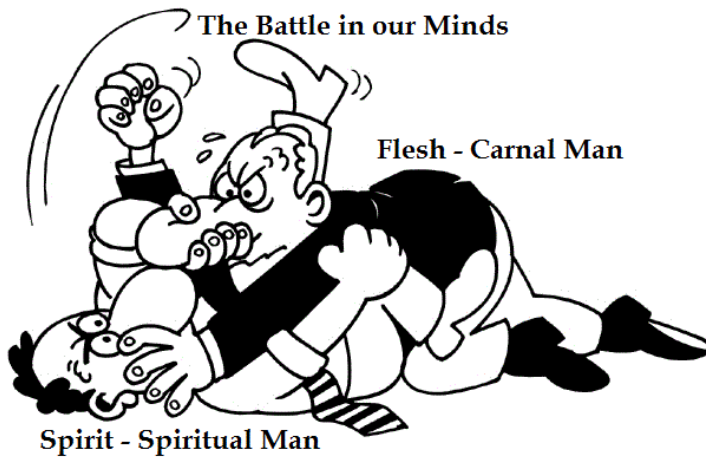


# Carnal or Spiritual

Make your choice



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## CARNAL OR SPIRITUAL?

**Romans 8:6** says, *For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

Many Christians are caught up with a sense of frustration because they have failed to discern the difference between being carnally minded and spiritually minded. A carnal Christian is a Christian who is trying to live the Christian life by the power of the flesh and it does not work!

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!

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.

**1 Corinthians 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.

**John 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. **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.

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.

**2 Corinthians 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.

**1 Peter 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.*

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 cannot be combined.*

**2 Corinthians 3:5-6** The things that pertain to the Spirit are based on based on Gods sufficiency and the ministration of the Spirit produces life, peace, **V. 9** It is called the ministration 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.

## SERVANTS OR HEIRS?

Children under bondage to the elements of the world have been redeemed by Jesus so that they could take their position as sons and heirs of God.

### **Galatians 4:3-7**

Once we have been redeemed we need to be careful that we do not submit ourselves again to the world's bondage.

### **Galatians 4:9**

#### **Galatians 4:22-31**

Abraham had two sons. One son (Ishmael) was born to slavery through Hagar which represented the Old Covenant and the bondage that went with that administration. The other son (Isaac) was a product of God fulfilling His promise that he made to Abraham. He represented freedom and the New Covenant.

**Galatians 4:28** *Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. 29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. 30 Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. 31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.*

The son born after the flesh persecuted the son born after the spirit. That same persecution continues today. The things of the flesh and the things of the Spirit are incompatible and there will always be friction between them. Our flesh continually opposes the things of the Spirit.

The "slave born child" and the spirit born child do not share the same inheritance. A slave has no part of the inheritance that comes with being a son. Just as Abraham cast out Hagar and Ishmael, God tells us to cast out our "law thinking."



## **Born after the Flesh**

The child born of the slave was a servant of the law and was performance minded and sin conscience. A slave will never be a true member of the household. He does not have a share in the inheritance that a family member does.

### **Romans 3:23**

The fruit that a slave reaps from his efforts is guilt and condemnation. His position with the house he serves is conditional based on his performance.

**2 Corinthians 3:14** He is blind to the true things of the kingdom.

He always sees himself separated from God by his sins even though God does not see him that way.

**Isaiah 29:13** Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

A slave has an "us" and "Him" mentality that comes from carnal thinking. God says that we should not see men differently than we see God, but a slave that is caught up in slavery naturally sees things this way.

**James 3:9** With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse men who were made in God's likeness! **10** Out of the same mouth come forth blessing and cursing. These things, my brethren, ought not to be so.

## **Born of the Spirit-children of the free**

The alienation between man and God that is in man's mind has been reconciled by Jesus's. He took our sins out of the way so that we could begin to see spiritual things.

**Colossians 1:21** And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

**22** In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

Children of the Spirit see themselves in a different light! True salvation involves coming to the knowledge of our God given inheritance and walking in it.

