

SPIRITUAL THINKING

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" The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace. "

Romans 8:6

### INTRODUCTION

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In tackling the whole subject of Christianizing our minds, let's consider one important aspect. Spiritual thinking or spiritual mindedness. We have all heard the statement; Some people are so heavenly minded that they are no earthly use. But I believe it could be said of some Christians they are so earthly minded that they are no heavenly use. We are going on a airline flight, but before we do you need to check in, wait in the departure lounge, board the plane, go through pre take off procedures, before take. Holy Spirit is the eye before you can start your trip. This is what we are going to do tonight so bear with me, as we lead up to the subject proper. In this subject of thinking spiritually it's important to remember that the Holy Spirit is like an eye surgeon who opens our eyes so we can see and so understand God's Word. In the word we see God and Christ and heaven. He not only opens our eyes but keeps them open. We must do our part, applying the eye drops of God's word, and using the means He's provided. Only then will we be able to begin to think spiritually.

But to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

God says you are to think spiritually.

HOW? IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS

1. BY LEARNING WHAT SPIRITUAL THINKING IS & ISN'T

i. What is the meaning of our text?

It's important to notice that the writer of this letter uses a similar statement in another letter Col 3:1 "Set your mind things above, not on things on the earth. What he has is for you to with you mind intellectually regard and care for those things above and we will see that they are later.

The N.I.V has an excellent translation of our text, "The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace. It literally means that you

are either minding the things of the flesh or minding of the things of the Spirit. You are either a carnal & fleshy person this morning or you are a spiritually minded having your mind controlled by Spirit. You are involved in one of two activities when you walked into this Chapel this morning death or life & peace. There are only two groups of people here and it should be your greatest concern to know which group you are in. The carnally minded or the spiritually mind. I hope that by the time you leave here you will know which group you are in.

Lets look briefly at the Carnal or fleshy state and see what it is like v1 they walk according to the flesh..... v5 they set their minds on the things of the flesh..... v8 those who are in the flesh cannot please God.... and the result of all this sinful thinking & which results in sinful living v13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die..... Is this a picture of your life or can you identify with those who are spiritually minded and controlled by the Spirit.v5 ...but those who live according to the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

In the context in which we find our text the H.S is at work in the souls men & women & boy's & girl's. If you have be regenerated, born again by the Holy Spirit you will be experiencing Spiritual life, the powerful life of God John 3.6 "that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" This new spiritual life within you will now enable you to live for God. May be you don't know that life this morning and all you know is that you heart is so wicked, you flesh so weak that you continually living in a way that is in total redellion to God. May you cry out to God to Change you, not just you thinking but you heart so you will know know a new power, a new principal filling you mind with light, wisdom, knowledge and discernment.

iii. WHAT SPIRITUAL THINKING IS NOT:

It is not outward things like:

1. You hearing the preaching of God's Word [Heb 4:2]
'For indeed the Gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.
2. You partaking of the Lord's Supper [1 Cor 11:29]
'For he who eats & drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.
3. You praying in public [matt 6:5]
And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of streets, that they may be seen by men.
4. You being involved in religious activities [Isa 1:12-15]

It is possible for you to do all these things and not be affected by them nor to feel the power of them in your own minds. There is a terrible danger of us attending only to the outward and be as Pharisees and hypocrites. And we will find that we worship God with there lips but that our hearts are far from Him.

iii. WHAT THEN IS SPIRITUAL THINKING?

Spiritually thinking is both the activity of God and man, where by your mind is changed and renewed, by the work of the Holy Spirit, so that you are continually acting and influenced, by thoughts of spiritual things, resulting in your experiencing the life and the peace of God.

I want you to notice that it is contary to the carnal, fleshly thinking of men, who from a evil & polluted heart, desire the things of the world & flesh and as a result are continually involving themselves in them.

are to think spiritually because if you don't you deny

Realize

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2. BY LEARNING THERE ARE HINDERANCES TO SPIRITUAL THINKING

There are real hinderances you will face is seeking to think spiritually. The Christian is one who is constantly at war with the flesh, the world and the Devil. The lust of your the eyes and the pride of life all seek to tighten their cripp around our souls. life.

