

Introduction:

- Most of us want to do the right thing, but that can be challenging at times. We could ask ourselves, "What would Jesus do?" But sometimes we are not sure of that either.
- The easiest way would be to surrender to the Holy Spirit who lives in us. This is what our passage is about today.
- Romans 8:5-14. I want to talk to us today about how our mindset determines our lifestyle. And we are going for total domination through the mind controlled by the Spirit. If I can summarize this message it would be this: Most of you really want to try and please God. But if you don't have faith it is a frustrating experience, because most people think the way you please God is by ceasing to do bad and continuing to do good. But we don't have the power to do that.

I. The Mind Set On Sin Is Death vs 5-8

- A. Those that Paul is speaking of here are those who are not born again. (8:1-4 describe the those who belong to Jesus.) They are not born again. They are filled with death. It is impossible for them to produce anything different. There are three results found in our passage that we know of these people.
- B. One, if you are not born again, it is impossible to please God. Death can't produce life. *"That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God."* (Romans 8:8, NLT) The believer is not dead. The believer has another law at work in them...LIFE in Christ Jesus!
- C. Let me illustrate:
 1. Take the fall leaves; they fall on the streets, on yards, people rake them or blow them off the streets and yards. Can I let you in on a secret? Listen carefully: Dead leaves do not fall off trees! Fall leaves get pushed off. "If you don't believe that, take a branch off of a tree, one that's been cut or cracked off-and when it falls to the ground the leaves are still attached. Those leaves won't ever separate from that branch. They'll just hang on there through summertime, through the next year. The thing that makes leaves fall is the life inside the tree. As the point of the branch that holds that old leaf on it is getting ready to produce life in the spring, it hardens and closes and literally pushes off the old dead leaves."
 2. A dead tree will not drop its leaves, it can't. But a tree filled with life can drop off old leaves in preparation for new life, new expression.
 3. The reason unbelievers can't please God is that they do not have faith.
 - a) *"And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him."* (Hebrews 11:6, NLT)
 - b) Faith is what allows us to please God.
- D. Two, those who are not born again, are people who do not know God. vs. 5

1. This verse stands in contrast to those which Paul presents in 8:1. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ. Those in 8:1 have been freed by the power of the life giving Spirit.
 2. All the rest fall into the category of not knowing God. "...
 3. *(And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)*" (Romans 8:9, NLT) *"Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter."* (Matthew 7:21, NLT)
- E. Three, those who are not born again can't submit to God. vs 7 says that they are hostile to God.
1. vs 6 says that letting the sinful nature control your mind leads to death.
 2. Jesus came that we may have life and have it abundantly. Jn 10:10 but to get that life you have to submit to Him, be lead by His Spirit in you. Impossible if you are not born again. If you do not have Jesus you do not have life.

II. The Mind Set On The Spirit Is Life

- A. Look at what happens when the Spirit controls your life. vs. 6 - life and peace.
1. Zoe - the vitality of God. Resurrection power at work on the inside. vs. 10 So much life that even when the body dies your spirit lives because you have been made right with God.
 2. Peace - this word goes beyond rest. It is literally a state of well being!
 3. Is there anyone who doesn't want to live a life that's full of tranquility, security, serenity, peace with God and with the peace of God? To do this you have to have a mind set on the Spirit. To have your mind set on the Spirit requires that you have faith.
- B. In the first 7 chapters of the book of Romans Paul only mentions the Spirit twice. In Romans Chapter 8 he mentions the Holy Spirit 21 times!
1. Now in the New Testament, the Holy Spirit has different titles: he's called "The Spirit," the "Spirit of God," the "Spirit of Christ," the "Holy Spirit," the "Spirit of Truth, the Spirit of Grace, the Spirit of Promise, the Spirit of Glory, the Eternal Spirit," and he's also called "The Comforter," or "The Councilor," (the word is paraclete-the one called alongside) which is what Jesus used when he's talking about the Holy Spirit to his disciples.
- C. Let's notice three ways the Holy spirit relates to us as Christians:
1. In verse 9, he says, "**the Spirit is living in you,**" four times in this passage he says, "the Holy Spirit lives in you...the Spirit lives in you.... The Spirit lives in you...when you become a Christian the very spirit of Christ lives in you."
 - a) John 14:17 Jesus explains to the disciples that the Holy Spirit will not just be with them but will live in them. He will dwell in you. You will become the temple of the Holy Spirit. 1 Cor 6:19-20 This is Paul's Gospel!! God lives in us!

