



Spirit and the Word

Adapted from “50 Days for Fire” series by Wayne Murray

We have a generation who is hungry for the supernatural but doesn't understand the importance of the Word of God. The good news is that they are not afraid of the supernatural. This is a generation that when the Spirit of God is poured out, they will be drawn to it.

There was a recent survey done by USA Today that I think sheds some light on Millennials and spirituality:

- 72% Of Millennials [Born 1982 & Later] are more spiritual than religious
- 67% Don't read the Bible or sacred texts

But, they

- Love the supernatural
- Want to know the mysteries of the world

Look at what they are watching. Consider to what they are listening to. Much of TV, movies and music has a supernatural element, but they don't go to the Word of God. A major survey by a Christian research firm shows that most young adults today don't pray, worship, or read the Bible. Among the 65% who call themselves Christian, “many are either mushy Christians or Christians in name only.” Rainer says, “Most are just indifferent. The more precisely you try to measure their Christianity, the fewer you find committed to the faith.”

Key findings in the phone survey conducted in August 2009 and released May 2010 show that many are unsure Jesus is the only path to Heaven. Half say yes, half say no.¹

¹ Cathy Lynn Grossman, “Survey: 72% of Millennials ‘more spiritual than religious’,” *USA Today*, May 9, 2010, https://usatoday30.usatoday.com/News/Religion/2010-04-27-1amillfaith27_St_N.Htm (accessed July 5, 2017).

COURAGE

C1: What three things stick out to you from the story?

C2: Spend some time telling your story regarding your religious development.

C3: What were some of your written and unwritten behaviors that were acceptable? Unacceptable? As you look back, what do you think of these behaviors now?

C4. Describe a typical church service in which you grew up. Did your church lean toward a balance or did they lean more toward a Word-only or Spirit-only approach?

- As you look back, what are the strengths and weaknesses of leaning to all Spirit or to all Word teaching?

STRENGTH

S1: Read the following verses and answer the question.

John 4:23–24 (NLT)

- What can you glean from these verses regarding the nature of the kingdom of God?

S2: Kingdom worship is spirit and truth according to **John 4:23-24 (NLT)**. What does spirit mean to you? What does truth mean to you?

S3: It has been said, “Emotion without devotion is just a bunch of commotion. Emotion with devotion produces locomotion.” Read the following verse and answer the questions.

Matthew 22:29 (NLT)

- What does this scripture speak to you regarding balance between the Word and the Spirit?
- Which side do you have a propensity towards, Word or Spirit?
- What steps can you take to produce a balance between the Word and the Spirit?

ENDURANCE

E1: Read through the Book of Acts. Highlight every story within the Book of Acts that deals with the Word of God and the Spirit of God. Go back and re-read the following.

Acts 1:15-21 (NLT)

- What happens if there is no Word of God in the story?

Acts 2:14-22, 25-35 (NLT)

- What happens if there is no Word of God in the story?

Acts 6:8-10 (NLT)

- What happens if the Word of God and/or the Spirit of God were removed from the story?

Acts 7 (NLT)

- What happens if Stephen does not use the Word of God?

Acts 8:26-40 (NLT)

- What happens if there is no Word of God in the story?

E2: Go back and read the following versus and answer the questions.

Acts 2:1-6 (NLT)

- What would be the result without the power of God present?

Acts 3:1-4:4 (NLT)

- What happens if there is no miracle and no lame man healed?

Acts 5:12-16 (NLT)

- What is the purpose of the Spirit of God?

Acts 9:32-35 (NLT)

- What happens if Aeneas is not healed?
- Every bad experience anyone has had with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit can be traced back to a lack of balance in either the Word of God or the Spirit of God. How strong is the need for balance between the Word of God and the Spirit of God?
- On a scale from 1-4 with 1 being not very balanced and 4 being very balanced, how balanced do you think you are between the Word of God and the Spirit of God?
- What steps do you think you could implement to produce balance in your life between the Word of God and the Spirit of God?