

# Northside Church of Christ

“God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”  
John 4:24



Northside Church of Christ  
4217 Highway 39 N  
Meridian, MS 39301

Place  
Stamp  
Here

## True Spirituality

By Mike Riley

On football fields throughout our land, cheerleaders point to the opposing stands and shout, “We’ve got the spirit, how about you?” The opposing cheerleaders reciprocate with an enthusiastic, positive reply. This scene continues with each side, in turn, raising the noise level by several decibels until the whole stadium reaches a deafening crescendo and interest finally turns back to the football game. The word “spirit,” as used in this context, has to do with enthusiasm which raises the emotional intensity level of the athletes.

As Americans, we’ve become so saturated with hype and fast-moving action, that we have a tendency to find things that are designed to be intellectually stimulating and thought challenging boring. We have come to prefer the “bells and whistles” to meditation (Psalm 1:1-2). This has had an effect, not only upon our intellectual structure, but our spiritual thought processes as well. Some view worship as boring and “lacking spirit,” because there is no up-beat, outward display of emotionalism.

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“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15

### SUNDAY MORNING

Triple E  
Edify, Exhort,  
Evangelize  
8:30 AM

### SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

I Timothy  
9:30 AM

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship Service  
10:30 AM

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Acts of the Apostles  
7:00 PM

# How Spiritually Hungry Are We?

By Mike Riley

In Matthew 5:6, when Jesus used the figurative terms, “hunger” and “thirst,” He conveyed the idea of strong desire and longing. These two physical appetites are very compelling drives that God has placed in human beings. Unless we have never been without nourishment, or been deprived of water for a long period of time, we cannot really appreciate the figures used by Jesus in this verse.

Since most Americans fare sumptuously every day (in fact, many are obese), the only real hunger we ever experience is that which comes from various self-imposed diets. Unfortunately, these diets are usually doomed to failure, because of insufficient self-control over our appetites to continue deprivation for long periods of time.

We know that when an individual cultivates an appetite for junk foods, he may feel temporarily satisfied, but eventually his body will suffer from malnutrition.

For example, children love ice cream, but a steady diet of it would not be good for the proper nourishment of their bodies. Left to themselves, they would prefer sweets over essential protein, vitamins and minerals in other foods, and their bodies would suffer for it.

Let’s bring the above physical observations down into the spiritual realm. While most men and women have a spiritual appetite, not all spiritual “hungering and thirsting” produce the proper spiritual nourishment for the soul.

The New Testament states that proper “hungering and thirsting” must be “after righteousness” (the quality of being right or just before God). For example, Paul said of the gospel, “For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith...” (Romans 1:17).

“The righteousness of God” here does not refer to God’s personal righteousness, but to God’s “way” of making man righteous through the gospel message – “by faith” (Romans 1:17b). Man’s ways (Proverbs 16:25) of seeking God (through various religious organizations and doctrines), though they may temporarily satisfy one’s personal desire, will never make him truly righteous in the sight of God (cf. Matthew 7:21; Romans 10:1-3).

Those individuals who have no intense spiritual appetite, can never be “filled,” because there is no incentive or desire which will motivate them to seek God and His forgiveness (cf. Luke 18:9-14). And those who gorge themselves with false teachings from false teachers, may inwardly “feel” satisfied, but their souls are not really nourished – their eventual end being destruction (cf. 2 Peter 2:1-22).

Only those who intensely hunger and thirst after God’s righteousness (“His way” – Psalm 25:8-10; cf. 2 Timothy 2:15 ASV; Acts 17:11), will be filled!

Are we really spiritually hungry? For God’s way?

The solution offered by some is an infusion of emotions through artificial stimuli, such as mood-setting music, hand clapping, dimming lights, holding hands, sound effects, etc. One group reportedly uses the sounds of grinding bones and screams to create a hair-raising atmosphere for participation in the Lord’s Supper.

However, emotionalism is not equivalent to things “spiritual,” and it is not evidence of true spirituality. We may “feel” many things which are not based on truth. How we feel is a natural outgrowth of what we believe, and what we believe must be based on what the standard of God’s word says (Romans 10:17; cf. Hebrews 11:6; Matthew 7:21; John 12:48-50). For example, based upon what God has revealed about our sinful condition (Romans 3:23), offering us salvation by His grace (Ephesians 2:8-9). When we meet the gospel’s conditions for salvation (Romans 10:17; Romans 10:8-10; Acts 17:30; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Peter 3:21), we know that we are saved. This knowledge produces a natural flood of elation (Acts 8:39). How expressive a person is depends on his emotional structure, but one is not more spiritual than another, simply because he is more expressive of how he feels.

Artificially stimulated emotion is temporary. To maintain an emotionally charged atmosphere, different outside stimuli must be sought, lest the routine lose its effectiveness and become boring. While it is true that an individual cannot serve God without feelings, we need to realize that our emotions are the product of the relationship — not the evidence of it (cf. Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 11:1-2).

## Announcements

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## Prayer Requests This Week

- Pray for all those with ongoing health ailments

## Communion Preparation

- Sign up sheet for 2022 is in foyer
- May - Montgomery
- June - Thrash
- July - Potts

## May Birthdays & Anniversary’s

- Lauren Wooldridge - 7th • Sandra Callens - 19th
- James Johnson - 20th
- Larry and Connie Montgomery - 20th
- Tristan and Auburn Rowell - 23rd
- Shay and Robbie Cooper - 31st

## Every Sunday Morning

@ 8:00 AM

on WTOK-TV



## Sermon Notes

## Men to Serve

Announcements/Opening Prayer - Dwight Callens  
 Scripture Reading - Ephesians 3:1 - 7  
 Lead Singing - Chuck Rowell  
 Head of Lord’s Table - Don Potts  
 Assist on Lord’s Table - Mark Potts  
 Scripture Reading - Hebrews 9:8 - 14  
 Closing Prayer - Larry Montgomery

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