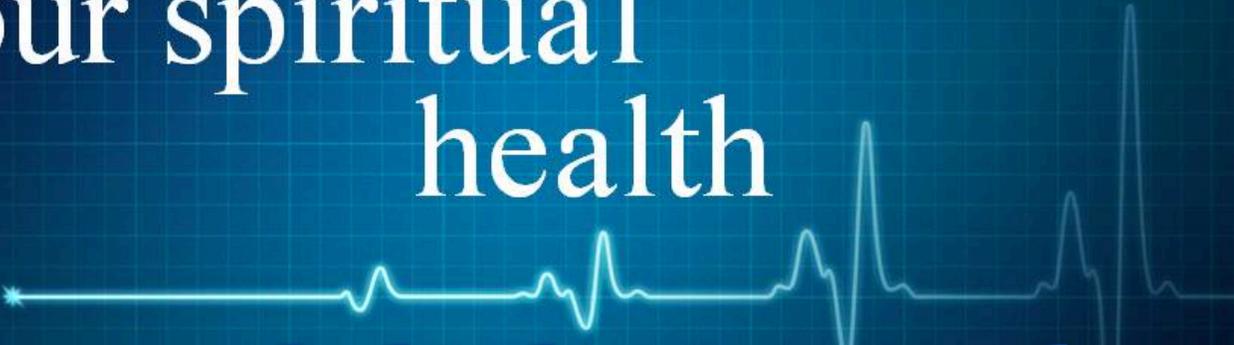


# 10 questions to diagnose your spiritual health



## Do you delight in Bride?

### 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.
- Question 5: do you have a growing concern for the spiritual and temporal needs of others.

## Chapter 6: Do you delight in the Bride of Christ?

- The Bible refers to the church as the Bride of Christ – **Revelation 19:7-9**
  - In some senses, the “church” is all believers of all time, as Christ is not returning just for some of the smaller collections of his believers, the local church, but He is returning one day for all His believers – this is His Bride.
  - But in other ways, “church” refers to the local congregations – **1 Cor. 1:2, Gal. 1:2, etc.**
- So, when asking the question, we will think of it in the local context: Do you delight in the local church? Are you joyfully active in the local church?
  - This question is a good spiritual diagnostic.
  - Consider **Hebrews 10:23-25**, **“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”**
    - A big part of holding fast to our confession of Christ is active participation in the assembly of Christ.
    - In the same way that the Lord would not have us waver in faith, He would not have us waver in our assembly.
      - It is not healthy to think that you can love Jesus and not love the church
      - You hear some say they love Jesus but hate church, sometimes calling it organized religion.
      - But if you love Jesus, how can you not love what He loves?
      - And when you read the New Testament, you see that the church was organized. They knew who the members were, and they exercised discipline and accountability. (**1 Cor. 5:1-5**).
    - And we are told in this passage what it means for us to be active in the assembly
      - We are told to stimulate one another toward love and good deeds.
      - We are told to encourage one another.
      - So, it is not just sitting in the same room together once a week, it is getting involved in each other’s lives and faith.
    - In **Acts 2:42** we read, **“they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”**
      - Christians are called to devote themselves to fellowship
      - This word fellowship, koinonia, means to share lives together, not sharing a meal together.
  - So, if we are to be devoted to fellowship, if we are to not forsake the active assembly, as part of our unwavering faith, you can see how this question is a good spiritual diagnostic.
    - If we are not active in the body the way that the Lord wants us to be active, then we are compromising our confession and faith. There is something that the Lord would want to change and mature in our lives.
  - Additionally, the Lord wants us to delight in his bride and not just participate out of duty
    - Do we look forward to our time with the church? Do we come ready and expecting, or are we just going through the motions, sometimes begrudgingly?



- If you find yourself needing to grow in this area, Deepen Your Delight
  - See the church as Jesus sees the church
    - It is His bride, His delight
    - Renew your mind on this truth.
  - Get involved in the church
    - Jesus wants us to want to be in His church, but sometimes we discipline ourselves to do things and expect our hearts to catch up
    - If you struggle with delighting in the church, get more involved: serve, pray, worship, hug, study, and so on
  - Remember, ***“For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. <sup>11</sup>And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, <sup>12</sup>so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.” Hebrews 6:10-12***
    - The company we keep rubs off on us; we imitate those who are around
    - If we are around those who delight in the Lord and His bride, it will affect us