
THE MIND OF THE SPIRIT

Session V: The Mind of the Spirit, Part I

- I. New Mindset
 - A. The Mind of The Flesh vs. The Mind of the Spirit
 - 1. Condemnation vs. Freedom (Romans 8:1-2)
 - 2. External Commands vs. Internal Righteousness (Romans 2:28-29)
 - 3. Weak vs. Empowered (Romans 8:3)
 - 4. Death vs. Life (Romans 8:5-8)
 - 5. Hostility vs. Peace (Romans 8:6-7)
 - B. The mindset of The Mind of the Spirit is a victory mindset.
 - 1. Not because we are powerful, but because the Spirit (God) within us is powerful.
 - 2. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit; thus we have access to God's presence at all times.
 - C. "When temptation comes, we can develop a confidence in Christ's victory in us that is greater than our confidence in the temptation to redefine our identity."—Craig S. Keener.
 - D. This new mindset is able to do what the law couldn't do through the Mind of the Flesh.
 - 1. Romans 8:3-4 (NRSV) *"For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."*
 - 2. Jesus fulfilled the standards of the Law perfectly, and because Jesus came as a human he was able to condemn sin.
 - a) This is why the Mind of the Spirit brings freedom to our thinking.
 - b) We no longer have to be controlled by a sinful nature.
- II. Receiving The Mind of the Spirit
 - A. Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection from the dead makes it possible for us to be changed and receive the Holy Spirit.
 - B. We receive the Spirit when we acknowledge Jesus as Lord and follow him.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 6:11 (NIV) *"And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."*
 - 2. The Spirit is who enables us to become what God has declared us to be, people who are righteous (in right standing) with his new covenant.
- III. Benefits of a Spirit-Focused Mind
 - A. New Creation
 - 1. We are part of God's recreation of a sinful (fallen) world

- a) What was destroyed in Genesis 3 when Adam and Eve sinned is reversed.
 - b) We can actually show the world what the image of God looks like through our daily lives.
 - c) The Spirit is like the down payment on the future complete recreation that will happen when we are all resurrected like Jesus.
 - (1) Romans 8:23 (NIV) *“Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.”*
 - (2) The Spirit active in our lives is proof that we will one day experience the full benefits of God’s new age.
 - d) 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”*
2. “What the Spirit of the Son came to effect was the actual re-creating of that image in those who through Christ, and the Spirit are themselves the **children of God**.”—Gordon Fee
- B. New Thinking
- 1. 1 Corinthians 2:14 (NIV) *“The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.”*
 - 2. We are no longer chained to old habits or ways of thinking.
 - 3. We are free to stand out from the crowd, break away from the pack, and pursue a new way of thinking.
 - a) That’s why it may be necessary to step away from unhealthy relationships when a person follows Jesus. We do not want our thinking brought back into muck and mire of the past.
 - b) Galatians 5:1 (NIV) *“do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”*
 - c) 2 Corinthians 6:14 (NIV) *“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers.”*

IV. Application

- A. The Mind of the Spirit is a fundamental part of the Christian life.
 - 1. If you are a Christian, then you have the Spirit.
 - 2. As Christians we are expected to access this power to transform our minds.
- B. We often stay trapped in old habits because we haven’t embraced the reality of a Spirit-filled life.
- C. Don’t go back to things you left behind. Fight fear with faith and trust that what is ahead is worth the discomfort of change.