

Introduction: Our lives are lived in rhythms

- Your habits
- What you think
- What you watch
- Your route to work
- What you are currently doing

The goal

The goal of sacred rhythms is to practice true spirituality.

What is true spirituality according to Scripture?

- It's the life of Christ reproduced in a believer.
- It's the life of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- It's the life of Christ as you cooperate and respond to His Word in faith and obedience.

God's #1 agenda: to make you like His Son.

How do you become close and intimate with Jesus?

The context: *Those who do My will, those are My true mothers and brothers and sisters.*

Mark 3:31-35

The parable: The sower and soils

Mark 4:1-9

- *Some seeds fell along the path...* Mark 4:4
- *Some seeds fell on rocky places...* Mark 4:5
- *Some seeds fell among thorns...* Mark 4:7
- *Some seeds fell on good soil...* Mark 4:8

Explanation: *The secret of the Kingdom of God has been given to you.*

- ¹⁴*The farmer sows the Word.* Mark 4:14 (NIV)
- The seed along the path:
¹⁵*Some people are like seed along the path, where the Word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.*
Mark 4:15 (NIV)
- The seed on rocky places:
¹⁶*Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the Word and at once receive it with joy. ¹⁷But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the Word, they quickly fall away.*
Mark 4:16-17 (NIV)
- The seed among thorns:
¹⁸*Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the Word; ¹⁹but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the Word, making it unfruitful.*
Mark 4:18-19 (NIV)
- The seed sown on good soil:
²⁰*Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the Word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.”*
Mark 4:20 (NIV)

Your _____ to God's Word determines your _____ with the Lord.

- This truth is about transformation.
- The soil is your heart.
- The sower is Jesus Himself.

Your spiritual growth depends on your commitment to God's Word.

- *"Take to your heart all the Words with which I am warning you today... For it is not an idle Word for you..."*

Deuteronomy 32:46-47 (NASB)

- *For the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

Hebrews 4:12 (NASB)

It's a living, powerful Word that has to be received in a heart in order to apply it.

"[Thy] Words were found and I ate them..."

Jeremiah 15:16 (NASB)

"If you [abide] in My Word..."

John 8:31-32 (NASB)

"[Set them apart] by Your truth. Your Word is truth."

John 17:14-17 (NASB)

The Spirit of God uses the fuel of God's Word to transform our lives.

Jesus gives 3 warnings:

Warning #1: There is no such thing as _____
spirituality.

Mark 4:21-25 (NIV)

Warning #2: There is no magic formula.
Spiritual growth is a _____.

Mark 4:26:29 (NIV)

Warning #3: It starts small, but it has great _____.

Mark 4:30-32 (NIV)

The context for Spiritual Rhythms:

God must work deeply _____ you, before He works significantly _____ you.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does your rhythm of life look like? Are there any changes you need to make?
2. How does the Spirit of God progressively produce the life of Christ in you?
3. How would you describe your connection to the Word of God?