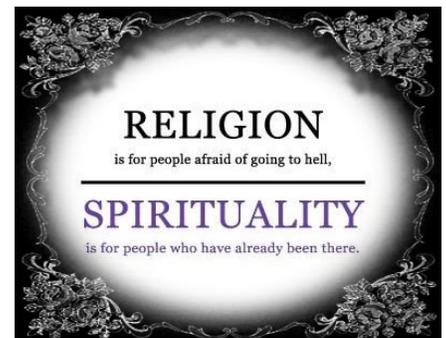




**- What does it mean to be “Spiritual” anyway?**

- **Spirituality** involves the recognition of a sense or belief that there is something greater than myself, something more to being human than what we feel, and that “something greater” we are part of is divine in nature.
- **Spirituality** means we know our lives have significance beyond a mundane everyday existence at the level of biological needs that drive selfishness and aggression. It means we know we are a significant part of a purposeful, unfolding kingdom, who has king and his name is Jesus.
- **Spirituality** finds its strength in a significant connection to God. It’s not satisfied with a weak imitation of the real thing. True spirituality longs for more, is not satisfied with the status quo, is not willing to embrace hypocrisy, but makes truth a priority. It’s believing Jesus’ words, “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!” Spirituality is not just what we think about life, but what we do with our lives.



**- How does a SPIRITUAL FIRST RESPONDER think? They are...**

- **CONFIDENT** that they have been prepared for the task at hand. They believe the wisdom and insight they’ve gained through the years has prepared them for this moment, confident and convinced that there is nothing God can’t do through a willing heart.
  - I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. (Phil. 1:6 NLT-SE)
- **READY** to take action. When confronted with an opportunity to express the love of God, spiritual first responders are ready for action. They have been convinced by the Lord that he often orchestrates “divine encounters,” knowing that we will respond in faith.
  - Prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. (1 Pet. 1:13 NLT-SE)

- **AVAILABLE** to respond at a moments notice. Hesitation is an enemy to those who have set their hearts on doing your will. They leave the house in the morning looking for an opportunity to respond in faith to your voice.
  - Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. (Mark 1:16–18 ESV)
- **UNAFRAID** of what they are about to walk into. Fear is an obstacle to be overcome. The Spirit of God is enthusiastic when it comes to empowering believers do do things they feel are impossible. “Just watch this! I will take simple words you read in the Bible and bring them to life, empowering us to accomplish great feats.
  - 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. This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” (Josh. 1:8–9 NLT-SE)
- **RESOURCEFUL** enough to figure out a way to get the job done with what they have to work with. Spiritual Firs Responders don’t look at a situation and attempt to calculate their ability to be successful. They know you are not just backing up you act, but going ahead of you. What you are orchestrating is only possible by the power of the Spirit.
  - God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. (1 Pet. 4:10–11 NLT-SE)
- **ORGANIZED** enough to stay focused. When they look at situation, they don’t see chaos and disorder. They see your divine order. They are not distracted, but focused and determined to see you hand move and you kingdom manifest. They believe they were “born for such a time as this.”
  - Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. (Rom. 8:5 NIV)
- **TEAM-ORIENTED** in their approach to meeting the need. They have the understanding that some things will ONLY be seen and accomplished when we go together. The Lord is jealous to see his body function at a high level, knowing that he is the head and nothing is impossible for his...through us!
  - If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything? But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. How strange a body would be if it had only one part! Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. The eye can never say to the hand, “I don’t need you.” The head can’t say to the feet, “I don’t need you.” (1 Cor. 12:17–21 NLT-SE)
- **UNBIASED** in their view of who is “worth” being helped. Spiritual Firs Responders don’t “triage” the people you lead them to. They look at the inside and not just the outside when they see a need. They see it an honor and privilege to serve, especially those who have been marginalized and discarded by the world.
  - My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others? For example, suppose someone comes into your meeting dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewelry, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in dirty clothes. If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one, “You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor”—well, doesn’t this discrimination show that your judgments are guided by evil motives?... Yes indeed, it is good when you obey the royal law as found in the Scriptures: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” But if you favor some people over others, you are committing a sin. You are guilty of breaking the law. (James 2:1-4, 8–9 NLT-SE)

