



The Mind Set on the Spirit: Life and Peace

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What typically occupies your *time* in a day?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

What typically occupies your *mind* in a day?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

I. Doctrinal Foundation: A Christian is able to “mind the things of the Spirit.”

Romans 8:1-9a

A. This is not a command

*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus **has set you free** from the law of sin and death (v. 2).*

B. There is an obligation to obey

Romans 8:12-14 *So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*

Colossians 3:1-3 *Therefore, if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. ³For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

Philippians 4:4-9 *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! ⁵Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. ⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. ⁹The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*

II. Helpful Motivations

A. Sinful thinking has deadly consequences

Romans 8:6a *For the mind set on the flesh is death...*

Romans 6:21 *Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death.*

Psalms 73:21-22 *When my heart was embittered and I was pierced within, Then I was senseless and ignorant; I was like a beast before You.*

B. God is occupied with me

Psalms 27:1-6

“Occupied with the LORD—His beauty, majesty, glory, His all-controlling and most blessed will—we shall find that He, indeed, is occupied with us—keeping, hiding, lifting up!”
(Geraldine Taylor)

How is God occupied with me?

1. His thoughts and works are *toward* me and *for* me

Psalms 40:5, 17 *You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward me; none can compare with You! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told...As for me, I am poor and needy, but the LORD takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer, do not delay, O my God!*

Job 23:14 *For He performs what is appointed for me.*

2. He knows all my ways

Psalm 1:6 *For the LORD knows the way of the righteous...*

Psalm 139:1-6 *O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.*

3. He shepherds and carries me

Psalm 23 *The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want..*

Psalm 28:9 *Oh, save your people and bless your heritage! Be their Shepherd and carry them forever.*

Isaiah 40:11 *He will tend His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in his arms; He will carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.*

4. He protects and shelters me from danger

Exodus 14:13-14 *Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, you have only to be silent.*

Psalm 31:19-20 *Oh, how abundant is your goodness which you have stored up for those who fear you, and worked for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the children of mankind! In the cover of your presence you hide them from the plots of men; you store them in your shelter from the strife of tongues.*

Hebrews 13:5b-6 *For He has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.' So we can confidently say, 'The LORD is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?'*

5. He gives me His friendship

Psalm 25:14 *The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear Him, and He makes known to them His covenant.*

6. He meets all my material and physical needs

Matthew 5:25-33 *Are you not of more value than [the birds of the air]?....For your heavenly Father knows that you need [all these things].*

7. He takes notice of my ministry in His Name

Matthew 25:40 *Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.*

Hebrews 6:10 *For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for His Name in serving the saints, as you still do.*

8. He is always working for my sanctification

Romans 8:28-30 *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son...*

Philippians 1:6 *And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

9. His love for me is unceasing

Lamentations 3:22-23 *The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

Romans 8:35-39 *Who can separate us from the love of God...? [Nothing in all creation] will be able to separate us from the*

B. Use God's *word* and *works* to help you set your mind on the things of the Spirit.

Psalm 9:1-2

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart;

I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.

I will be glad and exult in you;

I will sing praise to your Name, O Most High.

- 1. Begins with a resolve: "I will..."**

- 2. Necessitates some "I will *not*'s..."**

- 3. Implies a choice of specific thoughts, words and deeds:**
 - Giving thanks
 - Remembering God's wonderful deeds (Psalms 77 & 78)
 - Rejoicing in God
 - Singing praise to His Name

Recommended Resource:

Though War Should Rise by Mrs. Howard Taylor

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