

THE MIND OF THE SPIRIT

Part 4 Romans Chapter Eight

There's something solid, certain, sure and stable in the teaching of these verses in context. As more and more grace and truth unfolds we discover that it is always respectful of the foundation upon which it stands. One truth paves the way forward for the next truth which in turn confirms and strengthens the former truth upon which it has been established.

HERE IN ROMANS 8, WE SEE THE HOLY SPIRIT EXPLODING ONTO THE PAGE. HE IS MENTIONED MORE THAN 20 TIMES IN THIS CHAPTER, WHEREAS BEFORE (IN 7 CHAPTERS) HE WAS ONLY MENTIONED TWICE. HE IS THE ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE TRINITY WHO GIVES US **THE EXPERIENCE** OF WHAT JESUS HAS ACHIEVED AT THE CROSS AND RESURRECTION. **THIS IS THE CHAPTER OF OUR EXPERIENCE**, WHICH PAUL IS CAREFUL TO NOT EXCLUDE FROM THE DOCTRINAL TRUTH UPON WHICH IT IS ESTABLISHED.

Here we get some insight into the internal workings of the Holy Spirit in our being.

OUR TEXT TODAY IS ...

Romans 8:6 (NB: This is the NKJV which is not accurate.)

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

NB: **THIS IS A BAD TRANSLATION.** It indicates that my experience of either 'Death' or 'Life and Peace' is a result of **how I think**. It tells us that it is conditional upon my mental state at the time.

Let me personalise and paraphrase what the translators are actually trying to say for clarity.

Romans 8:6 Paraphrased and Personalised **SLIDE**

*For if **you think** flesh-thoughts you will die, but if **you think** Spirit-thoughts you'll get life and peace.*

SO, ACCORDING TO THIS TRANSLATION, OUR EXPERIENCE OF LIFE AND PEACE IS 100% CONDITIONAL UPON **HOW WE THINK**.

In affect it's saying, some moments I may experience 'Life and Peace', but at any instant, I can think wrong thoughts and be killed. IS THIS REALLY WHAT GOD IS TEACHING US HERE?

LET'S TAKE THAT FIRST PHRASE.

'For to be **carnally minded** is death', or 'if **you think** flesh-thoughts you will die'.

THIS INTERPRETATION HAS SET MANY SINCERE CHRISTIANS ON A QUEST TO TRY AND **STOP THINKING WRONG THOUGHTS** SO THEY MAY NOT DIE OR LOSE THEIR SALVATION.

When I was younger, I heard it preached that God destroyed the EARTH with the Flood because **God saw that everything THEY THOUGHT or imagined was consistently and totally evil.** (Genesis 6:5). So we as young men tried desperately to not have bad thoughts because God could see them and might destroy us.

BUDDHISM

However, this idea of achieving *'Life and Peace'* by not thinking or focusing on the things of the flesh is not unique to Christian teaching. It is also part of Buddhist teaching as follows:

SLIDE *'To live in peace you must achieve a mental state where you do not think about the things of the flesh.'* (Paraphrased from ... *'In Buddhism ... peace of mind, is achieved by detaching oneself from the cycle of craving all passions, needs and wants ... by achieving a mental state of transcendent bliss and well-being' (or life and peace).*

Remember last week how we joked about people who were trying to stop thinking bad thoughts and who ended up stilted and just staring at the wall?

WELL THIS IS THE BUDDHIST STATE CALLED 'NIRVANA' MEANING 'NOTHINGNESS'.

THE QUEST FOR PEACE AND WELLBEING at its best can only ever achieve a quasi-numbness which cannot be sustained. Unfortunately for those who are locked into its quest, they get constantly interrupted because they have to keep eating, drinking and going to the loo.

THIS BELIEF HAS PRODUCED GROUPS OF SINCERE PEOPLE WHO CONTINUOUSLY TRY TO ACHIEVE A SENSE OF WELL-BEING BY THEIR OWN CONCENTRATION AND MENTAL EFFORT AND WHO FAIL BADLY!