- 1. You will find that unconfessed sin to God a hinderance to you thinking spiritually.
- 2. you may find your job or a friendship hinders your spiritual thinking. Bad communication corrupts. 3. Vain
- 2. Vain thoughts will hinder your spiritual thinking
'how long shall your evil thoughts lodge within you
Jer4:14
- 3. Iniquity will hinder your spiritual thinking
' Woe to those who devise iniquity, and work out evil on their beds! At morning light they practise it, because it is in the power of their hand.
- 4. Committing adultery with your eyes will hinder you from spiritually thinking [Matt 5.27,28 .2.Pet 2.14]
- 5. Pride [Rom 12.3]

Also things you see, hear, read, know,
 SEE; T.V ,FILMS, VIDEO'S. MAGAZINES, LIFE,
 READ: Papers, magazines, books.
 HEAR: T.V, FILMS, VIDEO'S FAMILIES arguments, christians am what I'm saying going to hinder my brother.
 KNOW: Information we have stored up in our minds through life, Trivia pollution of our minds, [Rom 12.2]

IN ALL THIS IMPORTANT TO KNOW YOURSELF, YOU PARTICULAR WEAKNESS OF BOBY, WHAT COMPANY YOU SHOULD KEEP AND WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES YOU SHOULD AVOID.

3. BY LEARNING WHY YOU ARE TO SPIRITUALLY THINK ?

- 1. Because Gos's word is realistic when it says, Prov 23:7 "For as he thinks in his heart so is he.
- 2. You are to think spirtuually because God commands us to [Rom 12.1-2
- 3. You are to think spiritually because you are now a Christian no longer in flesh but the Spirit.
- 4. You are to think spirtuually for the sake of your soul and your own spiritual wellbeing & eternal destiny.
- 5. When you love someone you can't stop thinking about them, So we are to love God with all our soul mind and heart.
- 6. You are to think spiritually because you where chose to be Holy and spirtuually thinking is part of being Holy [

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7. You are to think spiritually because if you don't you deny you have ever believed in Christ and repented of you sin.
8. Finally you are to think spiritually about the place you are to go to and about the one you are to worship forever so you will recognize the place & know Him.

realizing these are helps.

4. BY LEARNING HOW TO ~~THINK~~ SPIRITUALLY THINK

1. Admit you can't do this of yourself confess your past failure and seek God's forgiveness and help.

i. How do you think spiritually?

1. BY REALIZING WHO YOU HAVE TO HELP YOU:

Inward Grace: John

14:16 "I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Helper, that he may abide with you for ever," God H.S, advocate, person living within us .Col 1:27 Christ is in them, the Hope of Glory. Phil 2:13 "For it is God who works in you both to will and to work of his good

2. BY REALIZING YOU NEED TO CALL FOR HELP:

Prayer to God for help, 1 John 5.14, 15. "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to his will, He hears us. Col 3.2 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. Promise

3. BY REALIZING WHAT YOU ARE TO BE:

Eph 5.18, 19 "And do not

be drunk with wine but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs." Ever notice the foolish, wicked things a drunk man comes out with, > from his mind. X's filled Spirit > your labour for such a share of him so he fills your mind and heart. So by His grace your mind is filled with holy spiritual thoughts > drunk filled wicked foolish thoughts.

4. BY USING THE MEANS GOD HAS PROVIDED TO HELP YOU:

Private means: Personal prayer, mediating and study of God's Word, and self examination.

Public means: Prayer meetings, Preaching of God's Word, Lord's Supper, Bible Studies and encouraging and

exhorting one another.
Do you make use of the meetings God has provided? 5 prayer meetings you can attend. 5 meetings where the Word of God is taught. Total 3 hrs prayer meetings, 3 hrs teaching Word of God. Commanded not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together, Heb 10.25. Spiritual Meals do us good help us to think spiritually.

5. BY USING THE TOOLS GOD HAS PROVIDED:

Cassettes God give us preachers, Hear God's Word why? goodness mercy, blessing God- because he's got work for us to do, Books, Read why? not only to make truths know, but know how to do the work He is calling us do. The measurer in which we think spiritually will be the measurer in which we will be helped by God to do the work.

i. WHEN ARE YOU TO THINK SPIRITUALLY?

all the time, SPECIAL PROVIDENCE, attitude, doesn't stop when we are at work, we are to concentrate on our work, responsibilities.

ii. WHAT ARE YOU TO SPIRITUALLY THINK ON

1. Col 3.2 2. Phil 4.8
2. Word. Ps 1:2 "But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.
3. Christ, living Word. Person and work
4. God. Ps 48.9 "We have thought, O God, on your loving kindness, In the midst of your temple
5. Heaven, place where we are going, 2 Cor 4.16-18

IN CONCLUSION:

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS FROM YOUR SPIRITUAL THINKING?

life: God's life, real X's Life, power, presence of God against , flesh World and Devil.
Rivers of living water, bread of life,
Peace: Rom 5.1, right with him, we have true peace, peace with God, conflict and war over, peace with ourselves and each other. Amen.