

Soulish Religion

by Joshua Daniel

The sermon challenges listeners to examine their relationship with God and to seek His will and glory above their own desires, avoiding the dangers of soulish religion.

Duration: 14:30

Scripture: Psalm 141:2, Matthew 6:7, Mark 4:14, Romans 8:26, 1 Timothy 2:8, Hebrews 4:12, James 5:16

Topics: "Soulish"

Description

In this sermon, Joshua Daniel emphasizes the importance of grounding ourselves in the realities of God's Word. He references Mark 4:14, highlighting the power of the Word of God to divide the soul and spirit. Daniel encourages listeners to examine their own spirituality, questioning whether their religion is soulish or spiritual. He shares a personal anecdote about a prayer meeting where someone honestly confessed their hypocrisy, emphasizing the need for humility before God. Daniel also addresses the danger of materialism and self-exaltation, urging listeners to prioritize the glory of God. He concludes with a prayer for forgiveness and strength for preachers to be faithful and courageous in their calling.

Transcript

Welcome to the Lord's Challenge, our weekly quarter-hour broadcast, bringing the reality of God's Word to all people everywhere. Stay tuned as Joshua Daniel challenges us to a walk with God and the corresponding impact that will have on our lives, families, and society today. Now dear friends, I wish to bring you to the realms of reality.

You know how sometimes preachers soar, they soar above their own heads. That'll never do. And of course, they soar high over their congregation as though it is some aerial feat of some sort.

But that'll never do. We have got to get our feet planted on the ground. What are the ground realities? Let us turn to Mark 4, chapter please.

In the 14th verse, the sower soweth the word. From Hebrews 4, 12, that the word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit. Did you ask yourself, is my religion soulish or is it spiritual? Is my spirit in real touch with God? For we know not what to pray, but the Spirit himself teacheth us to pray with groanings that cannot be uttered.

The Spirit's prayer, you know, we are used to just the rigmarole, the usual prayers. I recall, you know, it was in 1959 and they were having the centenary or the remembrance of 1859 revival. And I was holding services in Northern Ireland commemorating those wonderful days of revival.

And of course, we wanted revival. And so addressing a very full hall, I said, we don't want the usual prayers. We want some honest, real prayer.

And up stood one of those leading young fellows in the church and he cried out, Lord, I am a hypocrite. And others, the pastor of the church, a very godly man, it was a Presbyterian church. He said he went home with a deep conviction in his heart.

God said to him, you did not pray what I wanted you to pray. Sunday morning, he got up in the pulpit and confessed to the congregation his personal sins, humbled himself. You know, my dear friends, we saw a movement of God's Spirit.

Now what is the problem? The problem is we've got too many religious mummies in the church, dead as doornails, and they just can't humble themselves. You know, one of the things that shocked me when I started preaching, the complacency. Oh, people were just satisfied.

And you know, I had come red hot from revival. I said, there's no brokenness here. There is no sense of reality.

Everybody seems to say, oh, we are a bunch of happy-go-lucky people. Now is this why God brought me here? Lord, I seem to be getting nowhere here. But I found that God wanted me to pray.

And of course, I myself needed to be a clean vessel whom God could use. So I humbled myself and began to pray. And I found that the English were second to none when it came to putting things right.

As a matter of fact, I found them to be way ahead of other nations or nationalities. Calling a spade a spade. You know, honesty before God is a beautiful thing.

It is an enriching thing. It lifts you. And what am I going to pretend before God? He knows all about me.

What am I going to try and fool him? What am I out to do? All right, I can fool a lot of people, but I'm not going to fool God. My dear people, humbling ourselves. That seems to be the crux of the problem.

Oh, I'm okay. I'm pretty well. You see, as long as the jingle of money is in the pocket, people feel pretty comfortable, you know.

As I just said, I had no desire for money. I wanted the glory of God. Hallowed be your name.

You know, that should be written upon your heart. And every day that God gives you, of course, you know, every day is a gift to me by God. And I want to use every day carefully.

I have no time to lose or waste. Absolutely no time. But you see, when that's not written on your heart, hallowed be your name.

What do you do? Exalt me. That's all you do. That's the reverse or the opposite of hallowed be your name.

May my name be lifted up. What nonsense. What's the good of having your name or my name lifted up? Who is going to benefit from it? But that's the sick state of our hearts.

And that's why we can't pray hallowed be your name with all our hearts. We have to get rid of that horrible plague of the heart. Now, soul-ish religion, soul-ish religion does not give you that desire to climb higher or to seek those things which are at the right hand of Christ.

If you then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are on the right hand. What's on the right hand of Christ? Self? Of course not. Of course not.

I have come not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. Do you think God has something for you? Or you're just a little piece of cork floating in the current? Do you think God has got something special? I believe that every creature of God is unique. I believe it.

And I want to tell you, I have worked with some of the dullest people on the face of the globe. Really dull people. And I didn't give up.

I said there's something special. I found them to be very faithful. The smart lads didn't last.

You know, folks? But this todgy, slow and stodgy lot, they kept plodding on. And they were faithful. So some of you, if you imagine that you are of the latter class, slow and stodgy, take heart.

He that is faithful to the end shall be saved. He that endureth to the end. My mother used to keep telling me that again and again.

You see? And we next went on to see how Satan cometh immediately and taketh away the word. Now let me see everyone here who has had anything to do with the occult. In your families, in your grandparents, whoever.

All right, I see a few hands. I do trust others have not been dishonest. Well, occult practices have been in many families, you know.

And when you go to a money lender, what happens? He grabs you by the nape of your neck. That is for the rest. Hey, how is it the payment hasn't been made this month? You know, a money lender came to our gate.

And so my dad looked at him. What's it you want? I want Daniel. I'm Daniel.

What's it you want? Well, somebody had evidently given my father's name, you know, and borrowed something from him. I've come to collect my money or whatever. Out you go.

Now, you know, when you go to a money lender and you begin to pay those interests or fail to pay them, he soon has a grip on you. It's the same with the devil. You go to him with your palm, show him palm readers galore.

They're all over the world today. And I hear of strange types of occult practices. See, we are not even demolishing the works of darkness around us.

Soul-ish religion. Let's pray. Loving Father, you have told us in your word the condition of our hearts, how easily we betray Jesus, how easily we deny him when there is a little persecution.

Oh, Lord, how we are failing to be the salt of the earth. Oh, my father, forgive us. Give courage and grace to the preachers.

Let them not be profane men. Oh, God, hear our humble prayer. In Jesus holy name.

Amen. The speaker on this program was Joshua Daniel. He would like to know what your response has been to the Lord's Challenge and would be delighted to hear from you.

Please write. And if you have burdens you want to share and want prayer, do let us know. You can reach us on the World Wide Web at lefi.org, or else you can mail us at the Lord's Challenge, PO Box 14, South Lyon, Michigan, 48178.

Or in Canada, PO Box 31002, Windsor, Ontario, N9G2Y2. We are continually reaching out to millions in many countries, and we appreciate and we need your continuing prayerful support.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/24/SID24368.mp3>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/joshua-daniel/soulis-religion/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net