



# THEOLOGYPUB

## Spiritual but not Religious...?

Guest Sarah Walker Cleaveland • [www.facebook.com/TheologyPub](http://www.facebook.com/TheologyPub)

**“Spirituality is the reception of, and response to, the Spirit (understood to be God at work in this world).”**

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### Questions to think about:

- \* Can you be spiritual without being religious?
- \* What role, if any, do religious institutions play in spirituality?
- \* **Can we be spiritual by ourselves?**

### Some quotes to ponder:

“When caught in the act of being most personal, human beings disclose an openness toward infinite mystery as source, support, and goal of the operation of their very selves. Human beings are dynamically structured toward God.”

• *Elizabeth Johnson*

“We are a spiritually impoverished generation, we search in all places the Spirit ever flowed in hope of finding water. For if the Spirit is living and never dies, the Spirit must still be present wherever the Spirit once was active forming human life and the work of human hands. Not in a trail of monuments, however – in a secret, mysterious life. The Spirit is like a small but carefully tended spark, ready to flare, flow and burst into flame the moment the Spirit feels the first enkindling breath.”

• *Edith Stein*

### Two different views:

“The irony in being holy is that one is plunged more fully into the practical existence of this world . . . [it is] to be in the world but not of the world.”

• *William Stringfellow*

“First of all, although men have a common destiny, each individual also has to work out his own personal salvation for himself in fear and trembling. We can help one another to find out the meaning of life, no doubt. But in the last analysis the individual person is responsible for living his own life and for ‘finding himself’ . . . You cannot tell me who I am, and I cannot tell you who you are . . . Others can give you a name or a number, but they can never tell you who you really are. That is something you yourself can only discover from within.”

• *Thomas Merton*