

When our minds are changed...

Romans 8: 5- 7: Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

Paul speaks about the contrast between the natural sinful mind of man and a mind that has been transformed by the Spirit of God.

One of the works of the Holy Spirit in our lives, is the work of "changing our minds" for us, for we would normally resist any change, particularly change that will require us to use more energy that will create life and peace in God's work.

The natural mind focuses on physical, material and selfish concerns. There may be thoughts about God, but even that will be thoughts about how to approach God on the sinner's own terms. Generally, however, the natural mind is filled with thoughts that centre on ways to gratify itself.

But, what a change we see in the lives of those who have been saved! While the saved still fail God from time to time, their minds are filled with thoughts of heavenly things which give them daily direction in all they do. They love God and all the things that relate to him. They love his Word, his people, his worship. The Spirit of God redirects the thinking of those redeemed by the blood of Jesus. The Spirit changes our minds about God and about ourselves. "We" are not the focus point anymore – but the focus is on the life and peace the Spirit desires for us.

The result is that the devotions of the mind of the saved are changed. Paul tells us that the natural mind is naturally the enemy of God, because it desires to be God! It is bent on the overthrow of God's reign in my life and is determined to enthrone itself as God in the unbeliever's life. As a result, it refuses to walk in the will of God.

But the mind of the saved person finds itself drawn away from the things which only please the flesh and only seek to achieve selfish goals. What we cannot produce by ourselves, the Holy Spirit does produce in us! The believer finds that he can live a life that is pleasing to the Lord and that he can bring into being many things that are useful and blessed within the faith community, in his/her family and all the other aspects of his/her life.

What a contrast! What a Saviour!

The flesh is strong, but the Spirit of God within us is stronger.

We may be hard headed, one track minded and confused, but the Spirit makes us soft hearted, God minded and focussed on the desires of the Spirit for our lives!

Thanks be to God!