



HOW DO WE KNOW THAT SPIRITUAL GROWTH HAS STOPPED IN OUR LIFE?

Gal.5:22-25 – tells us what a walk of the spirit looks like. It's Fruit

Rom.8:6 – says the spiritually minded is life and peace

Rom.8:7-8 – says a carnal minded person cannot please God.

Heb.10:38 – says “*But if any man draw back my soul shall have no pleasure in him.*”

1) Complacency begins to set in: (It affects 3 areas) – the spirit, the word, and desires

- a) By no consistent fellowship of the spirit. (no bonding process)

1 Thess.5:17 – Pray without ceasing – “continually without intermission, permanent fixed state.”

Jude 19 – These be they who (separate – {Greek – the ones making separation, sensual, natural) themselves by not having the Holy Spirit active in their lives.

1 Thess.5:19 – *Quench not the Spirit* – extinguish by separating the fellowship of the Spirit from themselves, they become sensual – natural again. (Zodhiates) to hinder or repress, in preventing the Holy Spirit from exerting His full influence.

- b) The Word of God begins to lose its authority over their soul.

Its stops the process of its salvation - Heb.10:39

- c) The desires *natural & spiritual* – begin to turn back into the wrong direction.

Ps.37:4

2) He begins to cease committing his ways unto the Lord: - Ps.37:

- a) He begins to pick up his old habits – 2 Pet.1:9-15 – *one who has forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.*

- b) His mouth and actions begin to revert back to his old ways. [Note – what a person says and does is how faith is released]

- c) He loses faith quickly in difficult circumstances. Heb.10:35 – Cast not away therefore your confidence, which has great recompense of reward.

3) His attitude has changed such that his hearing becomes impaired:

- a) He begins to express mood swings because his natural mind is vacillating. It is no longer (anchored) or stabilized by the Word of God.

Heb.6:19 – *We have a hope that is an anchor of our soul, both sure and steadfast.*

- b) He becomes fearful, easily depressed, and easily offended.



4) His ability to correct things are void of spiritual authority:

- a) He stops applying the Word of God to his situation, but carries his load through natural means only.

2 Pet.1:4 – “whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises, that by these, through the Devine nature we are escaping from the decaying desires of the worldly systems of this world.

- b) He never commits things in prayer – Jam.1:2-7

5) He becomes full of excuses:

- a) He blames his faults on the problems of others.
- b) He never takes personal responsibility.
- c) He begins to twist things to avoid personal judgment.

Titus 3:10-11 – because he could not be corrected as a result of him twisting things he passed a sentence on himself.

6) He is unable to maintain spiritual vision:

- a) He continually vacillates in his walk, one day he is in fellowship, then out.

7) He begins to slowly break fellowship with the church body:

- a) He no longer has a desire to be a functioning member, even at the expense of dropping his church responsibility.

8) He becomes critical of those around him:

- a) He develops signs of authority problems, he sees their mistakes easily. He murmurs and complains about insignificant things he has no personal say over.

9) He stopped putting a guard over his heart:

- a) He lets any thoughts form the intentions of his heart. There are no boundaries.

Pro 4:23 Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. (*Geographical boundaries*) NLT