**Psalms 106:4** Remember me, O LORD, with the favour that thou bearest unto thy people: O visit me with thy salvation; **5** That I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that I may glory with thine inheritance.

We are joint heir with Jesus. **Galatians 4:1-7**

Jesus was the first-born among many brethren. He was appointed heir of ALL things. He was the express image of his father.

**Hebrews 1:2** Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

**3** Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; He was different than the angels. He inherited a more excellent name.

**Hebrews 1:4** Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. **5** For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

He inherited all of the rights and privileges that go with being the Father's son, including the right to occupy the throne. Jesus is seated at the right hand of His Father. The right hand refers to the arm that naturally displays more strength. What this means is that Jesus became the direct display of the Father's strength on earth. Jesus is God's executor. In other words Jesus carried out the work of the Father on earth. He and the Father are synonymous. **8** But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

The angels were created to be ministering spirits that minister to the saints and to the father. They surround the throne and cry "Holy, holy, holy." Yet, they were never created to inherit the things of the throne and of the kingdom. They are not heirs.

**Hebrews 1:6** And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. **7** And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. **13** But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? **14** Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

**Genesis 1:26-28** Mankind was created to be an heir.

**Hebrews 2:9-12** The position has been secured for us by Jesus. Jesus shared His glory with us and is not ashamed to call us brothers. We are the ones that somehow don't feel like we are worthy to be an equal brother with Jesus.

**John 1:12-13, 16** Jesus gave us the power to become sons of God who are born of God, not of the flesh. Jesus filled us with everything he is filled with.

**John 17:21-23**-We are filled with His glory, His honor and we are one with Jesus and the Father.

**Ephesians 2:5-6** We are seated with Him in heavenly places.

For the most part, we agree that Jesus died for our sins, but we have never dared to fully assume our position as a joint heir. We have almost adopted the position of angels. We give Him glory and honor and we work for the kingdom, but we can not picture ourselves seated in heavenly places occupying the throne.

Unless we see that we have been filled with the same honor, glory and power that Jesus was filled with, we are only paying God lip service like the Pharisees did in **Isaiah 29:13**

God won't share his glory with anyone. He is the only one that can provide the quality of life that he intended for his children to have. He won't share his

position as provider. But, as a father, he is willing to share everything that he has with his children. He supplies us with his fullness. Don't miss it! Take your rightful position as a son and joint heir. Jesus did!

#### **John 17:4**

Jesus came to be the display of the Father on this earth. The glory of God represents everything that defines God. The word "glorified" means a revelation with a manifestation. Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit. He had a such a powerful Spirit initiated revelation of who his Father was that when people saw Jesus, they saw the Father.

**John 17:18, 20:21-23** Jesus tells us that we are to go and do likewise. **We have been anointed with the Holy Spirit.** We are "Jesus" to this World. When people see us they should see the Father.

If we can't see that we are filled with his glory and his honor, how can the world see who they are? We reflect the Father's image.

**John 17:20** Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

Until we see that we are one with the Father, the world won't believe that God sent Jesus and that they are one with the Father. Why have we had an on-going identity crisis among CHRISTIANS? Because people who don't have a revelation of who they are are trying to tell us who we are.

**21** That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

**John 17:22** And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

Why has the world had a hard time understanding that God loves them? Because we don't know that we are one with the Father and we are the ones that portrays God to this world.

**23** I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

**Romans 8:16,19** All creation is waiting for the sons of God to manifest themselves. All humanity is searching for their identity!  
We we find ourselves and our identity, they will find theirs.

**John 3:2.** Nicodemus was attracted to Jesus because he knew that God was with Him. When we begin to see that God is with us, other people will I begin to see who they really are and that is what they are looking for.

The only way to see this is to get a revelation of it by the Holy Spirit.

**2Corinthians 3:18** *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 Spiritual kingdom does not manifest itself through observation because it is a spiritual kingdom, not a physical kingdom. It manifests itself through getting a revelation of who we are because it is within us.

**Luke 17:20** And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: **21** Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

## THE CONFLICT

**Galatians 4:29** But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.

Satan wants our position. An angel is not an heir, but we are.

