

INCREASING MY SPIRITUAL SENSITIVITY

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I. WHAT IS SPIRITUAL SENSITIVITY?

1. AN ACCURATE AWARENESS OF MY _____

“⁵ Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is in you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith.” 2 Corinthians 13:5

2. A KEEN AWARENESS OF MY _____

“¹⁹ Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away.” Acts 3:19

“⁸ If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. ⁹ But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts.” 1 John 1:8-10

3. A KEEN AWARENESS OF MY _____

“²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, ²⁴ after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.” James 1:22-24

4. A CONTINUAL SENSITIVITY TO THE _____

“⁵ Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. ⁶ So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace... ⁹ But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)” Romans 8:5-6 & 9

“²⁷ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.” John 10:27

5. A CONTINUAL SENSITIVITY TO THE _____

“¹ We who are strong must be considerate of those who are sensitive about things like this. We must not just please ourselves. ² We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord. ³ For even Christ didn't live to please himself.” Romans 15:1-2

II. WHY IS SPIRITUAL SENSITIVITY SO IMPORTANT?

1. WITHOUT IT, I WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY _____

“¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.” John 16:13

“¹⁹ Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away.” Acts 3:19

2. WITHOUT IT, I WILL MISS MANY OPPORTUNITIES _____

“¹ Paul went first to Derbe and then to Lystra, where there was a young disciple named Timothy. His mother was a Jewish believer, but his father was a Greek. ² Timothy was well thought of by the believers in Lystra and Iconium, ³ so Paul wanted him to join them on their journey. In deference to the Jews of the area, he arranged for Timothy to be circumcised before they left, for everyone knew that his father was a Greek. ⁴ Then they went

from town to town, instructing the believers to follow the decisions made by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem.⁵ So the churches were strengthened in their faith and grew larger every day.⁶ Next Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because the Holy Spirit had prevented them from preaching the word in the province of Asia at that time.⁷ Then coming to the borders of Mysia, they headed north for the province of Bithynia, but again the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them to go there.⁸ So instead, they went on through Mysia to the seaport of Troas.⁹ That night Paul had a vision: A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us!”¹⁰ So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there.” Acts 16:1-10

¹⁶ Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. ¹⁷ Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.” Ephesians 5:16-17

3. WITHOUT IT, I WILL LOSE SIGHT _____

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. ² We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith” Hebrews 12:1-2

⁸ God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.” Matthew 5:8

²⁵ Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.” Galatians 5:25

4. WITHOUT IT, I WILL NOT HAVE AN ACCURATE PICTURE _____ &

¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.” Philippians 2:12

5. WITHOUT IT, I WILL LIKELY _____

²⁴ Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” Hebrews 10:24-25

¹⁵ Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.” Ephesians 4:15

²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control.” Galatians 5:22-23

6. WITHOUT IT, I WILL LIKELY MISS _____

¹¹ So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.” Matthew 7:11

⁵ “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. ⁷ But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!” John 15:5-7

III. HOW CAN I INCREASE MY SPIRITUAL SENSITIVITY?

1. INCREASE MY DESIRE FOR _____

“¹⁵ Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. ¹⁶ For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. ¹⁷ And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.” 1 John 2:15-17

KEY: I MUST DECREASE MY DESIRE FOR _____

“¹ Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. ² Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. ³ For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.” Colossians 3:1-3

“¹⁴ As for me, may I never boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of that cross, my interest in this world has been crucified, and the world’s interest in me has also died.” Galatians 6:14

2. INCREASE MY DAILY TIME IN GOD’S PRESENCE: _____, _____

_____, & _____

“¹ I love the LORD because he hears my voice and my prayer for mercy. ² Because he bends down to listen, I will pray as long as I have breath!... ⁹ And so I walk in the LORD’s presence as I live here on earth!” Psalm 116:1-2 & 9

“¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

3. _____ REGULARLY

“¹⁶ And when you fast...” Matthew 6:16

The Book Of Acts

4. DON’T LET _____ TAKE ROOT IN _____

“²⁶ And ‘don’t sin by letting anger control you.’ Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ for anger gives a foothold to the devil.” Ephesians 4:26-27

KEY: FORGIVE _____

“¹⁴ “If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.” Matthew 6:14-15

“⁵ (love) ... It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.” 1 Corinthians 13:5

5. DON’T _____ BY THE WAY I LIVE

“³⁰ And do not bring sorrow to God’s Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption.” Ephesians 4:30

HOW TO AVOID THIS?

i. _____ Daily

“¹⁹ Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away.” Acts 3:19

“⁹ If we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.” 1 John 1:9

Key: Ask God To _____

“²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

²⁴ Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life” Psalm 139:23-24

ii. Maintain a Constant _____, Listening Carefully For The _____

“¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

“¹⁴ For God speaks again and again, though people do not recognize it.” Job 33:14

iii. _____ What I Hear

“²⁵ Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.” Galatians 5:25

6. TAKE REGULAR _____ THROUGHOUT THE DAY

“⁸ Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.” Joshua 1:8

“⁸ And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.” Philippians 4:8

7. NEVER VIOLATE _____

“¹⁹ Cling to your faith in Christ, and keep your conscience clear. For some people have deliberately violated their consciences; as a result, their faith has been shipwrecked.” 1 Timothy 1:19

8. _____ REGULARLY

“³ Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don’t think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.” Romans 12:3

9. GET INTO AN _____

“¹⁴ Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.” Proverbs 11:14

10. WORK OUT MY _____

“¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.” Philippians 2:12