

Set your mind ...

"For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace." (Rom. 8:6)

We must learn to examine the content of our mind. Too often our minds rule us, and we submit to whatever happens to be in our thoughts. The problem is that these thoughts are not always from God. Our mind was made to be a tool for our spirit, not a tyrant to rule us.

Your mind must be *set* in the direction of the Spirit. If this is so, the fruit of the Spirit will be in your thoughts, for the mind *set* on the Spirit is life and peace. The thinking of the Spirit always brings life and peace. Even when the Spirit is attempting to bring you to repentance from sin, there is an element of life and peace, for He always brings the solution for that sin. God is full of life and peace, and His thinking produces the same in you.

Too easily, however, your mind is not filled with life and peace. It may be filled with "death" -- double-mindedness, doubt, discouragement, depression, despair, or defeat. You may be doing this to yourself by choosing the wrong direction for your thoughts -- i.e. the mind of the flesh -- rather than the declared promises and commands of the Word (which is where you find the mind of the Spirit!)

In addition, Satan may be injecting thoughts into your mind. The problem is that he comes religiously, imitating God. Satan has some facts about you, so he will try to use them against you, because he is the accuser. When you come under condemnation, there is always an element of "truth" - or facts - in it, or you would not believe it at all. He also knows how to keep reminding you of the impossibility of your problems. Satan has enough of this information to build a good case in your mind for condemnation and fear, which produces discouragement and hopelessness.

When your mind is set on the flesh -- on natural knowledge rather than God's knowledge -- there seems to be no solution to your problems and all seems lost. Because these thoughts seem so logical, (since your failure is real and the problems are big!) you may give in to these natural thoughts. But they are not God speaking to you! If He were speaking, there would be some life and peace!

Facts about your problems and your failures are not what the Bible calls truth. Jesus said, *"I am the truth."* Jesus also said, *"You will know the truth and the truth will set you free."*

This is why we must have our minds continually cleansed by the blood of Jesus, and our thoughts centered (set) on Him. This is why we need to praise the Lord, and exalt the name of Jesus. This is why we need Jesus on our minds continuously. This is why we need to remember the goodness of God and the promises of the blood covenant.

It may not be logical to us that the mercies of the Lord are new every morning, but it is logical to God and it is the mind of the Spirit. It may not be logical to our natural mind that Jesus never leaves us and never forsakes us, but it is logical to God and it is the mind of the Spirit.

We have the mind of Christ, the Bible says. The mind of Christ is based on His character, His redemption, and His promises. *The mind of Christ is the truth.* The mind of Christ is rooted in the cross, and in His death, His resurrection and in His unceasing intercession for us. This is why His name, His blood, and the Word concerning Christ are our chief spiritual weapons. These weapons set our minds "in the Spirit" -where there is always hope, there is always wisdom, there is

always salvation, there is always a miracle coming!
With the mind set on the Spirit, the most logical thing to do in every situation is to TRUST GOD even when we have blown it. ...even when we have failed or made stupid decisions. Sure, we may need to make things right. We may need to make changes. We may need to repent. But it is the goodness of God that leads us to repentance, not the condemnation of the devil. Hopelessness never brought anyone to repentance. The spirit of death never gave anyone wisdom on how to make things right.

Life and peace come to us through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Life and peace are gifts of God. *"He who has the Son has life." "Seingjustified by faith (in Jesus) we have peace with God ... "* That is how God thinks!

The mind set on the Spirit is the mind set on Jesus and the promises of God. Choose life! Choose peace! Set your mind on Jesus and the great promises! This will straighten out your mind and give you God's thinking for the day - or the night. It will get you in touch with God's logic, God's reasoning, which always results in peace of mind and life worth living!