

Summary

- a) This session is the seventh of ten sessions that looks at a vital principle that fosters Spirit-led living.
- b) The seventh principle that we will examine is this: Renewing your mind comes from meditation, and meditation always determines your orientation, whether you live from the spirit, soul, or body.
- c) As this session explains, the law of the mind is intricately linked to the law of faith. You will never rise above what you believe in your heart. Therefore, to truly renew your mind, your heart beliefs must align with the truth of God's Word.

Will Jesus Find Faith on the Earth?

- a) Jesus asked a pointed question in Luke 18:8. A question we need to ask ourselves. Jesus questioned, "When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"
- b) An omniscient God who knows everything doesn't ask questions because He is searching for an answer. Instead, Jesus was making a point. And if you examine the context closely, the loss of faith at the end of the age is intricately tied to injustice.
- c) Notice that the Lord promises to "bring about justice for them quickly." If the Lord must bring about justice, then it means there will be great injustice when He returns. Therefore, know with certainty, that just prior to His return—the times in which we now live—there will be unprecedented injustice. This injustice will be driven by the love of money, control, and power.
- d) Sadly, because of widespread, global injustice, many will lose their faith. What some are now calling "deconstructing their faith," Scripture calls "the shipwreck of faith" or "the departure from the faith" or "apostasy."
- e) I sense there's coming another wave of end-time birth pains soon, driven by evil men and women seeking greater wealth, control, and power. We've been in a lull between birth pains for about 1.5 years. But I believe another round of end-time birth pains are around the corner. Therefore, we must be prepared so that our faith will not fail.

Genuine Faith Is Greater Than Wealth

- a) 1 Peter 1:5-9 states,

Who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof [genuineness] of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.

- b) The genuineness of your faith

- The word *proof* or *genuineness* comes from the Greek word *dokimos*.
- Speaking of *dokimos*, the *Outline of Biblical Usage* states:

In the ancient world there was no banking system as we know it today, and no paper money. All money was made from metal, heated until liquid, poured into moulds and allowed to

cool. When the coins were cooled, it was necessary to smooth off the uneven edges. The coins were comparatively soft, and of course many people shaved them closely.

In one century, more than eighty laws were passed in Athens to stop the practice of whittling down the coins then in circulation. But some money-changers were men of integrity, who would accept no counterfeit money; they were men of honour who put only genuine, full-weight money into circulation. Such men were called *dokimos*, and this word is used here for the Christian as he is to be seen by the world." (Donald Grey Barnhouse, *Romans: God's Glory*, p. 18.)

- Fiery trials work to purify your faith and to prove whether your faith is genuine. Whether it is *dokimos*.
 - You can't rely on your parents' faith; your grandparents' faith; your friends' faith; or your spiritual leaders' faith. You must have your own faith. A fire-tested genuine faith able to overcome the pressures, persecutions, and trials of this age.
 - John said, "For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith" (1 John 5:4).
 - True faith in Jesus Christ overcomes the world.
- c) More precious than gold which is perishable
- Your faith is one of the most important things about you—far more important than wealth.
 - Spiritual wealth is measured by the genuineness of your faith in Jesus Christ.
- d) Though tested by fire
- Peter said that some of the trials you are going through are necessary.
 - It's important to discern the source of your trials.
 - If the trials you are experiencing are demonically inspired, then you must wage war against the enemy.
 - If the trials you are experiencing are allowed by the Lord to do a deeper work in you, then you need to submit to the Lord in the trial, grow closer to him, and overcome the trial by faith.
- e) May be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ
- Genuine, fire-tested, proven faith that overcomes the world will result in the righteous judge giving you praise, glory, and honor when He is revealed.

Without Faith You Can't Please God

- a) Hebrews 11:6 states, "And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is [in you] and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him" (emphasis mine).
- b) Stated another way, if you want to please God, you must come to God believing that He is in you. If you don't believe He is in you, then you can't please God.

