



RENEWING THE MIND - PART 6

In this resource we are going to look at the "mind set on the flesh." This is of course not where our mind is to be set at all, but I sense it's a good idea to testify of what it is to have one's mind set on the flesh, so in the event one does, one can repent of this before Him.

The purpose of this repentance is to align one's mind to the Spirit so one can possess all that there is available in Him. As we have already seen, the Spirit is the only One who knows the thoughts of God and we have been given the Spirit of God, so that we can freely know all the things which God has given us.

The mind set on the flesh is ultimately a demonic mindset. It doesn't mean a person who's mind is set on the flesh has a demon in them, but their thinking is of the kingdom of darkness. This was exactly what Jesus addressed in Peter in Matthew 16:23, in relation to Jesus having to go to Jerusalem and be killed.

Matthew 16:23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

Peter's mindset was of earth and we know that the earth and all its ways of operating are anchored and built from darkness. Because Peter's mindset was of earth, the demonic's playground, his behaviour was also demonic in trying to get in the way of where Jesus needed to go. Our fleshly thinking will lead us into fleshly living, and this fleshly living is not of Him at all, no matter how good it may look or appear.

Jesus calls Peter a stumbling block to Him. We are not supposed to be stumbling blocks to Christ, who get in the way of Christ. We are called to be bondservants of Christ who are only interested in doing the will of God the way the Father has designed it.

This passage of Scripture below is exactly what Peter was living out and modelling, so let's unpack this, as this way leads to death.

Romans 8:6-8 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

To have your mind set on the flesh, the carnal, the natural, the wisdom of this world is spiritual death. This way is completely opposite to the Spirit which is life. As the Scripture says, this mindset is hostile towards God. One can be hostile towards God and have absolutely no reference for this, believing they are absolutely not.

The second part of this aspect of death, is that a person who is of the flesh cannot please God. The entire purpose of our relationship with the Father is to glorify the Father. How can a follower of Jesus do this if their mind is set on the flesh.



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To set your mind on the flesh as a follower of Jesus, is to try to bring yourself into the knowledge of God through human learning. This is where we apply ourselves to study the Scriptures through the intellect, believing eternal life will be received and understanding will come through the mind. We attempt all of this without the Spirit who is our Teacher, and this demonic wisdom leads us into a false knowledge that has the appearance of life, when it is in fact death.

This pattern of wisdom is what we looked at in resource 5, when we talked about knowing 'about' God as opposed to the knowing 'of' God. To continue to live out this demonic wisdom will have you living in the opposite way to Him.

The mind set on the flesh is in direct opposition to the mind set on the Spirit, hence the massive potential for division, offence and hurt in God's people. A mind set on the flesh will always fight for what it perceives is right, while never experiencing the life of that so called 'right' position.

The failure to recognise, acknowledge, confess and turn to receive a brand new way of living, will see us never come into the life we can know in Christ.

QUESTIONS:

1. Put yourself in Jesus' shoes when dealing with Peter and ask yourself what you sense was going on for Jesus?
2. Put yourself in Peter's shoes when Jesus dealt with him and ask yourself what you sense was going on for Peter?
3. Why is the mind set on the flesh in direct opposition to the mind set on the Spirit?
4. How destructive is the mind set on the flesh when it comes to the building of God's people?
5. What must a follower do who recognises they set their mind on the flesh?