***Isaiah 14:13** For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: **14** I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.*

Our right to be one with the father is being challenged because the enemy is challenging God and we are the ones that display God.

**John 10:31-38** How can you being a man say you are 1 with God?

Two voices:

Carnal or spiritual **Romans 8:6-7**

Carnal minded Christian motivated by God of this world and is sin and self conscious.

A carnal Christian- tries to live the Christian life by power of the flesh and is spiritually blind to the true things of God when the law and self becomes the focus. **2 Corinthians 3:14-15**

A spiritual Christian God Conscious. The Holy Spirit

Reveals our true identity as a son of God that is created in our

Fathers image and he reveals the inheritance comes with being a son. **2 Corinthians 3:16-18**

All contact with the law has been done away with **Romans 7:6** *But now we are discharged from the Law and have terminated all intercourse with it, having died to what once restrained and held us captive. So now we serve not under [obedience to] the old code of written regulations, but [under obedience to the promptings] of the Spirit in newness [of life].*

The work Holy Spirit puts us in remembrance of who we are. He awakens us to the power of God that lives within us that enables us to live victorious Christian lives and overcome the opposition. He gives us hope, rest, and a true understanding of the love the Father has for us. He presents us faultless before the Father, and never makes us sin or self conscious.

2 opposing voices that are continually speaking to us and responding to both of them as though they were both coming from God is what causes the instability in our lives. God speaks a word of spiritual truth that brings life and the enemy returns with a flesh inspired word of opposition according to the law and the flesh that produces death.

**2 Thessalonians 2:4** *Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*

Satan speaks to us in such a way that we think the thought comes from God. We are the temple. He poses himself as God and he begins to refer us to the works of the flesh and makes us self conscious.

**2 Corinthians 11:14** *And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*

He comes to us in such a way that what he says looks good, but the focus is on man and his ability rather than on the power of God and his ability in us.

**Matthew 7:15** *Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?*

You can tell which voice you are listening to by the fruit it bears. If it causes you to feel pressured, condemned or anxious or separated from God, it is the voice of the enemy.

**# 1 Problem CHRISTIANS have is telling the difference between the two voices, and exercising the correct voice.**

**Hebrews 5:12** For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. **13** For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. **14** But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

### **The mixture nullifies the Word**

**Hebrews 6:4** For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, **5** And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, **6** If they shall fall away, **(go back to the things of the law)** to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

The law will put you in a position that will not allow you to experience the effects of the cross. The mixture almost killed me!

Living the Christian life became the hardest thing I had ever done!

It doesn't work the way it is supposed to if there are traces of the law woven into grace!

**James** A double minded **(two spirited)** man is unstable

In Mark chapter three, Jesus cast out a devil and the Pharisees accused Jesus of casting out the devil by the devil! Jesus replied to this by saying why would the devil cast out the devil. A house divided against itself can't stand. Satan would not directly oppose himself by taking a stand opposite of those things he is trying to accomplish. Division nullifies everything that one is trying to accomplish.

**Mark 3:26** And if Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end.

You can render a man weak and steal everything that he has by causing division in his house!

**Mark 3:27** No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house.



**Matthew 12:28** *But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.*

Not only does that work when Satan's efforts become divided by the Spirit of God, but it works the same way when the work of the Holy Spirit becomes divided by the enemy!

**Mark 3:28** Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: **3:29** But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:

When we look at this scripture, the letter of the word seems to indicate that when you blaspheme the Holy Spirit you will never be forgiven by God. However, if we define a few of the words, a totally different message evolves. The word blasphemy means to come against someone's good character by speaking the opposite of what is true. The Holy Spirit is continually building us up and making us God conscience; however, we have an enemy who is continually magnifying our circumstances and making us sin and self conscience. God tells us that there is nothing too difficult for us, but the enemy tells us that our circumstances can't be overcome. When we begin to entertain words opposite of what the Holy Spirit is speaking to us, it nullifies the words of the Holy Spirit and we divide God's house!

