

Who Am I part 6.
Renewing the mind.

Galatians 5 : It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Freedom from the power of sin, satan and the flesh was achieved for us by Jesus through His incredible sacrifice. That freedom is received by us the moment we are born again. The reality of that freedom however, is something we have been called to work out and walk in. This process is called discipleship. Freedom for mankind is the goal to which Jesus has worked, and is continuing to work in us.

Let's recap on the make up of man.

1 Thessalonians 5 : 23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Body. Has 5 senses. To relate to the physical world.

The Soul. Has three main areas, mind, will and emotions. To relate to others who live in this physical world.

The Spirit. That part of man that God communicates with. Communion, conscience and intuition. To be able to have a relationship with God.

Paul refers to THE FLESH many times in his writings. The NIV misleadingly translates flesh as sinful nature. When we are born again, we no longer have a sinful nature but we have been given the nature of God. This is the reason why we start to dislike the things we used to love, and become interested in the things we used to have no interest in whatsoever when we are truly born again of the Spirit of God..

The flesh. Consists of the body and the soul.

The spirit speaks for itself. The human spirit is the organ where God dwells in the Christians life. It is the place of communion with God.

The flesh is that part of us that is not in direct communication with God.

Three things to note about the physical body.

1/. The term "The body of sin". The body is not evil. It is neutral. It is but a vessel in which we live life on earth. But called the body of sin because it is weak to resist sin. It is used by sin in order to control us and make us serve sins desires. **Romans 6:6.**



2/. God is for our bodies. The body is for the Lord and the Lord for the body. **1 Corinthians 6:13**
That is why He made provision for our bodies when He died for us. For by His stripes we were healed. He wants us whole and healthy. A sick soldier is of no use in the fight. An enemy tactic is to wound rather than kill so others will have to stop to take care of the wounded and thereby render more soldiers ineffective.

3/. Our body is now a temple of the Holy Spirit. He lives within us. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20.**

We will now look at the importance of the human soul?

We have the three parts of man mentioned in these verses and are listed below.

Romans 12 : 1-2. Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer **your bodies** as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your **spiritual act of worship**. **2**Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- 1/. Bodies. To be presented.
- 2/. Your spirit. spiritual act of worship.
- 3/. Your mind. To be renewed. A part of the souls function.

Notice something about what is being asked of us. The body is to be employed in active service for God. This is called "your spiritual act of worship". But both the body and the act of being spiritual is dependant upon the "renewing of the mind".

Proverbs 23 : 7a. For as a man thinks, so is he.

Let's break this down to the make up of man.

Romans 8 : 5Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. **6**The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; **7**the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. **8**Those controlled by the flesh cannot please God. **9**You, however, are controlled not by the flesh but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you.

Those who live according to the desires of the body and their souls emotions, have their minds set on what the body and souls emotions desire. But those who live in accordance with the Spirit, demonstrating Gods word and ways, do it BECAUSE they have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of the fleshly person, allows the enemy to stir up desires, appetites, led by their body and their souls emotions is death. But the mind of the spiritually led person, living by Gods word and ways is life and peace. A person led by their bodies and their souls emotions become hostile to Gods ways. They do not submit to God. Indeed cannot submit. Those controled by the



desires of their bodies and souls emotions cannot please God. You however are not controlled by your bodies and your souls emotions, but by the spirit, if the spirit of God lives in you.

How we live is a visual representation of how we think.

The think tank of mankind is the steering wheel of their life.

Our mind is where data is analysed and decisions are formulated. Our mind is where information is stored and reasoned through, so that choices can be made, allowing our wills to be able to execute our decisions.

Our lives are walked out day by day by the decisions made from the thoughts we contain in our minds. **Belief is the bedrock upon which our lives are built.** (note : The rock or the sand. This will determine the end result of the building. To stand or fall when the storm comes. [Matthew 7:24-27](#)).

Question : In what direction is your life going? Do you feel you've lost your way?