The Heart-Mind Connection

- a) In this session, we are going to look at the heart-mind connection. Or stated slightly different, we are going to look at how intricately connected the law of the mind is to the law of faith.
- b) Solomon said, “Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life” (Prov. 4:23).
- c) Jesus said, “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man” (Mark 7:21-23).
- d) Notice carefully all that proceeds from the heart:
 - Evil thoughts
 - Fornication
 - Theft
 - Murder
 - Adultery
 - Coveting
 - Wickedness
 - Deceit
 - Sensuality
 - Envy
 - Slander
 - Pride
 - Foolishness
- e) Renewing the mind is essential. That’s why we just spent two sessions looking at this in depth. But I have also discovered that thoughts proceed from the heart. And if my mind is bombarded with thoughts of pride, doubt, anxiety, coveting, lust, bitterness, guilt, shame, or condemnation, it’s likely because I have a heart issue.
- f) Like my car’s check engine light, a flood of thoughts in a specific area usually indicates something needs to be fixed in the engine of my heart.
- g) If I can’t stop thinking about something, it usually means a belief has been forged in my heart and the fruit of this belief is an onslaught of thoughts in my mind.
- h) Upon further examination, I realize my heart is believing a lie that must be confronted and expelled by the truth of God’s Word.
- i) This means watching over your heart diligently is essential if you want Christ to dwell there.
- j) Without this circumspect posture, it’s likely pride, lust, doubt, unbelief, greed, jealousy, envy, judgment, or criticism will subtly creep in and defile your heart. No matter how much the Lord loves you, Christ will not compete with your other lovers, gods, and idols, including the idol of self.

- k) The Holy Spirit jealously yearns to cleanse your heart from all defilement of the flesh and replace it with the fullness of Christ's uncreated life. Don't allow anything of the fallen nature to fill your heart, keeping Christ's life in your spirit suppressed and imprisoned.
- l) Let the Spirit dig deep into your heart and make it the permanent dwelling place of Christ in fullness.

Christ Dwelling in Your Heart

- a) In Ephesians 3:14-17, Paul said, "For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts *through faith*" (emphasis mine).
- b) Notice carefully that Christ only dwells in your heart *through faith*. As you will see in this session, faith is an issue of the heart, for with the heart a person believes.
- c) Without faith, Christ cannot dwell in your heart and live His life through you. If your heart is filled with doubt and unbelief, even though Christ dwells in your spirit, His life will remain suppressed and dormant within you.
- d) It takes faith for the life of Christ in your spirit to be released. As Paul said, "The righteous shall live by faith" (Rom. 1:17, ESV). The entire Christian life, from beginning to end, is a journey of living by grace through faith.
- e) Paul underscored this when he said, "As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him" (Col. 2:6). How did you initially receive Christ Jesus the Lord? By grace through faith (Eph. 2:8).
- f) Faith in Jesus Christ and the work He finished on the cross released God's grace into your life and saved you. You could not save yourself, so helplessly, you prayed to God, trusting Him to do what only He could do. He then saved you, not by your works, merit, or obedience, but by His grace alone.
- g) The same way you were saved—by grace through faith—is the same way you are to live every moment of your Christian life. The same way you received salvation—by grace through faith—is the same way you receive every blessing in the Christian life.

Accessing Spiritual Blessings

- a) Paul said, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ" (Eph. 1:3).
- b) Notice carefully these blessings are spiritual, located in heaven, and found in the person of Christ, who is enthroned at God's right hand.
- c) Studying Paul's writings, these blessings include your death to sin, self, and the law; your spiritual resurrection, enabling you to live by Christ's indestructible, divine life; your spiritual ascension in Christ far above all demonic rule and authority; a victorious life over the world, the flesh, and the devil; and becoming a partaker of the divine nature, having everything you need for life and godliness.
- d) This means, in Christ, you have been crucified, resurrected, ascended, and enthroned. In Christ, you are victorious, righteous, and have everything you need to become like Him in this world.
- e) The question is how do you access these blessings, live in these blessings, and be transformed by these blessings?
- f) Since these are spiritual blessings, you can't receive these directly in the mind, will, emotions, or five senses. Because these blessings are spiritual, these can only be received by your spirit, as the indwelling Spirit transmits these from Christ in heaven directly to your spirit. Then, after your spirit receives the

Spirit's transmission of grace, these blessings can be released from your spirit outward to your heart, soul, and body.

