

The 72 – Real World Discipleship

Theme: Spirituality vs. Spirit-Empowered

January 21st, 2025

1 Introduction

- The 72 is a layer in Jesus' approach to discipleship
 - The 1-3-12-72

Luke 10:1 (CSB)

¹ After this, the Lord appointed seventy-two others, and he sent them ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself was about to go.

- **OUR MISSION:** SHOW-UP WHERE JESUS WANTS TO SHOW-UP.
- **OUR VISION:** EQUIPPING DISCIPLES OF JESUS TO REVEAL THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM IN REAL LIFE.

- Why is this subject on Spirituality vs. Spirit-Empowered so important?
 - Religion is common throughout the world and every culture.
 - Many will say, "I'm spiritual. I don't need to be part of a Church or any organized religion."
 - As Christians, do we understand what we mean when we say, "I'm spiritual."
 - In a world filled with divisiveness and hatred, people are hungry for something that will unify and bring peace...and usually, at any cost.
 - The Problem of Evil

- The Call to Love the Lord and His Presence

John 14:23–26 (CSB)

²³ Jesus answered, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴ The one who doesn't love me will not keep my words. The word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me. ²⁵ "I have spoken these things to you while I remain with you. ²⁶ But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.

2 Defining Spirituality

- Spirituality seeks a human sense of connection to something greater than themselves.
- Spirituality chooses to focus on non-material things such as the human soul or spirit, or what some would term the "universal mind."
- Spirituality pursues meaning in life through divine connection and experiences.
- Spirituality involves expressions through religious practices, organized religion, meditation, art, nature, or simply personal reflection.

3 The Tension with Personal Spirituality

- “Being spiritual” is an incomplete answer to the truth, nature, and meaning of reality because “being spiritual” is defined by our own personal interpretation.

Romans 1:19–23 (NIV)

¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

- While everyone may carry some of the truth, no one carries all the truth.
- Conflict and divisiveness are natural to humanity’s natural predisposition to self-righteousness.

Judges 17:6 (NKJV)

⁶ In those days *there was* no king in Israel; everyone did *what was* right in his own eyes.

- Spirituality doesn’t always accurately deal with the facts surrounding Jesus, or any other religious leader.

4 Spirituality Alone Will Leave People Empty

- Spirituality doesn’t require anything of me!
- God becomes impersonal—He’s a force of the universe and nature.
- God becomes a power we wield.
- God (or our system) becomes very judgmental.
- In many systems of belief, spirituality is a matter of “emptying oneself,” going to “higher levels of consciousness” (including reincarnation), and self-fulfillment.
- At the end of the day, you’re stuck with you and your limitations.

5 The Invitation and Promise of the Gospel of the Kingdom

- *The Gospel is a personal invitation to believe.*
 - **Psalm 139:13-16; John 3:16; Mark 1:14; John 1:12**
- *God is love.*

- See **John 3:16; 1 John 4:8; 4:16.**

1 John 4:18–19 (NIV)

¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.

- The fullness and the meaning of love is defined by God.

➤ ***Jesus makes God personal.***

John 1:1–4 (NIV)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

John 1:10–12 (NIV)

¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...

John 1:14 (NIV)

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

➤ ***Jesus is alive—He conquered death.***

John 20:27–29 (NIV)

²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." ²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

1 Corinthians 15:3–8 (NIV)

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

Hebrews 2:14–15 (ESV)

¹⁴ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

➤ ***God gives us access to what otherwise is closed off to us.***

John 14:6–7 (NIV)

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

1 Corinthians 1:17–18 (NIV)

¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. ¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

2 Corinthians 4:4–6 (NLT)

⁴ Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. ⁵ You see, we don't go around preaching about ourselves. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.

Acts 10:38 (NIV)

³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

➤ *Jesus promises us the Holy Spirit—we become the "temple of the Holy Spirit."*

2 Corinthians 3:6 (NIV)

⁶ He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

- Law is death...Spirit gives life.

1 Corinthians 2:9–13 (NIV)

⁹ However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived"—the things God has prepared for those who love him— ¹⁰ these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³ This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.

- Only Spirit gives us a path to revelation.

Romans 8:5–6 (NIV)

⁵ Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.

Romans 8:10–11 (CSB)

¹⁰ Now if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.

¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you.