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## How Do I Recognize a Religious Spirit Growing in Me?

- Are you more content with your tradition / ritual than you are a relationship with God?
- Are you more concerned with being "righteous" than being loved?  
*John 14:15, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments"*
- Do you find yourself resenting / hating on the "lost" rather than a growing passion / love for them?
- Do you find yourself critiquing the church / leaders rather than praying for them and their leadership?
- In your personal life - are you content with substituting performance for presence?
- Do you find that your faith is moving more and more from your heart to your head?
- Do you love your version / understanding / interpretation of the truth more than Truth itself?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The phrase "That's just the way I am" is a phrase that's often used when describing personality traits. Do you use this phrase often, or do you know someone who does? What comes to mind when you hear it?
2. Why is it so hard for us to adopt a new mentality when it comes to change both in the church, and in other areas of life?
3. The longer we follow Christ, we have a tendency to find ourselves resenting the lost and their behaviors. How can we keep a healthy perspective when it comes to those who are just coming to know Jesus?
4. How important is keeping the Truth of God's word above our own personal "truths"? What are ways we can stay accountable to this?
5. What was your favorite week of the series "Elephant in the Room?" Why?