**What Occupies your Mind?**

***Romans 8:5*** *For they that are after the flesh do* ***mind*** *the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.*

***6*** *For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

**Mind [Strong’s Concordance]** to exercise the mind; to have an opinion; to interest one’s self, to think upon

People that are walking after the flesh think about different things than those who are walking after the Spirit.

**Romans 8:1-2** gives us a clue as to what the difference is. There is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and death.

Reading the same scripture in the **Mirror Word: 1** Now the decisive conclusion is this; in Christ every bit of condemning evidence against us is cancelled.

Do you have a **Romans 7** mentality? The things I wanted to do, I have not done. The things that I did not want to do, I have done. Are you continually thinking condemning thoughts about yourself because you have not measured up to the standards you have held before yourself in the form of the law? If so, you are occupied with the things of the flesh. **Romans 7:23-25.**

Have you ever found yourself having thoughts, or imaginations that take you back to your life before you became a Christian?

* What are you doing with those thoughts and imaginations?
* Are you letting them “take you back” remembering the experience, and the feelings that you went through when you were doing whatever it was that you were doing?
* How are these thoughts making you “feel” now?
* Do you feel remorse?
* Do you feel guilt?
* Do you feel condemnation?
* Do you feel pain because of your actions or words?
* Do these feelings “go away” permanently [after you rebuke them] or do they just stop momentarily only to be taken up by you again at another time?

If so you are occupied with things that oppose the truth of God.

***Romans 8:7*** *Because the carnal mind is enmity* ***[opposition]*** *against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*

***8*** *So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*

Those kind of thoughts do not please God because God knows that they will produce spiritual death. They will keep you from experiencing true life and peace that can only come when you are occupied with spiritual thinking. God does not want us to be sin conscious! It is a killer!

***Romans 8:10*** *And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*

***Romans 8:13*** *For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.*

How do you mortify [put to death] the deeds of the body? You have to be led by the Holy Spirit, not your conscious!

{The Holy Spirit is not trying to persuade God about us, he persuades us about the Father! He brings our conversation back to the point; the success of the cross.} **Romans 8:27 Mirror Word**

The lord certainly was aware that this type of mental anguish was a tactic that Satan would use against us (His body.) He has therefore presented us with many truths that will enable us to be transformed in our hearts and minds so that we may be set free from the “snare of the fowler” and his lies.

We are in fact a new creation.

***2 Corinthians 5:17*** *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

Jesus put to death the flesh. Neither God, nor Jesus judges us after the flesh. We are judged by the cross.

***John 8:15*** *Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man.*

***16*** *And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me.*

***17*** *It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true.*

***18*** *I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.*

***19*** *Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.*

When we begin to entertain the failures of the flesh, we have forgotten the work of the cross.**2 Peter 1:9**

***Ephesians 4:22*** *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;*

***23*** *And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;*

***24*** *And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

The apostle Paul had a revelation of himself as a new creation. In the beginning he persecuted and killed Christians for their belief in Christ,

Yet he boldly proclaimed that he had wronged no man.

***2Corinthians 7:2*** *Receive us; we have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man.*

Only by knowing who he was as God saw him through the work of the cross could Paul have proclaimed this.

***Philippians 3:9*** *And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:*

***10****the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*

***11*** *If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.*

***12*** *Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.*

***13*** *Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,*

***14*** *I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

***15*** *Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.*

***16*** *Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.*

Paul was able to put the past behind him and reach for the things that lay ahead of him. He had the mind that Christ was his righteousness. He was God conscious!

Not only did Paul have that mind, but we too are encouraged to have the same mind. In other words, we are encouraged to let our thinking be inspired in the same manner. Jesus who knew no sin took our sin upon himself so that we could see ourselves the way that God sees Jesus.

***Philippians 2:5*** *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

***6*** *Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:*

With that in mind, let us further read what was revealed to Paul concerning our walk in this flesh body.

***2 Corinthians 10:3*** *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:*

***4*** *(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*

***5*** *Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*

We have to understand that the enemy “comes only to kill, steal and destroy.” **John 10:10** His warfare against us comes in the form of lies and deceptions. The weapons of warfare that we use to battle the war he has waged against us are not weapons that display the strength of the flesh. The war cannot be won by being sin conscious and giving in to his lies and accusations that come against us. The war is won as we begin to come to that knowledge that God is not judging us after the flesh. He is judging us according to the righteousness that was bestowed upon us at the cross. Remembering the work of the cross, or becoming God conscious is what makes our faith powerful and active. That is how we cast down the imaginations that come against us. We are to cast down every high thing that tries to exalt itself against God’s Word.

***Philemon 1:6*** *That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.*

Satan’s tactics have never changed. He always exalts himself against the word of God. **2 Corinthians 10:5** Satan proclaims the same thing in Isaiah.

***Isaiah 14:13*** *For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God:* ***14****. . .I will be like the most high.*

This coincides with two important points found in **2 Corinthians 10:5**.

The first one says that the imaginations exalt themselves against the knowledge of God. Your knowledge of God is a very key factor. How you see and perceive God is how you are going to receive from Him. Do you know God’s nature, His character? Do you see Him as a revengeful and angry God waiting to pay you back for every action that does not meet His standards of perfection? Or, do you see Him as a loving, caring provider whose only agenda is to help you overcome those things that are causing you a sense of condemnation and defeat.

This brings us to the second point in **2 Corinthians 10:5** which is “bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” The enemy’s tactic is to take you captive [enslave you] by getting you to believe his lies and deceptions that he puts in your minds. He points to the weaknesses of the flesh and down plays the victories of the cross.

Maybe you are reading this today and saying, “Yes, I have gone through that, and I am still struggling with being freed from it. What am I doing wrong?” As you continue to develop your relationship with your heavenly Father you are getting to know more and more about whom you are and how He sees you. There are areas in our hearts [from past experiences] that God has to re-write.

***Romans 12:1*** *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

***2*** *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

As God is faithful to do this in our lives we grow stronger in Him. As we gain greater knowledge, strength, wisdom and understanding in knowing Him, we grow more skillful in casting down the imaginations that are keeping us captive.

Do not focus on what you are doing wrong! This is territory within the enemy’s camp. Begin to focus on who you are because of what Jesus did right. This alone will set you free.

***Romans 3:4*** *God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.*

***Hebrews 8:6-10*** *But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.*

***Hebrews 13:9*** *Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.*

***2 Peter 1:8*** *For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

***9*** *But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.*

***12*** *Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.*

What is occupying your mind? May your mind be filled with the fullness of thoughts of the finished work of Jesus on Calvary’s cross and ALL the benefits and blessings that we have as His Beloved Son’s and Daughter’s. May you walk in peace, victory and power all the days of your long abundant life.