The word forgiveness means freedom from accusation and the word damnation means condemnation! It is not God who is sentencing us to hell, it is the dividing words that we speak and entertain that keep us from experiencing the freedom that God wants us to experience. Entertains dividing thoughts is what is causing us to continually feel condemned. Unless we learn how to deal with the false voice we will always feel frustrated and unfulfilled. How do we divide the enemies house? When he gives us a thought that defies what The Spirit is speaking to us, we say no to that thought and say what God says.

How do we divide God's house? When the enemy comes against the voice of the Spirit, we begin to rehearse the negative voice!

We have to learn to tell the difference between the two voices and we have to EXERCISE the correct voice. Unless we do, we will never experience freedom

from the enemies accusation and condemnation in our lives. It is not God that is condemning us. It is the dividing thoughts that we entertain that causes us all of the problems.

**Mark 3:22-29** blaspheming the spirit

***Matthew 12:28*** *But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.*

## WHERE IS YOUR FOCUS?

When we buy a car, we are purchasing something that has been designed by an engineer and assembled directly or indirectly by the hands of man. That car is designed to perform, but that performance is directly related to man's intervention. Man is responsible for filling it with gas, changing in the oil and maintaining it. He is also responsible for the safety of its operation. If it breaks down we really can't blame any of the malfunction or defects on the vehicle itself. We can call it a lemon or a piece of junk, but ultimately, the car itself had nothing to do with anything concerning its performance or upkeep. Everything concerning that car depends directly or indirectly upon man.

Let's take that same thought and apply it to ourselves. We are disappointed in ourselves when we fail to perform up to our expectations. We get frustrated with circumstances, and despise our weaknesses. We blame ourselves, or we point our fingers at others. We immediately place the focus on what we need to do, or on what others need to do in order to fix or alleviate the situation. We put pressure on ourselves. This is exactly what the enemy would have us do because we are no different than the car! Of ourselves, we can do nothing! It seems like a cop out not to direct the focus to self but the real answer has to come from a different source.

### **Hebrews 4:14-16**

Who made us? Is it a surprise to God when we are weak? He made us to depend upon Him.

**Psalms 139:14 we are** fearfully and wonderfully made.

**2-4 God** knows everything about us and He is not disappointed in us, nor is he surprised that we can't do anything without his help.

Where is our confidence? Is it in ourselves, or is it in the power of God that works within us?

**2Corinthians 4:7** *But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*

**Ephesians 2:8-10** We are His workmanship.

**2 Peter 1:3** He supplies everything that pertains to life and godliness.

**John 15:5** Without him we can do nothing!

**John 6:63** God must provides the desire, the inspiration, the power and the motivation and the we need in order to live a victorious Christian life.

**1 Corinthians 2:14** *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

**John 6:44** We can't even come to him unless his spirit draws us.

**Romans 7:18** - Our will power to do what we know we need to do is not enough without his motivation.

**Romans 8:6-7** Two voices continually try to get our attention!

The voice coming from the carnal mind tries to draw our attention to self or to *the vessel*. The voice coming from the spiritual mind tries to draw our attention to the power of God or to *the treasure* that resides inside of us.

**2 Corinthians 3:6** The *letter* of the Word that is connected to the law and the work of our own hands will kill us. The Spirit quickened word will set us free by equipping us with the power of God.

Let us look at the parable of the sower in light of this.

**Luke 8** Parable of the sower

**Luke 8:5** *A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. 6 And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture 7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. 8 And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, **He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.***

**Luke 8:18** *Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.*

We immediately connect to what we need to do in order to be more productive, but the word warns us to be careful *HOW* we hear. Is our hearing based on the letter of the word or is our hearing based upon the word that has been quickened to us by the Spirit of God? It will make a difference how we react and what kind of fruit comes out of what is heard.

**John 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.*

**3:6** *That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*

Jesus said that which is flesh is flesh and that which is spirit is spirit.

Unless the word you know has been revealed to you and interpreted to you by the Holy Spirit you can neither see nor enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Where is the kingdom? Is it something that is futuristic?

**Luke 17:20** The kingdom is within us. It doesn't come by observation. It comes by revelation. It is at work inside of us right now.

