

“Don’t Sweat It”  
1 John 2:12-17  
Spirituality & Maturity  
Message #3, August 4, 1996

Intro:

Review:

1. Human viewpoint & Divine viewpoint
2. Human IQ & Spiritual IQ

Message:

1. spirituality is a relationship with the Holy Spirit, who indwells every believer at the moment of salvation (Gal 4:6, Romans 8:9), whereby He controls or fills the believer’s life. (Eph. 5:18; Gal. 5:16)

2. Spirituality is an absolute – not a matter of degrees. Either you are controlled by the Holy Spirit or you are controlled by the sin nature. (Gal. 5:17; Romans 8:4-8)

3. Spirituality is not the baptism of the Spirit. (I Cor. 12:13) There will never be a time when the Holy Spirit does not indwell the Church-age believer. However, the filling of the Holy Spirit comes and goes depending on whether or not there is sin in the believer’s life.

4. Spirituality differs from spiritual growth and the resulting maturity. A believer can be a spiritual babe, a spiritual adolescent or a spirit-filled mature person. (I John 2:12-14) At any stage in the growth – process the believer is either spiritual or carnal. (I Cor. 2:15-16, 3:1-3) Growth in the Christian life does not remain static. The believer is either progressing or regressing. (Hebrews 5:11-14)

5. Mature believers can be characterized by five growth words:

KNOWLEDGE	*****	They are gaining a full knowledge of the doctrines of Scripture. (2 Tim. 3:16)
FAITH	*****	They habitually trust the person of God (including His doctrine) and the promises of God. (Hebrews 11:6)
WISDOM	*****	They consistently apply God’s doctrine and promises to life’s experiences. (Heb. 5:14)
GRACE	*****	They consistently respond with the appropriate attitudes and actions to believers at any stage of growth, whether spiritual or carnal. (Romans 14:1, 13;j 15:1,7)
FRUITFULNESS	*****	They bear fruit, more fruit and much fruit in accordance with their level of maturity. (John 15:2,5,8)