

## SYMBOLS OF THE SPRING FEASTS

part 1 of 2  
3/22/08

Purpose of first sermon -- To discuss the value of believers observing Biblical symbols

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### 5 CHARACTERISTICS OF RELIGION

1. Belief in a deity
  2. A doctrine (accepted teaching) of salvation
  3. A code of conduct
  4. The use of sacred stories
  5. Religious rituals (acts and ceremonies)
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IT IS MY BELIEF THAT THE CHURCH OF GOD HAS LESS RITUALS THAN MOST OF THE RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD

- \* Some religions have pilgrimages as a ritual

Pilgrimages are journeys to the sites of holy objects or to places credited with miraculous healing powers.

For instance, Hindus consider the waters of the Ganges River in India to be sacred. Every year, millions of Hindus purify their bodies by bathing in the river, especially at the holy city of Varanasi.

Also, one of the five pillars of Islam is the Hajj. Muslims are expected to make a pilgrimage to Mecca (the birthplace of Muhammad) once in a lifetime.

- \* Some religions have prayer & fasting as rituals

Prayer and fasting are two of the five pillars of Islam. Muslims are expected to pray 5 times a day, facing Mecca -- dawn prayer, noon prayer, afternoon prayer, sunset prayer and nighttime prayer. Muslims are expected to fast between dawn and dusk during Ramadan.

Roman Catholics have a system of prayer that includes rosaries and recited prayers. Various Christian denominations have various systems of fasting during the 40 days of Lent.

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SOME RITUALS IN THE CHURCH OF GOD  
water baptism by immersion  
laying on of hands  
behavior on the weekly Sabbath  
behavior on annual feast days



done, and not to leave the other undone