[Colossians 3 : 1](#) Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. [2](#)Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. [3](#)For you died, and your life (reason and purpose for living)is now hidden with Christ in God.

The path to that life.

[Proverbs 119 : 105](#). Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

The spirit is at the center of our being. The battle is for control over our spirits. Jesus set us free from the control of satan by raising up our spirits into a place of higher authority and power than satan [Ephesians 2:4-7](#), putting to death the body and souls power by crucifying it. But that freedom which we have become inheritors of through Christ must be discovered by the renewing of how we think, so that we can believe right and therefor receive that inheritance through faith.

Jesus said, "you shall KNOW the truth, and the truth shall set you free". Knowing involves spiritually understanding something. Spiritually Understanding something involves processing information with the mind, comparing it to the word which then comes into line with the spirit.

Paul said, "how can they believe unless they hear. How can they hear unless someone tells them."

Our thoughts are used to form our beliefs. which in turn determine our direction in life.

Question : What do you think is satans main way of attack, where he tries to take control of our lives and direct our paths?

Here it is. Look at scripture again!!!!

[2 Corinthians 10 : 3](#) for though we walk in the flesh (body and soul) we do not war according to the flesh (body and soul). For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal (of the body and soul) but



mighty in God (spiritual) for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ (the word of God), and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

Three questions to think about.

Question: Are we allowing our thought life to go out of control and produce the fruit of disobedience to Christ, to Gods word?

QUESTION: How well do we know Gods word?

QUESTION: Who are we allowing to influence our beliefs and decision making?

If we are battling with losing our peace, our joy, our passion and excitement for God, our vision, our commitment, our expectancy in God, our hope, our faith, then we are allowing our thought life to go unchecked and unrestrained. Satan is using thoughts to destabilise us. To throw us off the path that God has for us. To stop following Him, to stop walking according to His word which leads to a path of peace, joy and righteousness in the Holy Ghost **Romans 14:17, Ephesians 5:8-10.**

We live in a fast food society.

How often do we quote this next verse so easily, but do we fully understand it's context?

John 8 : 31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "**If you hold to my teaching or abide in my word, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**"

To Hold. To abide. To continue. Means to stay in a given place , state , relation or expectancy. To endure, remain, stand or wait.

This verse in John gives us another understanding of "to know".

Ginosko. To know in the sense of realising. "**Then you will know the truth**". It's an understanding that can only come by holding on to and waiting on the Word of God until it actually comes to pass. A case of having bin there, done it, and now I got the T-shirt to prove it. I KNOW it's true.

Hebrews 6 :12 We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

Paul said "Fight the good fight of Faith". **WHAT ARE WE FIGHTING FOR ?**



The enemy comes but to steal, kill and destroy. STEAL is the first thing satan does. Steal what? The word of faith from our hearts. Once faith has been disabled, the rest comes easy after that, to kill and destroy.

Health and strength.

It is a medical fact that the human body is largely affected by the emotional and mental state of a person. Bad emotions can produce physical ailments to appear in the body. Mental problems can affect the well being of ones nervous and muscular systems. Also a disturbed uneasy mind is prone to making rash, uninformed, bad decisions that can lead to unwanted circumstances coming about.

3 John 2: Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.

Question: Are we taking charge of our minds?

Taking charge of our minds.

1 Corinthians 2 : 14The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he **cannot understand them**, because they are **spiritually discerned**. 15The spiritual man **makes judgments** about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment: 16" For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" **But we have the mind of Christ.**

Question. Are we making judgements about all things? Are we bringing every thought captive to the Word of God?

Hebrews 5:14 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

"Solid food is for those". Maturity is not something that comes from eating solid food, solid food is something that has been set aside for those who have reached maturity. Maturity in this context is something that has been attained through becoming skilled in the Word.

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

We are being charged by God to use our minds, our brains to filter out what is not in line with biblical teaching. Our spirit is what will give us the witness inside as to what is of God and what is



not. Then we are to use our wills, empowered by the spirit, to put into practice what we are thinking about.

