

IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Achan, King Saul, the one talent man, Ananias and Sapphira, the Pharisees, Nadab and Abihu, and Saul of Tarsus have something in common. What is it? *All of them did something that was not approved by God.* In some cases, their heart wasn't right; in other instances, their actions weren't right; and in a few situations, their actions and heart were both wrong.

IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

"In spirit" and "in truth" both are necessary to be acceptable to God. Joh.4:23-24

In spirit = right **intent***

In truth = right **action**. (i.e., according to the revealed truth. Joh.17:17; 8:31-32)

Note the conversation of Jesus with a Samaritan woman. Joh.4:4-26

WRONG INTENTION + WRONG ACTION

Achan. Jos.7:20-21

He coveted and took articles under the ban.

One talent man. Mat.25:24

He set his mind to disobey; did not do as his master instructed.

Scribes and Pharisees. Luk.6:6-11

They followed Jesus to condemn; they sought to kill Him.

Willful disobedience is sin without excuse. Rom.1:20, 2:1. Note Heb.10:26ff

RIGHT INTENTION + WRONG ACTION

Saul of Tarsus' zealous persecution of Christians. Act.23:1, 26:9-11

King Saul's decision to offer spoils as a sacrifice to God. 1Sa.15:1-31

Nadab's and Abihu's offering of strange fire on the altar. Lev.10:1-7

They had been consecrated along with their father, Aaron (Lev.8:1-36)

Heart right is not enough.

"Road to hell is paved with good intentions."

"As long as you are sincere" is not enough.

RIGHT ACTION + WRONG INTENT

Ananias and Sapphira lied about the amount of the proceeds. Act.5:1ff

Pharisees prayed and gave alms to be seen of men. Mat.6:1 (Jam.4:3)

Some were preaching Christ with wrong motives. Phi.1:15,17

When heart is wrong, no action is acceptable.

Strict observance of commands must be accompanied with right spirit. 1Co.13:1

"Soundness" in heart is as important as soundness in doctrine.

RIGHT INTENTION + RIGHT ACTION: ACCEPTABLE (APPROVED)

We stand approved by turning our life over to Christ. Rom.12:1-2

We are approved to God by handling aright the Word. 2Ti.2:15

As Christians we are approved by having firm convictions. Rom.14:22

Our actions are acceptable when we don't violate our conscience. Rom.14:22-23

We are approved by maintaining the proper attitude toward brethren. Rom.14:18

Disciples are approved by "*obeying from the heart...the teaching...*" Rom.6:17

When both are present: we know we are approved

CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER

God looks upon the heart. (Heb.4:12b) as well as the action.

In **spirit** and **truth** is the way of true worshipers.

* Intent: The state of one's mind at the time one carries out an action.

IN TRUTH

Jesus is the truth

- Joh.1:17 *For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.*
- Joh.14:6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me."*
- Eph.4:21 *if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus.*

Know the truth

- Luk.1:4 *so that you might know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.*
- Col.1:5 *because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel.*

Spirit reveals truth

- Joh.16:13 *But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.*

Practice the truth

- Joh.3:21 *"But he who practices the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."*

Obey the truth

- Rom.2:8 *but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation.*
- Gal.5:7 *You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?*
- 1Pe.1:22 *Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,*
- Eph.4:24 *and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.*

IN SPIRIT

- Rom.6:17 *But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed.*
- Eph.6:6 *not by way of eye service, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.*
- Phm.14 *... your goodness should not be as it were by compulsion, but of your own free will.*
- 2Co.9:7 *Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion...*
- 1Pe.1:22 *Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart.*