- g) But here's what you must grasp: Faith is the key to receiving the Spirit's transmission of grace to your spirit, enabling you to receive these spiritual blessings.
- h) Without faith, you can never walk in these spiritual blessings, even though these are available to you. Faith, therefore, is like a debit card that withdraws spiritual wealth from the bank account of your spirit, where the treasure of Christ resides.
- i) Faith is like a password on an iPhone that gives you access to the apps of God's grace. Faith is like a conduit through which grace flows unhindered into your life. Faith is like a key that opens the door to the storehouse of grace. And finally, faith is like a magnet that attracts God's unending grace in your spirit, drawing it out until it transforms every part of you.
- j) Paul expressed this same concept when he said, "We have access by faith into this grace in which we stand" (Rom. 5:2, NKJV).
- k) Observe closely that we have access by faith into grace. Again, faith is the debit card, password, conduit, key, and magnet that draws out and releases the wealth, power, and enablement of God's amazing, abundant, and overflowing grace.

The Law of Faith

- a) Just as there is the law of the mind, there is another law—the law of faith—that is intricately connected to it. In fact, the law of the mind—renewing the mind through meditation—is how faith is activated.
- b) Paul said, "Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith" (Rom. 3:27).
- c) The law of faith cannot be neglected or violated if you want to live by Christ's indwelling life.
- d) If you think about it, you are justified by faith, sanctified by faith, and live from your spirit by faith.
- e) Faith draws the life of the Spirit out of your spirit into your heart, soul, body, and actions. And like the law of the Spirit, the law of faith is immutable. Like the unchanging law of gravity, operating by the law of faith is always required to live from your spirit by the power of the indwelling Spirit.
- f) No matter how nice, good, or kind you are, doubt and unbelief in your heart will keep Christ's indwelling life suppressed, dormant, and inoperative within you.
- g) If you don't live by the law of faith, and instead live by self-effort, this always neutralizes the effects of grace, places you under the law, and subjects you to the lower law of sin and death at work in the body (Rom. 8:2).
- h) When Paul learned the Galatians had exchanged the law of faith for the law of works, he was outraged. The Galatian believers, who were justified by faith, began to strive in self-effort to be sanctified. Frustrated with the godly jealousy of a spiritual father, Paul said to them, "This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? . . . Does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?" (Gal. 3:2-5).
- i) The Spirit-led life only operates by faith. Just as you received the Spirit by hearing with faith, you walk by the Spirit by hearing with faith. You will never graduate from the law of faith. To live by Christ's indwelling life is to live every moment by grace through faith. Thus, the law of faith can never be violated or neglected if you want to live from your spirit.

- j) Here's a quick summary of the law of faith. You will ultimately think and act upon what you believe in your heart and this will establish your character and your destiny.
- k) Heart beliefs work like autopilot in a plane or an electric car. For example, take an electric car on autopilot. You will arrive at whatever destination you program into Google Maps or Apple Maps. The only way to change your destination is to enter a different address.
- l) In the same way, whatever you believe in your heart will put you into autopilot mode, determining your thoughts, action, character, and ultimately, your destiny.
- m) You can never rise above what you believe in your heart. This is the law of faith that God has designed into the human heart.

Pride and Faith

- a) The prophet Habakkuk, whom Paul quoted in Romans 1:17, said, "Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; but the righteous will live by his faith" (Hab. 2:4).
- b) You have a choice to live by pride (the self-life) or to live by faith (Christ's life). If you choose to live by your own strength and effort—trying to please God with moral behavior, self-righteous works, and living for God in the power of the soul, even though appearing godly—you have chosen the way of pride.
- c) On the other hand, if you simply let go, relax, and trust the indwelling Spirit to live the life of Christ in you and through you, you have chosen the way of faith.
- d) This brings me to an important point. Many believe the opposite of faith is doubt and unbelief, but Habakkuk revealed it goes even deeper. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Habakkuk declared that pride, which is living by your own strength, determination, wisdom, opinions, power, and self-righteous attempts to please God, is the true opposite of faith.
- e) Have you ever considered that doing religious works for God, trying to gain His approval, is a subtle form of pride?
- f) When you use your own strength to try and keep God's commandments, attempting to live a holy life in self-determination rather than depending moment-by-moment on the Holy Spirit's power, this self-reliance is a form of pride that inhibits faith and neutralizes grace.
- g) On the other hand, when you realize you cannot obey God's commandments in your own power and simply trust the Holy Spirit to live His life in you and through you, you begin to walk in faith. Thus, faith is trusting Christ in you to live His life through you while pride is a self-reliant attempt to live the Christian life by willpower, discipline, human wisdom, and self-righteous works.