1. To try and STOP focusing on the flesh ... IS WRONG.

HOWEVER, WE MUST ALSO ADDRESS THE ERROR OF THE SECOND PART OF THAT TRANSLATION:

ROMANS 8:6

'... To be spiritually minded is life and peace,'

SLIDE LOOK HOW the New American Standard Bible states it ...

'The mind set ON the Spirit is life and peace'

AS WRONG AS IT IS, THIS AT LEAST GIVES US HOPE THAT THERE IS SUCH A THING AS 'LIFE AND PEACE' AVAILABLE ... but what it also suggests is ... I have to be 100% focused and separated to achieve it.

I have to be focusing on the Spirit every moment of every day.

2. To TRY TO START focusing on the Spirit ... IS ALSO WRONG.

NO FOLKS, THESE ARE BAD TRANSLATIONS that have brought people back into religious works ... TRYING TO ACHIEVE SPIRITUAL WELLBEING AND ALWAYS FAILING MISERABLY.

LET'S LOOK AT THE CORRECT WAY OF TRANSLATING ROMANS 8:6

SLIDE LET'S COMPARE THE NKJV OF Romans 8:6 WITH THE ORIGINAL GREEK.

(NKJV) For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.	(Interlinear Greek) For the mind of the flesh [is] death, but the mind of the Spirit [is] life and peace.
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The NKJV TRANSLATES 'MIND' AS A VERB (-something we do) **THIS IS WRONG**
In GREEK 'MIND' IS A NOUN (-something we have) **THIS IS RIGHT**

SLIDE LOOK AT HOW THE NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE TRANSLATES THIS TEXT:

1. 'The mind, set **ON** the Spirit is life and peace.' **THIS IS WRONG.**

LOOK AT HOW THE CHRISTIAN STANDARD BIBLE TRANSLATES THIS TEXT:

2. 'The mind-set **OF** the Spirit is life and peace.' **THIS IS RIGHT.**

No. 1 Tells us that our focus **on** the Holy Spirit produces life and peace in us.

No. 2 Tells us that the life and peace **of** the Holy Spirit in us produces our focus.

OUR TEXT IS NOT TELLING US TO DO OR ACHIEVE ANYTHING ... IT'S TELLING US THERE ARE TWO NATURES ... ONE BEING THE FLESH-NATURE ... THE OTHER, THE NEW SPIRIT-NATURE.

'THE MIND OF THE FLESH' IS REFERRING TO THOSE WHO ARE NOT BORN AGAIN.

'THE MIND OF THE SPIRIT' REFERS TO THOSE WHO ARE BORN AGAIN OF THE SPIRIT.

WHAT IS 'THE MIND'?

THE '**MIND**' (phronēma)

Noun – aspirations ... inclination ... moral bias ... predisposition.

1. THE PREDISPOSITION, INCLINATION AND NATURE OF THE FLESH IS ALWAYS IN DEATH AND THEREFORE WILL PRODUCE DEATH. **(THIS IS CORRECT)**
2. THE PREDISPOSITION, INCLINATION AND NATURE OF THE SPIRIT IS ALWAYS ABOUT LIFE AND PEACE. **(THIS IS CORRECT)**

IT'S LIKE HAVING A BIAS WHICH ALWAYS LEADS TO THE SAME PLACE.

Jack and Jill are in love. Jack talks about Jill all the time. His mates get sick of it and change the subject to the football, but two sentences later Jack says, 'Jill's favourite team is the Titans.'

Jack has an emotional bias her way ... a mindset ... an inclination.

As we saw last week, **WE ARE NO LONGER PEOPLE OF THE FLESH AND THEREFORE WE DO NOT HAVE A FLESHLY NATURE.** (We still have a FLESH-BODY BUT NOT A FLESH-NATURE)

NOW IN CHRIST, WE ARE A NEW CREATION WITH **A NEW 'SPIRIT' NATURE.**
THAT NATURE HAS THE HOLY SPIRIT AND A MORAL DISPOSITION ... A CERTAIN

INCLINATION ... A 'MIND' OF THE SPIRIT ... ALWAYS TO LIFE AND PEACE.