**Romans 14:17** *For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.*

Unless the word you know has been interpreted by the Holy Spirit you will not be able to experience that kingdom that resides within you where righteousness, peace and joy abide.

**Luke 8:10** *And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.*

According to Vines Concordance, a mystery is something that cannot be understood with the natural mind. The understanding of the mysteries of the kingdom come by supernatural revelation.

If the natural mind is the interpreter, you can read and hear the words of the scriptures, but you will neither see nor hear what God intended for you to hear and see.

Look at parable sower both ways. What does the letter say? We are not what we ought to be and we need to do something about it. What is the Spirit that always causes us to be God Conscious saying to those who have spiritual ears?

**Luke 8:10-15-** The soil is like the truck- it only receives the seed. It can't control where the seed falls and of itself it can't throw out the rocks and break up the soil.

**John 15:1** God is the husbandman and he works the field.

Ultimately it is the work of the farmer that insures the success of the crop! When we see that there are things that are affecting our spiritual growth, we need to immediately turn to the Holy Spirit or the one who gives us the power to overcome. Father, you supply me with the spiritual knowledge and motivation that I need in order to over -come these obstacles in my life. *One word from God* changes things that are impossible to change when the power of your will is the focus.

**Matthew 7:7-11** We can boldly run to God and ask for spiritual help. If we ask, he is faithful to supply what we have need of. He will not disappoint us when we look to him as our source.

**John 15:5** *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

The kingdom is working from the inside out, not the outside in. When we get ahold of that it will set us free! It is God's job- unless the spirit quickens it, the natural man can not understand or perform spiritually. Unless something takes place on the inside, it is only *head knowledge* and that by itself will kill you just like it almost did me.

**Matthew 7:13** *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:*

*14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

The gates represent entering into a relationship with God. Many find the wide gate but it does not lead to true freedom. This gate represents the sin conscious way of the letter or the law that will kill! Not many will find the narrow gate based on the ministration of the Spirit that leads to true freedom because the flesh contradicts it.

**Matthew 7:15** *Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?*

The way of the law or letter that is promoted by Satan is appealing. "You need to get your act together and do something about this situation!" It sounds good, but it is dangerous. How can you tell if you have been listening to this deceiving voice? You can tell by the fruit that it produces. If you feel anxious, frustrated, condemned and empty these emotions are an indication that you are being led by the false voice.

Listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit always brings peace and a sense of well being.

**Matthew 7:21** *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

Not everyone who is a follower of Jesus is doing his work! Many have put a lot of effort in doing what they thought were kingdom things but Jesus says that they will not enter into the kingdom. Where is the kingdom? It is within us and again, walking in true principles of the kingdom always produce righteous, peace and joy. **Romans 14:17** If we are not walking in true principles with our focus is on the power of God, we will not be able to experience the fruit of the kingdom within us.

Jesus said, "Depart from me, ye that work iniquity, I never knew you."

Depart from me you that are occupied with the things of the law. This is not my way! Jesus is not on the look out for unrighteousness. He is looking for people that need to be set free from the work of their hands because He genuinely loves us.

**John 15:12** *This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.*

**John 3:17** *For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

The wise man's faith is built on the rock. He is God centered. His eyes are on the power of God to deliver. The foolish man's faith is built on his own ability and the work of his own hands. His faith is unstable and subject to the storms of life.

**Matthew 7:24** *Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*

**Matthew 15:13** What is your faith rooted in? If it is not rooted in Him it will be rooted up.

Are your expectations centered around your power to perform, or are they based upon Gods power to provide?

**2Corinthians 4:7** *But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*

It will make a difference because without his provision, we are just powerless shell.



## THE LETTER OR THE SPIRIT?

**2 Corinthians 3:6** *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.*

### **Ministers of the Spirit are God connectors.**

Are we connecting people's faith to the power of God or to the wisdom and power of man?

**1 Corinthians 2:4** *And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: 5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.*

Are we causing people to put their confidence in their own will power, or in the power of the Spirit of God that works from within?

