

Spiritual Life... I'm not a spiritual success

S i t u a t i o n :

A group of us we're standing around at the back of the sanctuary after church service and during the course of about a 15-minute conversation several people quoted Bible verses in their conversation. Not just one verse, they could recite what seemed like an entire passage. I was most impressed by one young man who has only been part of the congregation for less than a year.

I thought – “ He definitely know his Bible better than I do.” Now I'm questioning what kind of Christian I am. Can you help?

A n s w e r :

When we compare ourselves to other people we usually come up short. Unless of course we're trying to make ourselves feel better, then we look for someone who's not as educated, good looking or doesn't make as much money as we do.

One of the questions you want to ask yourself is: How you define a good Christian? Is it someone who can repeat word-for-word from the Bible? Is it someone who comes to church every Sunday? Is it someone who almost always volunteers to help? Or is it someone who does their best to live in a Christ-like manner? Is it someone who doesn't judge themselves or others? Is it someone who consciously works at letting go of the anger and fear that crops up in daily life?

Jesus never said that we have to be all things to all people. It's not healthy – not for our spiritual health, our physical health or our emotional health. That's why he chose a team (the Disciples) to help him do his work. Each one of those individuals had special talents, special areas of expertise – just like you and I have.

When you acknowledge your efforts to yourself – privately and consistently and daily – it's a good bet you'll be more satisfied with who you are today and where you are on your spiritual path. Notice I used the word “efforts” not accomplishments.

You may do your very best at being kind to a certain person and you can't really tell if your kindness got through to them. It doesn't matter – give yourself a pat on the back for your efforts.

You may save the seat next to you in Bible study and your friend decides to sit somewhere else. It doesn't matter – give yourself a pat on the back for your efforts.

You may reach out to hug someone you've hugged in the past and that person turns away. It doesn't matter – give yourself a pat on the back for your efforts.



Thank you – I'd rather have people remember my acts of love – my kindness, my compassion, my thoughtfulness, my generosity, my joy and my hugs – rather than be known as a Bible scholar.

What's most important to you? Knowing God? Or knowing scripture?



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