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# THE MIND OF THE SPIRIT

## *Session VI: The Mind of the Spirit, Part II*

- I. Benefits of a Spirit Focus Mind
  - A. Assurance of our right standing with God
    1. Romans 8:15-16 (NRSV) *"For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' It is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God"*
    2. Our mindset is that of a member of the family, not an outsider. (Romans 8:17)
      - a) Romans 8:1 (NIV) *"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus"*
      - b) Feeling unacceptable to God is not from the Spirit. It's a trick of the enemy.
    3. Right thinking comes from the certainty of your place in God's family. You think and act like a new creation when feel sure that God has chosen you to be his.
  - B. Spirit-empowered gifting
    1. The gift of the Spirit was in Joel 2:28-29 and began on the day of Pentecost.
    2. In the Old Testament we see people who were empowered by the Spirit for a task: David, Samson, Saul, etc.
    3. Every believer now has access to the power of the Holy Spirit.
    4. Gifts such as "prophecy," a "word of wisdom," or a "word of knowledge" are opportunities for the Holy Spirit to break through cluttered thinking and give direct insight.
  - C. Peace
    1. Scriptures Concerning Peace
      - a) Romans 8:6 (NIV) *"The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace."*
      - b) John 14:27 (NIV) *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."*
      - c) Isaiah 26:3 (NIV) *"You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you."*
        - (1) The Hebrew word translated "steadfast" carries a connotation of "trust."
        - (2) This same word appears in Psalm 78:22 and parallels the idea of "faith."
    2. The Spirit enables us to walk in faith. That trust in God enables us to have peace in our minds because we trust that in the security that God gives in spite of surrounding situations.

3. The Mind of the Spirit is at peace with...
    - a) God
    - b) Other Christians
    - c) World
  4. The Mind of the Flesh is at war, but the Mind of the Spirit is settled.
    - a) A spirit-filled believer knows where he or she stands. (Rom. 8:15)
    - b) A spirit-filled believer sees God at work in the midst of crisis. (Rom. 8:28)
    - c) A spirit-filled believer does not worry about the end. (Rom. 8:22-25)
- D. Spirit-empowered prayer
1. Romans 8:26 (NIV) *"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans."*
    - a) Paul speaks of his personal prayer life which includes praying in the Spirit.
    - b) This type of prayer allows us to bypass our minds and have direct conversation with God.
  2. Praying in the Spirit helps you pray exactly as God wants you to pray. This means negative thoughts or feelings are excluded from the prayers.
  3. 1 Corinthians 14:2 (NIV) *"For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit."*
    - a) This type of prayer allows us to perfectly pray for things that our minds may not understand at the moment.
    - b) Praying in the Spirit builds up your spirit and helps you to align your spirit with God. This will help you grow in thinking like God and wanting what God wants.
- E. Experiencing God's Glory
1. The Spirit enables us to contemplate or think on God's glory.
    - a) 2 Corinthians 3:18 (NRSV) *"And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit."*
    - b) The more we think about God's glory the more the Spirit transforms us. We become more like Jesus in the process.
  2. Instead of being blind to God, we can now see.
    - a) 2 Corinthians 4:4 (NIV) *"The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers"*
    - b) The Mind of the Spirit gives us clarity. When trying to transform your mind clarity is essential. When people struggle with negative thoughts, their minds are cloudy.
    - c) We often speak of needing to "clear your mind" when trying to process a situation. The Spirit enables us to clear our minds.

## II. Application

- A. Christians should approach every problem or obstacle with a Spirit-focused perspective. Instead of pros and cons list we should dig in to see what the Spirit says.

- B. Praying in the Spirit helps you align your will with God's will by praying exactly what the Spirit wants you to pray.
- C. By Spirit-empowered faith you can find peace in the midst of trouble. We are not like people in the world who are rocked from side to side. We remain steadfast.
- D. The Holy Spirit will help you clarify cloudy situations.
- E. The more that you think on the God and his glory the more your thinking will be transformed into his image.