

Mere Spirituality: How C.S. Lewis Walked with God

Most modern Christians admire C. S. Lewis as one of the greatest apologists of the twentieth-century, an Oxford and Cambridge scholar and a superb author. But many people fail to realize what an incredibly godly man he was, how spiritual he was—in the classic Christian sense. Lewis provides us with an excellent model of how to follow Jesus. We can learn from Lewis how we as leaders and Christian workers today can follow Jesus with our unique personalities, backgrounds, and abilities. While recognizing Lewis's human shortcomings, we can serve Jesus more faithfully by seeing how Lewis practiced the spiritual disciplines and demonstrated the fruit of the Spirit in his life.

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I. A Life Transformed—Lewis and the Fruit of the Spirit

A. Love

- a. Prayer
- b. Bible reading
- c. Church Attendance
- d. Evangelism

B. Joy

C. Peace

D. Patience

E. Kindness

F. Gentleness

II. Evaluating My Walk with God

- Do I treat others with respect and courtesy?
- Do I listen to others, even those without graduate degrees and those from whom I have nothing to gain?
- Do I look for opportunities to serve?
- Am I generous in meeting the needs of others and of God's Kingdom?
- Have I totally irrevocably signed over the control of my life to Christ?
- Am I spending time every day in God's Word?
- Am I daily mentally engaging in prayer, conversing with God?
- Am I willing to evangelize even at the risk of being ostracized by my colleagues?
- Am I sensitive and kind, looking out for the needs of others?
- Is my life marked by a gentle humility that prefers others over myself?
- How do I handle being mistreated or treated like a servant?
- Am I faithful in attending public worship?

Discussion

1. What surprised you about Lewis's walk with God?
2. What challenges or obstacles do you face in your walk with God particularly related to your scholarship or your life in the university?
3. Why do you think some Christians in the academy struggle with having a daily quiet time in the Word and prayer?
4. How do you handle rejection in the academy?
5. How do you respond to interruptions and requests for help when you are writing and doing research?
6. On a scale of 1-10, with 10 being very good, how would you rank your ability to serve others?
7. When you are in conversation with someone, what are some questions you can ask to keep the conversation focused on them and not on you?

Suggested Readings

Dorsett, Lyle W. *Seeking the Secret Place : The Spiritual Formation of C.S. Lewis*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Brazos Press, 2004.

Green, Roger Lancelyn, and Walter Hooper. *C. S. Lewis : A Biography*. Rev. ed. London: HarperCollins, 2002.