**1 Corinthians 3:10** *According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.*

### **Be careful to build consistent with what grace communicates**

**1 Corinthians 3:6 Mirror Word** *I have planted, by bringing the gospel to you in the first place, then Apollos watered the seed in his ministry to you; but God causes the Christ life to ignite and expand in you. 3:7 If all we succeeded to do was to attach you to us as individuals, then we have failed you; the one who plants is not more important than the one who waters; it is not about us, it is about you realizing God's work within you. (Our ministry has only one objective: to reveal Christ in you*

**Colossians 1:25-27** *I am made a minister of the mystery of the gospel which is Christ in you the hope of glory*

Grace working in the form of the Holy Spirit makes us conscious of the power of God that works from within. The Holy Spirit connects us to the spiritual realm. He makes us conscious of the work of the cross with the

righteous that we have been given by Jesus in focus. The Holy Spirit always comforts us and gives us the power to believe by giving us hope. He ministers God's love and compassion to us. He never connects us to the things of the law and the guilt and condemnation that comes with it. All intercourse with the law has been terminated

**Romans 7:6** *But now we are discharged from the Law and have terminated all intercourse with it, having died to what once restrained and held us captive. So now we serve not under [obedience to] the old code of written regulations, but [under obedience to the promptings] of the Spirit in newness [of life].*

Ministers of the Spirit never use the law to manipulate people because the law connects people to the power of their flesh which is subject to weakness.

**John 6:63** *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

**Hebrews 10:14-17** The Holy Spirit writes God's laws on our hearts but not the laws of the commandments because they have been done away with.

**John 15:12** *This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.*

We are told to continue in His love.

**John 15:9** *As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.*

Jesus loves us the same way that the Father loved Him. Meditate on that! How did the Father love Jesus? He loved him just like he loved himself. He gave him everything that he had. Jesus loves us and sees us just like he sees himself. He shares everything that he has with us. Jesus was the firstborn son of God and he shared his sonship and inheritance with us.

**John 1:12-13, 16**

The disciples once asked Jesus who was the greatest among them? Jesus replied that the Kingdom of God is not like the kingdoms of this world.

**Luke 22:24** *And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest. 25 And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. 26 But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. 27 For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.*

The kingdoms of the world exalt the leader and place him in the position of prominence while everyone else becomes subservient to him. Jesus said in His kingdom, it does not work that way. He said the greatest becomes the servant. He says that he himself came to serve us because he sees us seated in the position of honor. Jesus loves people. Mankind is God's inheritance and he sees us as his greatest treasure.

**1 Peter 2:17** Honor **[value]** all men. There is no "us and them" mentality with God. All men are honored with the same honor.

**Acts 10:28** God spoke to Peter in a dream and told him that he should not call any man common **[unholy]** or unclean.

### **We are told to love our enemies.**

**Luke 6:35** But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. **36** Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. **37** Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

Children of the Highest are in love with people. Children of their father the devil love the message of judgment more than they love people. Their ministry produces condemnation that keeps people from seeing who they are and it keeps people from entering into the kingdom within themselves where righteousness, peace and joy abide because ministering according to the flesh disqualifies people.

**John 8:44** *Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

**Matthew 23:4** *For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. 13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.*

### **Paul's eyes were not on sin, they were on Jesus**

**1Corinthians 2:2** *For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. 4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: 5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.*

We are ministers of the Spirit that bring life to those we minister to. When we see someone that is at fault, how do we restore them?

**Galatians 6:1** *Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.*

How did Jesus minister to people? What is the law that motivated Jesus? Jesus was motivated by the love that he had for ALL people. He covered their sin and looked for a way to restore them. He forgave those that spitefully used him. He put them in remembrance of power and faithfulness that God had to deliver them. He was full of compassion and demonstrated the love of God. He was motivated by his desire to set people free from the things that held them captive. His eyes were not on sin His eyes were on deliverance.

Sadly to say, those of us who minister to others often mix the things of the letter with the things of the Spirit. It is no wonder that we have become a frustrated people. We have read some things in the scriptures and interpreted them through the letter of the word. It is easy to do because the letter of the

word seems to make it plain that we are to minister judgment to people. The trouble is, those things directly contradict how Jesus told us to minister to others according to **Luke 6:35-37**. Children of the highest love their enemies and show them mercy.

