Introduction:

1. At Odessa, Texas, there was a power failure at a radio station which interrupted a program praising the power company for its "uninterrupted power". (Christians also often fail to produce the promised resources for life--because of "power failure".

2. Last lesson was an attempt to define "spirituality," but one cannot live on definitions.

3. So now let's aim in the direction from which help comes.

Discussion:

I. Let's Take Another Look (Review).

A. Pseudo-spirituality:

1. The fraud - (cognitive knowledge; morals and others; emotionalism, miraculous gifts.)

2. The fruits - (lovelessness, substitution of atmosphere for action/attitude, diminishing respect for the scriptures; possible disillusionment).

B. Contrast "carnal" vs. "spiritual".

1. Spiritual is not just "non-material".

   a. The real man is "spiritual" - I Cor. 2:11.

   b. Satan is "spiritual" - Eph. 6:12.

   c. God is "Spirit" - Jno. 4:24.

2. Spirituality: Is life centered in and controlled by the Divine Non-Material--i.e., by God. II Cor. 4:16, 5:1; Col. 3:1-3.

II. How Does One Become "Rightly Related to God"?

(I choose to call this a "spiritual life sequence" - 5 steps.)

I CAN'T - HE CAN

A. Step One: I must acknowledge the sovereignty of God, in contrast to my own helplessness. Psa. 51:15-17; Mt. 5:3.

I DIÉ - HE LIVES

B. Step Two: I must die to self as the center of life. Gal. 2:19; Mt. 16:24-26; Phil. 2:5-11. (and thus find life, Rom. 6:11).
I IDENTIFY WITH JESUS


1. Then we share his life source. (A branch that is grafted into a tree, shares the tree's life source. So when we are "united with Christ", we share His life source---the spirit/life of God. Rom. 8:9-11.)

2. Then we share His sufferings. Phil. 1:26-28.

D. Step Four: I must accept and submit myself to the Lordship of Jesus. Rom. 10:9-10; 14:7-9; Eph. 5:17.

1. "Lord" is owner, master and controller.

2. So I existentially (moment by moment), daily, hourly, renew my submission and commitment. Phil. 2:5-11; Gal. 2:19-21.

E. Step Five: I must continually expose myself to the power sources of the Holy.

1. Through the "devotional Disciplines".
   a. Reading the scriptures. Jno. 6:44-45.
   b. Meditation of Him. Col. 3:1-3; Phil. 4:8-9; Psalms 1 (and then grow to "fruit-bearing" like a tree---gradually, but powerfully.)


3. Through fellowship with "God-led" people.


Conclusion:

1. Then I begin experiencing His power resources through the indwelling Spirit. Acts 5:33.
   a. He came into me at the new birth. Acts 2:38.
   b. But I do not always allow Him to invade every department of my life, i.e., "be filled". Eph. 5:18. I can't fight sins, but He will if I stay "plugged in".

2. And the "Fruits of the Spirit" begin to appear in my life.

3. The abundant life (Jno. 10:10) comes through "life centered in the Holy".

4. It can be yours now.