So, the Holy Spirit within us has a nature that will lead us and guide us the right way.

- WE DON'T NEED TO TRY AND STOP THINKING WRONG THOUGHTS.
- WE DON'T NEED TO CONCENTRATE ON THINKING RIGHT THOUGHTS.

WE ALREADY HAVE THE RIGHT THOUGHTS, DESIRES AND FOCUS IN US.

WE HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT ALREADY WORKING IN US ... ALREADY. **THE BEST YOU CAN DO IS DISCOVER WHO IS IN YOU, STOP TRYING AND FALL BACK INTO HIS SPIRIT WITHIN.**

THE TWO TAPS

Like one preacher said, 'It's like we have two taps in our brain. With one we turn off the flesh and we have to turn the Spirit-tap on. NO!

THE FLESH CANNOT BE TURNED OFF BY OUR HUMAN EFFORT ...

THE SPIRIT DOESN'T NEED TO BE TURNED ON BY OUR MENTAL FOCUS.

HE IS EVER FLOWING IN YOU. He's already bubbling up inside you.

John 4:13-14 ... *Whoever drinks (once) of the water I give, will **NEVER THIRST AGAIN.***

The water that I shall give will be a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

SALVATION IS ACTIVE WITHIN YOU – NOT STATIC WAITING FOR YOU TO TURN IT ON.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ALIVE AND ACTIVE WITHIN YOU ... YOU CANNOT STOP HIM SPRINGING UP INTO EVERLASTING LIFE ...

HE IS PATIENTLY LEADING YOU INTO ALL TRUTH. (John 16:13)

Philippians 2:13 NLT

*For **God is working in you**, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.*

HE DOESN'T NEED OUR HELP ... HE NEEDS OUR SURRENDER TO HIS POWER WITHIN.

WHERE IS YOUR CONTROL CENTRE?

SLIDE Before you were regenerated, your control centre was in your mind ...

Adam and Eve became 'Knowledge' centred after eating from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. (Genesis 2:17)

SLIDE Now In Christ ... our New Control Centre is in Our Spirit with the Holy Spirit.

WE NOW CAN FUNCTION FREE FROM FEAR AND FRUSTRATION ...

AT A DEEPER LEVEL WITH A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING.

THIS IS A PLACE ABOUNDING WITH ONLY LIFE AND PEACE.

SLIDE ... But the mind of the Spirit is *life and peace.*

NB: It doesn't say, 'Having the Mind of the Holy Spirit produces 'Life and Peace'.

THE DISPOSITION OF Life and Peace is already there and they begin to affect our mind-set. It says, *'The Mind of the Spirit IS life and peace'*. THE LIFE AND PEACE IS ALREADY THERE. HIS NATURE IS LIFE AND PEACE.

WHAT IS THIS LIFE?

THIS LIFE CREATED LIFE.

THIS IS THE ETERNAL LIFE THAT CREATED ALL PHYSICAL LIFE.

THIS LIFE IS ETERNAL ... NOW LIVING WITHIN US.

1 John 5:12 Weymouth NT

He that has the Son has 'the Life': he who has not the Son ... has not ... life.

We have the Son ... we have already the grace of His Life within.

YOU CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED WITHOUT BEING BORN AGAIN WITH THIS LIFE.

THIS LIFE CANNOT BE LOST OR CONTAMINATED. THIS IS INDESTRUCTABLE LIFE.

THIS IS LIFE THAT WE CANNOT LOSE.

1 Peter 1:23 NIV **SLIDE**

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

BUT THERE IS ANOTHER QUALITY MENTIONED HERE ... THAT IS 'PEACE'.

SLIDE ... But the mind of the Spirit is life and peace.

WHY PEACE AND NOT JOY?

PEACE IS THE ENTRANCE WAY TO ALL EXPERIENCE IN CHRIST.

IT COMES FROM BEING DECLARED RIGHTEOUS AND MADE RIGHTEOUS.

Romans 14:17 Berean Literal

*For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but (1) righteousness and (2) **peace** and (3) joy in the Holy Spirit.*

This is firstly being at Peace **with God** as in Romans 5:1.