Matthew chapter 18 is a classic example of how we often interpret things through the letter of the word rather than the spirit of the word. We pick out passages within the chapter and focus on the letter without reading them within the context of the chapter and without having a revelation of what the scripture is really talking about.

### **Matthew 18**

**Matthew 18:15** *Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. 16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. 17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.*

We read this and immediately come to the conclusion that we must deal with the offenses of others by confronting them with them. How do we come to that conclusion? It is written right there with ink on paper!

The phrase "**go and tell him his fault**" according to Strong's Concordance has two opposite meanings. It can mean to confute, or it can mean to rebuke or convict. The word confute means to prove that the accusation is a lie. It means to prove that the opposite is true. The word convict means to prove that he is guilty!

The chapter starts out with the same question that one of the disciples asked in Luke chapter 22. Which of us is the greatest? The whole chapter then proceeds to answer that question. Jesus uses the example of a little child saying that we must humble ourselves as a child in order to enter into the kingdom. If we receive the child, we receive Him. We are admonished not to offend children. The word offend here means to entrap or to cause them to abandon their religion. When we minister the letter we magnify sin and that causes people to lose heart. It also causes them to fight back to try to defend

themselves. However you say it, they become self conscious and that is what the letter ministers and it will produce spiritual death.

### **Matthew 18:3-6**

**Verses 7-9** talk about offending and taking offense. It says if your hand offend you, cut it off. Or if your eye offend you, pluck it out. In other words, if you are offended by someone, get over it! The consequence of taking offense is not worth it. It throws both you and the one who offended you back under the ministration of the law. If we judge others, we ourselves become judged by the same standard, and all are equally guilty under that system. All of us will lose heart because the principles of the law do not set people free.

**Verses 10-14** talk about the lost sheep. **10** *Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.*

"Take heed that you despise not one of these little ones. The word despise, according to Strong's Concordance means to hold their guilt against them. The angels in heaven always see us in the face of our Father. Paul said the same thing in **1 Corinthians 2:2** I determined to know nothing among you but Jesus Christ and him crucified. We need to look at everyone through the power of the cross!

When a sheep goes astray or wanders from the truth, Jesus went after them because it was not his will that any perish. Jesus came to save, not to condemn. We are going to skip over the next part for a moment because it is about telling your brother his fault. We are trying to determine the mood of the chapter, so let us go directly to the passages that follow it.

In **verses 21-22** Peter asks Jesus, how often do I forgive my brother? Jesus tells him seventy times seventy.

In **verses 23-35** Jesus tells a parable of a king and his servant. The servant owed the king a great deal of money, but the king had mercy on the servant and forgave him. That same servant found someone that owed him a small amount of money and refused to forgive him. The king said should not the servant forgive others the way that I have forgiven him. In other words, should we not release others from their offenses the same way that Jesus has released us

from our offenses? Holding on to offenses produces torment and holds everyone involved captive.

Now let us go back to the offending passages:

**Matthew 18:15** *Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. 16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. 17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.*

Based on the context of where it was written, do we release them from their offense, or do we hold the offense against them? We refute the offense. We prove the opposite to be true. We forgive them and refuse to be offended. We demonstrate love. Love disarms people! It produces change where confrontation only causes people to put up walls!

If we fail to convey to that person that he is loved and valuable, if he does not receive it, get more people involved. Get the whole church involved. If that does not work, count him as a heathen and a publican. How did Jesus treat the heathens and publicans? Did he ostracize them? No! He had dinner with them. He continued to love them until that love drew them to the Father!

We are called to be ministers of the Spirit who connect people to the love of God which in turn gives them the power to overcome their weaknesses. We put people in remembrance of who they are because of the work of the cross.

**2Peter 1:3** *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*

**2Peter 1:9** But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.**12** Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us. We are ministers of the Spirit. He has anointed us to deliver the captives. He has sent us to restore the spiritually blind and to set people free.

**Luke 4:18** *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.*