

# CHRISTIANS SEEKING IDENTITY

A Ministry of Alpha & Omega International Ministries

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## What Occupies your Mind?

Greetings Family and Friends,

It seems like summer just started and now I am already starting to hear my grandkids talking about getting ready for school again. Wow the old saying that "time waits for no one" seems to be correct. I will have to say that we did get a chance to spend some time with our family this summer. In fact Suzan ran a half-marathon in Chicago with all of her five children and some of their spouses as well as two of her grandkids. Note the youngest daughter was 8 months pregnant (expected due date-Aug. 18th) and she would not be outdone by her siblings so she walked it. *(She is second from left to right-below)*



We certainly hope that you were also able to capture some memorable moments and times with your family and friends this summer. It is these times that we can later reflect upon and they are what give our lives meaning. Because we can go through life and always be thinking about the things that we were never able to accomplish and carry a guilt load that we were never meant to carry. The enemy is ready, willing and able to supply our minds with plenty examples of our

past failures. That leads me to our teaching this month which asks you, "What Occupies your Mind?" **Romans 8:5** *For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

**Mind [Strong's Concordance]** to exercise the mind; to have an opinion; to interest one's self, to think upon. People that are walking after the flesh think about different things than those who are walking after the Spirit. **Romans 8:1-2** gives us a clue as to what the difference is. There is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and death.

**Mirror Word: Romans 8:1** *Now the decisive conclusion is this; in Christ every bit of condemning evidence against us is cancelled.*

Do you have a **Romans 7** mentality? The things I wanted to do, I have not done. The things that I did not want to do, I have done. Are you continually thinking condemning thoughts about yourself because you have not measured up to the standards you have held before yourself in the form of the law? If so, you are occupied with the things of the flesh. **Romans 7:23-25.**

Have you ever found yourself having thoughts, or imaginations that take you back to your life before you became a

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Christian? Does it cause you to feel guilt and condemnation over your past behavior? If so you are occupied with things that oppose the truth of God.

**Romans 8:7** *Because the carnal mind is enmity [opposition] against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*

Those kinds of thoughts do not please God because God knows that they will produce spiritual death. They will keep you from experiencing true life and peace that can only come when you are occupied with spiritual thinking. God does not want us to be sin conscious! It is a killer!

**Romans 8:10** *And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. Romans 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.*

How do you mortify [put to death] the deeds of the body? You have to focus on the power of God within. You can't focus on the weaknesses of your flesh.

*{ The Holy Spirit is not trying to persuade God about us, he persuades us about the Father! He brings our conversation back to the point; the success of the cross. }*

#### **Romans 8:27 Mirror Word**

Our faith becomes powerfully active by acknowledging every good thing we have in Christ Jesus. **Philemon 1:6** The Lord certainly was aware that this type of mental anguish was a tactic that Satan would use against us. He has therefore presented us with truths that will enable us to be transformed in our hearts and minds so that we

may be set free from the "snare of the fowler" and his lies. We are in fact a new creation.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

Jesus put to death the flesh. Neither God, nor Jesus judges us after the flesh. We are judged by the cross. **John 8:15-19**

**Ephesians 4:22-24** tells us to put off "old man" conversation and put on "new man" conversation.

The apostle Paul had a revelation of himself as a new creation. In the beginning he persecuted and killed Christians for their belief in Christ, yet he boldly proclaimed that he had wronged no man. **2 Corinthians 7:2** He shifted the focus of his attention from the things of the past to the things of the cross. **1 Corinthians 2:2-5**

He encouraged us to "be thus minded." **Philippians 3:9-16**

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5** Although we walk in the flesh, we don't war after the flesh. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God.

If you are struggling with condemnation and guilt and have not been able to conquer the weakness of your flesh, perhaps you have been fighting with out-dated weapons. Let your strength come from the Lord and the power of His might. Arm yourself with the armor of God! **Ephesians 6:10-17**

May it be that what occupies your mind is what occupied Jesus' mind as Paul said in **Philippians 2:5** Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus...which allowed Jesus to live His life in peace, power and with God given authority.

*God Bless you.  
Your friends,  
Mickey & Suzan*