Peace **with God** is because of our Justification – being declared righteous. It is a legal declaration.

Note carefully how Paul refers to the flesh-nature. It is enmity against God. It cannot please God (Romans 8:8) ... so there is NO PEACE with God.

BUT NOW THE HOLY SPIRIT BRINGS US THE EXPERIENCE OF THIS PEACE WITH GOD

WE EXPERIENCE THE PEACE OF GOD, ASSURING US WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD. IT'S A DEEP ABIDING SENSE OF CALM THAT WHISPERS, 'All is well with the Judge of the universe ... '

Even if we don't understand justification or our mind is still confused ... deep inside – if you listen – if you let yourself feel ... you will have a great sense of peace.

THIS PEACE IS UNCONDITIONAL ...

1. *Not based upon anything I do or don't do.*
2. *Not based upon circumstances. This is peace in the midst of the storm.*

SLIDE OF BIRD IN A ROCK *The winner of an international art competition for a depiction of peace, was a small bird resting in a crevasse in a rock under a torrent of water.*

THIS PEACE IS ABIDING ... It does not go away.

Christians say, 'I lost my peace' ... NO YOU DIDN'T. You might have become anxious ... and become mind centred. You have mentally walked away from Him and His presence which remains intact inside you in perfect peace.

WE NOW KNOW ... ANY ANXIOUS THOUGHTS WE HAVE ARE NOT COMING FROM THE MIND OF THE SPIRIT. HE IS ALWAYS ABIDING IN LIFE AND PEACE.

HOW DO I COME INTO THIS? WHAT SHOULD I DO?

RECOGNISE HIM WITHIN YOU – His presence ... His Life and Peace within.

He is working ... moving in us continually ... speaking ... directing ... comforting but we often don't recognise His Nature in us. Just like the disciples on the Emmaus Rd
Luke 24:32

*And they said to one another, "Was not **our heart burning within us** as He was speaking with us on the road, as He was opening the Scriptures to us?"*

Sometimes we recognise that He was speaking to us ... after an event ...

This is the 'Mind' or Nature of the Holy Spirit within you. HE SPEAKS TO YOU NOW ...

Psalm 39:3

My heart grew hot within me; as I mused, the fire burned. Then I spoke with my tongue.

REST IN HIM ... Start to STOP ... accept and believe and rest.

R.I.P = Rest in Peace

We say this to dead people? WHY?

Because all life has been a battle ...all life has been a struggle ...

Now their struggle is over ...

BUT WE IN CHRIST, DON'T HAVE TO PHYSICALLY DIE TO RECEIVE OUR REST IN PEACE.

WE DIED TO SIN AND THE LAW IN CHRIST AND NOW WE ALREADY HAVE THIS OVERWHELMING PEACE! NOW YOU CAN REST IN PEACE AND STILL BE ALIVE.

YOU DO NOT HAVE A SIN NATURE.

So we should stop trying to overcome a sin nature that we don't have.

WE DON'T HAVE TO GET RID OF THE WRONG THINKING ... BAD THOUGHTS ... SINFUL THOUGHTS BEFORE THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN ILLUMINATE OUR MIND.

We previously said, 'The wrong thoughts we have are NOT generated by our mind but imported into it.

JUST AS LIGHT OVERCOMES THE DARKNESS HIS LIFE AND PEACE OVERCOME DEATH AND ANXIETY.

The Holy Spirit is life and peace ... illuminates ... informs and inspires our mind.

This is NOT me trying to think right it's His essence that is in me ... now flowing through me into my thought life until He establishes in me a new mindset.

YOU RECEIVED A GODLY NATURE IN YOU THE MOMENT YOU WERE BORN AGAIN OF THE SPIRIT.

THIS NEW NATURE DWELLS IN LIFE AND PEACE AND ORGANICALLY REPRODUCES LIFE AND PEACE.

BEGIN TO ENJOY HIM ... LET YOURSELF ENJOY HIM ... HIS PEACE ... HIS PRESENCE.

(SOON WE WILL TEACH ON ... THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.)