

Carnal or Spiritual?

Frustration among the believers-underlying sense of unworthiness or being unloved, empty, condemnation

2 Peter 2:2 Grace and Peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord

Either we have missed something or the word can't be taken literally and God is not who he says he is!

Romans 8:6-7 Carnal Mind, Spiritual Mind: one produces life, one produces death; incompatible

***Romans 8:6** For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. **7** Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*

flesh and spirit represent two opposite realms that can't be combined
And will always oppose each other

1 Corinthians 15:44 there is a natural body and there is a spiritual body-different principles govern them
Men/animals. Birds/fish. Terrestrial/celestial. Moon/sun. Natural/spiritual
Corruption/incorruption

1Co 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. The things of the flesh are corruptible.

Spiritual realm is foreign to the natural man because he can't enter into it with his natural understanding.

Joh 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Joh 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit

Where and what is the kingdom?

Luke 17:20-21 the kingdom is within you

Romans 14:17 the kingdom is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost

In order to enter into the spiritual realm, the word you know must be interpreted by the Spirit. That which is flesh is flesh and that which is Spirit is Spirit. The two realms can't be combined because different principles govern them. Unless the word you know has been spiritually discerned, you will never experience true righteousness, peace and joy in the kingdom that is within you.

CARNALLY MINDED-PHYSICAL REALM-things pertaining to this world

Man relates and responds to physical realm with mind, will and emotions
He is self centered, and self motivated, governed by his conscience
Depends upon his WILL POWER

The Old Covenant walk with God put the focus on man and his ability to conform his behavior to a set of commandments written on stone.

Romans 3:23 It proved to be impossible. No one can experience the things of the kingdom that way.

Romans 7:18-Although man has the desire to order his steps according to the laws of the commandments, he lacks the self will power to do what he desires to do.

2 Corinthians 3:5-6 his sufficiency depends upon self, and walking in the letter of the law

***2Corinthians 3:5-6** Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God. **6** Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.*

THE GOD OF THIS WORLD works with the letter of the word and ALWAYS PUTS MAN IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE THINGS THAT PERTAIN TO THE FLESH. HE MAKES MAN SELF CONSCIOUS AND SIN CONSCIOUS. He connects man to the works of his own hands (his failures, things he needs to do and has not done, faults, circumstances.)

2 Corinthians 3:7,9 The ministration according to the letter of the Word is called the ministration of death and condemnation.

2 Corinthians 3:14-15 Being occupied with perfecting the flesh according to the letter of the law causes a man to be spiritually blind. He will never see the true things of the kingdom because the weakness of his own flesh will disqualify him in his own eyes.

***2Corinthians 3:14** But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. **15** But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart.*

A **CARNAL CHRISTIAN** is someone who is trying to live a spiritual life by the power of the flesh. This presents 2 problems:

1. The flesh is weak
2. Because it is a spiritual kingdom, the things of the flesh are not applicable. True spiritual principles are not about perfecting the flesh according to the law. The carnal mind will always oppose the things of the Spirit by focussing on the things of the flesh.

The wisdom of this world and things of the flesh come to nothing-they will pass away

1Peter 1:23 *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. 24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: 25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.*

Hebrews 10:14-18 JESUS TOOK THE FOCUS OFF OF THE THINGS OF THE FLESH that spiritually blind us. He took the things of the flesh away so that we could focus on the things that pertain to the spirit.

Hebrews 10:14 *For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. 15 Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, 16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; 17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. 18 Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.*

No more offering for sin is needed because the sin issue has been satisfied. The flesh no longer has the grounds to disqualify us from walking in spiritual principles.

SPIRITUALLY MINDED

1 Corinthians 2:9-14- the things that God has prepared for us can't be imagined with the natural mind!

True spiritual principles can only be can only be spiritually discerned
1 Corinthians 2:13 *Spiritual things can only be compared with spiritual things. The things of the flesh and the things of the spirit can not be combined.*

2 Corinthians 3:5-6 The things that pertain to the Spirit are based on based on Gods sufficiency and the ministraton of the Spirit produces life, peace,

V. 9 It is called the ministraton of righteousness.

1 Corinthians 2: 4-5 Spiritual faith has its roots in the power of God, not the wisdom of men.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR GOD CONNECTION THAT PUTS US IN MIND
With THE TRUE THINGS OF THE KINGDOM.

***2Corinthians 3:16** Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away. **17** Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. **18** But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

THE HOLY SPIRIT ALWAYS MAKES US GOD CONSCIOUS. He reveals we are sons of God and joint heirs with Jesus.

***Galatians 4:6** And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. **7** Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*

***Romans 8:16** The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: **17** And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

The spiritual realm puts the focus on assuming our God given sonship and becoming an heir of God.

The Holy Spirit Connects us to the the Power and sufficiency of God and the success of the cross. He gives us hope, peace and the ability to believe. The Spirit reminds us of our righteousness, gives us joy, and reveals spiritual truth to us (*which in turn dispels the untruths that keep us*

captives of darkness.). *The Spirit* presents us faultless before God and reveals the love God has for both ourselves and others.

Living the spiritual life depends upon: **GOD POWER, NOT WILL POWER!**

Ephesians 2:8 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

Saved- deliver, protect, heal, make whole-delivered from spiritual blindness
We are delivered from Spiritual blindness by Faith. According to Strong's Concordance, faith means: *favor, especially the divine influence of God on the heart and its reflection on the life therein.*

In other Words we have the ability to live the God motivated life (salvation) by the Holy Spirit which connects us to the things of the kingdom of God.

The conflict

We are subject to two conflicting voices-the voice of the Spirit which reveals spiritual truth of the Word according to spiritual realm and the New Covenant, and the voice of the flesh magnified by the enemy which works according to the letter of the word and Old Covenant thinking.

The number one problem with the church is that we have tried to combine two things that can't be combined and call it the gospel

Revelations 3:15 *I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. 16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.*

Revelations says because we are lukewarm God will spew us out of his mouth. Cold represents the law and living life according to the mandates of the law. The purpose of the law was to bring people to the conclusion that they needed a savior. The hot represents living the Christian life according

to the prompting of the Spirit which brings a sense of righteousness, peace and joy.

But, lukewarm water represents a mixture of both hot and cold water. This is the most dangerous place a Christian can be because neither grace nor the law will work the way that they were designed to work. It is the thing that produces this up and down frustrating life that most CHRISTIANS find themselves trapped in.