2. You are **filled with the Spirit**. There is a big difference between God living in you and you being 'filled'...baptized...immersed in the Spirit. You never get anymore of the Spirit but He surely gets more of you.
 - a) Acts 2:4 they were filled with the Spirit.
 - b) Acts 4:8, 31 Peter was filled again,...they were filled.
 - c) Acts 9:17 Paul was filled when Ananias prayed for him.
 - d) Acts 10:44-ff Cornelius, family, friends, were filled just like they were in Acts 2.
 - e) *"Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit,"* (Ephesians 5:18, NLT) I don't think it is by accident that Paul uses this phrase. He could have said, Don't steal but be filled with Spirit.
 - (1) IE. Most of us realize when a person is under the influence of alcohol they act differently. They don't use the same judgment. They are emboldened to do things they would never ordinarily do, like put a lampshade on their head. Paul understood those filled with the Holy Spirit are under the influence of the Spirit of God, but He doesn't make you do bad things: He makes you do good things. He gives you a spiritual boldness, an empowerment. You act differently than those who are spiritually dead.
 - f) You have to want to be filled. God would not command us to be filled if it was something that happened automatically. You have to want this! When you are being filled the fruit of the Spirit is growing in your life. IE. Old leaves/habits are being pushed off because of the New Life, New Destiny and New Vision that God has for you.
 - g) Three things stop us from being filled: ignorance, unbelief, sin.
3. When you are **controlled by the Spirit**/give the Spirit dominance in your life you are renewed. *"That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day."* (2 Corinthians 4:16, NLT) Day by day!!! Therefore plan your day by what will dominate your thoughts.
 - a) Israelite received manna each day.
 - b) These bodies will wear out, but our Spirit will be strong and prepared for a new body.

III. Therefore Bring Your Mind Into Agreement with the Spirit

- A. The mindset of the spirit produces a spiritual walk that fulfills the law= love God, love each other. This mindset is the fruit and life of the Spirit in us.
 1. It is not about to give us the "o.k." on sinning. Ro 6:1 Shall we sin that grace may abound? NO!"
 2. It is about living out of the life of the Spirit in us. In other words, the Life of the Spirit in us pushes off the 'old leaves' the 'grave clothes' in preparation for something better.

3. The key to the Christian life is surrendering to the Spirit of Jesus living inside of us, yielding to him and allowing him to live his life through us.
- B. To get from your bondage to self to the loving fulfillment of the law takes a mighty supernatural work of God by the Spirit. We need a mindset to love Christ and the things of the Spirit. We do that by:
 1. *"Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts."* (Colossians 3:16, NLT)
 - a) set your gaze on the things of God
 - b) talk about them Dt. 6:4-8 the Shema.
 - c) sing them
 2. *"And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you."* (Philippians 4:8-9, NLT)
 - a) Fix your thoughts
 - b) Keep putting into practice.
 3. Read Col 3:1-10
 4. This all has to do with the Word and the Word requires faith to be activate!
 - a) Trust or faith is always pulling us to a trust worthy destination (something we are believing). "We find that in the map of the Word."
 - b) Focus on the right destination.

Conclusion:

- This text in Romans is about moving from slavery to insubordination and hostility to the freedom of life and obedience.
- So let me ask this in closing: Are you God focused, Christ centered, and Spirit controlled?
- "It takes work to redirect your trust. Expect it to be a fight (1 Timothy 6:12). But it is very much worth the fight. It will direct your trust in a Faithful One (Hebrews 10:23), give you a hope that won't disappoint (Romans 5:5), exchange anxiety for peaceful joy (Romans 15:13), and cause you to think clearly and faithfully (Romans 12:3).