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*Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.*  
 —————

Romans 8:5

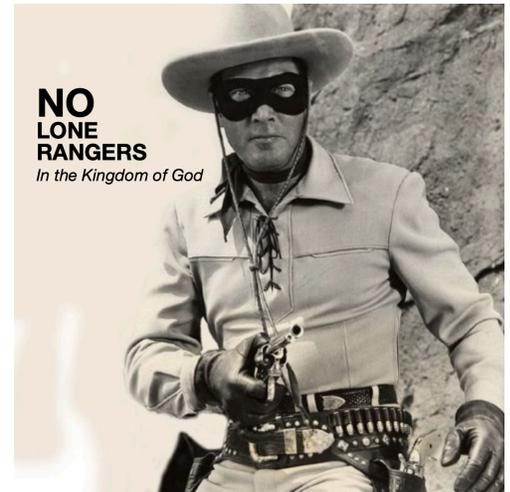
- **COURAGEOUS** enough to not be dissuaded by difficult situations. They actually look for opportunities to be more courageous than they know they really are. Their prayer in the morning is, “Let’s do something impossible today, Lord!”
  - Let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up. (Gal. 6:9 NLT-SE)

## - Where Do I Sign-Up to Be A SPIRITUAL FIRST RESPONDER?

### • Identity

- **We do what we do, because we are who we are.** We are all members of God’s family. None of us are “**Lone Rangers**” in the family of God. All of us are important members of a very important family.

- So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.” For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God’s children. And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God’s glory. (Rom. 8:15–17 NLT-SE)
- Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. The eye can never say to the hand, “I don’t need you.” The head can’t say to the feet, “I don’t need you.” (1 Cor. 12:20–21 NLT-SE)
- 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. (Matt. 7:11 NLT-SE)



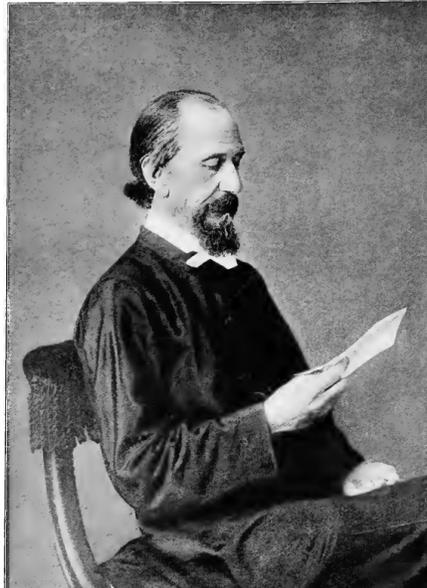
### • Authority

- **All that we “do” as believers originates in Christ.** We have so much more authority than we realize. We have all this authority for a reason...Jesus wants us to be his “hands and feet” in this world. He want to express the Father’s love through you and I.
  - See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don’t recognize that we are God’s children because they don’t know him. Dear friends, we are already God’s children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. (1 John 3:1–2 NLT-SE)
  - “Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.” ~ Teresa of Ávila
  - Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you. (Luke 10:19 NLT-SE)

### - Power

- **Is anything impossible for the Holy Spirit?** All of us would respond with a resounding, “NO!” If ALL THINGS are possible for the Holy Spirit, and the same Spirit dwells within each Jesus follower, then it would have to be true that ANYING God would ask us to do in Jesus’ name would babe possible, right?

- Jesus looked at them intently and said, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible.” (Matt. 19:26 NLT-SE)
- I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength. (Phil. 4:13 NLT-SE)
- 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. (John 15:5 NLT-SE)



The purpose is His, He will carry it out; the fruit is His, He will bring it forth; the abiding is His, He will maintain it.

Andrew Murray  
The True Vine