in your analysis, you have concluded that the essence of His message is practical and always characterized by sound reasoning; not mysticism—and never by hyperspirituality.

Then, why did most of Jesus' hearers not "get it?" Why do most of today's churchgoers not "get it?" That would be the fault of Human Nature...The Sin Nature.

- > "Yea, if thou criest out for knowledge, [and] liftest up thy voice for understanding; if thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as [for] hid treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. —Proverbs 2:3-5

When you rely on your feelings for reasoning, you become susceptible to many "other spirits" that can cause you to feel almost like The Holy Spirit made you feel when He first drew you to repentance. Therein lie the wages of your Human Nature. Death. Wouldn't it be, thence, reasonable to conclude with a degree of certainty that thinking and "doing what comes naturally" is suicide? [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3\\_95a5f967a3e949379eaba73554a0b9db.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3_95a5f967a3e949379eaba73554a0b9db.pdf)

- > "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils" —1 Timothy 4:1
- > "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." —1 John 4:1
- > "Let this MIND be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." —Paul, at Philippians 2:5
- > "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your MIND..." —Paul, at Romans 12:2  
That's not a thing to pray about, but a thing to do.

I was a successful Bible teacher for a LOT of years—big sanctuary classes.  
I knew what my denomination believed and that's what I taught.  
Yes, I should've checked it out to make sure it was true.

So why didn't I do that? Well, maybe I didn't do that for the same reason that you haven't really checked out what your denomination teaches.

"In religion and politics, people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination." —Samuel Clemens



Those who'll diligently study to discover First-Century Truth – and, thereby, receive God's approval – will have adopted the *mindset* of those Berean Jews that Paul praised so highly at Acts 17:11. You may want to re-read that short verse, maybe in more than one version of the Bible.

Clearly, we are to join our hearts and MINDS together for the purpose of gaining Original Truth and then acting on it to fulfill the mission that Jesus assigned to The Church. Most readers will be surprised to learn that the mission Jesus prescribed is SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT from the mission the visible church currently pursues. Follow this link to understand how that mission differs: [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3\\_3d67d6224bee4c1ab9d7f8f333c02f63.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/a359a3_3d67d6224bee4c1ab9d7f8f333c02f63.pdf). The last paragraph on the first page of that two-page article addresses it directly.

Need more sound scriptural substance? Examine Jesus' post-wilderness-experience temptation: With each of his attempts to gain control of Jesus, Satan intelligently appealed, not to his intellect, but to his FEELINGS. With equal brilliance Jesus forced himself to ignore those feelings and to respond using only his MIND. How did he do that?

- A. He reminded himself that God's word is in writing.
- B. He reminded himself that it is in writing for a critical primary purpose—so that those of us who will resolve to cast off denominational dogma and to demand Original Truth will never be betrayed by our FEELINGS.
- C. He forced himself to rely totally on what is written. Jesus' feelings (i.e.: his spirit) bore witness of extreme weakness and hunger and thirst. But he responded rationally, "It is written..."

Satan enticed Jesus to be subjective. Jesus chose objectivity. Satan enticed Jesus to consider his feelings (i.e.: his broken spirit). Jesus chose to use his MIND. Satan enticed Jesus to rationalize. Jesus chose to be rational. He chose to reason logically and to be practical, not *spiritual*, in responding. Why did he do that? He had but one primary purpose—to establish a very clear and critical precedent for you and me.

If, with tears flowing down your face you sing, "To be like Jesus, To be like Jesus. That's all I want—to be like him," consider yourself now fully informed: Jesus never permitted his feelings to interfere with his thinking. Want to be like him? That's how. To be a Disciple one must become like Jesus. To become like Jesus, one must THINK like Jesus thinks. You now know how Jesus thinks.

Among my all-time favorite quotes, this one from Vince Lombardi is prominent: "Gentlemen, this is a football." I have *massaged* it some, to yield this: "Ladies and gentlemen, this is the Bible. The critical parts of its message are plainly written. Unlike the U. S. Constitution, they need no expert 'interpreters.' You are literate, so learn to read God's written Word objectively; i.e.: as-if-no-one-had-ever-explained-what-it-means." Per Hebrews 11:6, God rewards those who diligently seek Him.

- > "The illiterate of the 21st Century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn." —Alvin Toffler

To qualify as "sound," a doctrine must enjoy the clear support of a reasonable collection of objectively comprehended scriptures, each within its rationally perceived context. All else is either pure heresy, pagan mysticism or wishful dreaming of, well...rainbows and unicorns.


Yes, it is by the drawing of The Spirit that a man initially comes into a relationship with God. But it is by the active (as opposed to passive) exercise of that man's intellect that he studies to gain God's approval. If that same man were to submit to religious mysticism and hyperspirituality he would be easily duped into error and damnation by a very real spirit that MIMICS the "feelings" he experienced at the time of his initial drawing by The Spirit.

The Holy Spirit drew you, initially, by engaging your heart. When you responded by accepting Christ, that was just a start! It's a scriptural fact that those who stop there will NOT become Christ's Disciples. (Questions about that? Please ask.) The visible church has done a splendid job of making BELIEVERS. That's a shame! Why? Because The Great Commission [Matthew 28:19,20] says nothing about making Believers: Jesus commanded us to make DISCIPLES of those who've heard the Gospel message and believed it. Who's doing that? Don't you hear a new "salvation" sermon every Sunday?

Here's a critical question for every member of the Christian clergy: Of what possible eternal value is a church filled to overflowing with BELIEVERS...???

Because God has already engaged your heart, we of the **Link1**™ Bible Research Team hope to engage your mind and then your heart. God has given you the spirit of a sound mind, too, hasn't He? As you read and discover, please take several short breaks to do what those more-noble Bereans of Acts 17:11 did. Their first reaction was skepticism and, yes, that should be your first reaction, too...if you're willing to diligently search the scriptures to learn whether what you are hearing from us just might be true. We know that you may be hearing some of these things for the very first time...

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> "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."—1 Thessalonians 5:21


Godspeed!

—T. C. Newsome 

PS: Comments? Questions? Scriptural rebuttals? They're all welcome! [www.Link1.info/contact-us](http://www.Link1.info/contact-us).

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/136708110091989/>

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