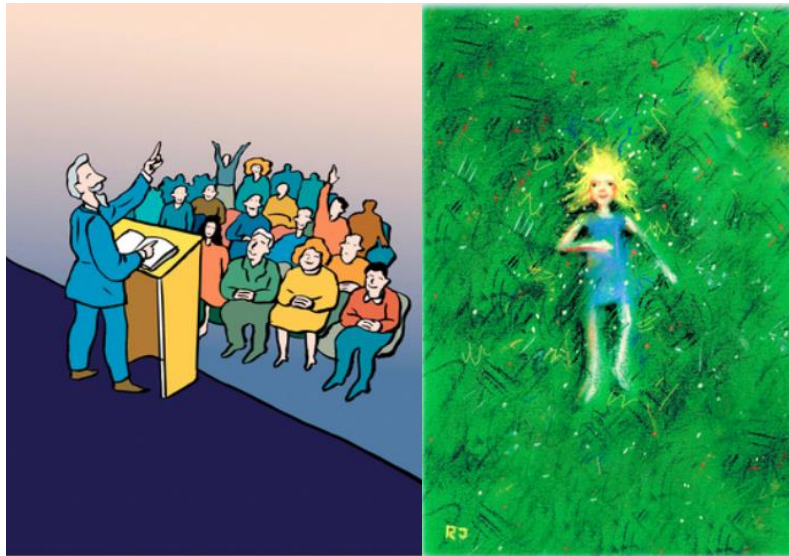


ORGANIZED RELIGION VS. SPIRITUALITY



Who can deny it? Organized religion is sinking, and spirituality is on the rise.

Organized religion is clergy dominated.

Spirituality is grass-roots.

Organized religion is forever raising money.

Spirituality is free of charge.

Organized religion is wrapped in tradition, doctrine, and numberless rules.

Spirituality is free-floating and private.

So why wouldn't one choose spirituality over organized religion?

Yet what's the real difference?

**For most people organized religion and spirituality
are simply two ways to avoid God.**



I have a choice:

I can pick out a church that suits my needs, and find a measure of comfort and security for my daily life.

Or I can go down by the ocean, meditate and find a measure of peace in this world of conflict.

But have I found God?

Has God found me?



God called out to Adam in the Garden, “Adam, Man, where are you?”

And Adam and Eve scurried into the bushes.

They had eaten of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

They had become their own gods.

To this day God keeps calling, and we keep running for cover.

We prefer idols, gods we can manipulate.

We turn to religion, spirituality, anything to avoid responding to the call of heaven.

But God is still calling.

The door to God’s World is wide open.

All we have to do is forsake our delusions.



***"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.***

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Matthew 5

God may lead me to a church.

He may direct me to a motley crew down by the river.

Once I am in God's kingdom, I am no longer alone.

I belong to all who are answering the call of heaven.

"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot by men.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 5



God will lead us in the Way Everlasting, if we keep answering his call.

Prayer: Lord, dear Lord help us to stop running from your call, using religion and/or spirituality to stand in for opening our hearts completely to you. Give us hearts that yearn for you, that can't be satisfied until we are in your very presence. And Lord as we find you, as we allow ourselves to be saturated with you, bring us to others who are answering the same intense call of heaven. Lord, make us light, make us salt, help us to embrace the beatitudes, to embrace your Ways wherever you lead us, whether to a church, the streets, a hovel, a field, or in the splendor of your creation. And yes, we will know that no matter where we are, we will never be alone. Amen.

Maranatha Mirror

Message: Richard E. Bieber November 2020
Featured Artist: Rolf Jansson via Good Salt license

[Maranatha Mirror Messages](http://maranathamirror.net)

mmirror.net
maranathamirror18@gmail.com



THE LAMB
WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN