

Study Guide Questions

Series: TD12

Message: True Spirituality

Speaker: Andrew Boone

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ENGAGE THE SCRIPTURES

Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 4:7-8

Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

Read Matthew 15:1-20

- Think of examples today where traditions added to Scripture are held to the same level as Scripture. Where are you critical of other people? Can this point to a place in your life where you are holding a standard beyond the scriptures?
- What is the best way to discern if something is from God's Word or from human tradition? Are you familiar enough with Scripture to be able to do this? What is your regular rhythm to **Engage the Scriptures**?
- God's laws are always tied to a specific character or expectation that flows from God's heart. When the heart of the law is lost or twisted it can turn into an empty ritual. Why will external rituals never replace the inward condition of the heart?
- Jesus criticizes the Pharisees and teachers of the law by referencing Isaiah 29:13. What is Jesus communicating to them? How is it possible for a person to be religious and also be far from God?
- The purity of the Pharisees' actions was so disconnected from the purity of their hearts that they had become spiritual actors. Have you ever felt this way about yourself?
- What makes a person spiritually unclean? How does evil get into man's heart?



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SPIRITUAL FRIENDSHIP

- **Read James 3:3-6.** Jesus and James both speak about what comes out of a man's mouth. Where, when, or with whom do you typically struggle with your mouth? Ask your group members what they have done to overcome similar struggles.
- **Read Titus 2:11-14, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 1 John 1:5-10.** How do we become clean? Who is someone that needs to hear this truth that you can share with?
- Sin begins in our heart and, like a well, produces a flow of actions. While Christians have been forgiven of their sin, they still struggle with their old sin-nature. Why is this? As spiritual growth occurs, what should you expect to see?



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