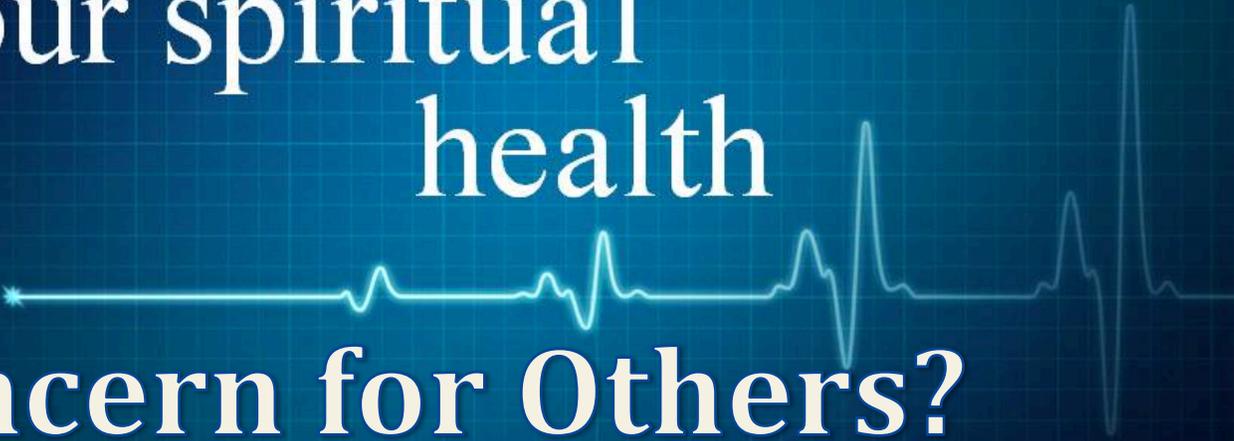


10 questions to diagnose your spiritual health



Concern for Others?

Recap:

- Our aim is spiritual diagnosis, to see how spiritually healthy we are, to see what areas need attention in our lives.
 - So, just as a doctor asks questions to help diagnose physical health, we are asking questions to diagnose our spiritual health.
- Do you remember question 1?
 - Do you thirst for God?
 - How often do you experience a longing for God? Do you want to know Him more?
- Question 2? Are you increasingly governed by God's Word
 - God's word should control and influence our lives
- Question 3: are you more loving
 - Do we have a genuine affection for others and do we express love in tangible ways
- Question 4: are you more sensitive to His presence
 - A growing and maturing Christian is more and more aware of God's presence throughout the day and moments of life, following the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 5: Do you have growing concern for the spiritual and temporal needs of others?

- What is the Greatest Commandment? – Matthew 22:36
 - And the 2nd is just like it - You cannot separate love for God and love for others
 - We can safely look at our growing concern for the needs of others and get a diagnosis of our spiritual state
- What does it mean to have a concern for people's spiritual needs?
 - That we would care about their spiritual state and that we would be moved to help them know the Lord and grow in the Lord.
- There is a growing trend in Christianity towards "causes" and social justice
 - We will see that we are to be concerned about man's temporal needs and justice, but more importantly is man's spiritual need
 - We can liberate people all day from oppression and fill their bellies, but without knowing Christ as Savior, they will still perish
- Jesus came to seek and to save the lost – Luke 19:10
- Man has the ultimate need for salvation and growth in Jesus Christ, but scripture is clear that we are to also be concerned for his temporal needs
- James 2:15-17, 'If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.'
- James 1:27, "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world."

Growing in Care

- See others through His eyes
 - Matthew 9:35-38, "And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."
- Look for the need in every heart and home
 - Some statistics say that every home experience a crisis or significant life change every 6 months
 - Everyone needs encouragement
 - Hebrews 3:12-13, "Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."
- Don't wait till your feel led
 - You are already commanded; there's your feeling

- Phil 2:3-4, “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.