

# The Carnal Mind

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The ‘carnal mind’ is that old evil nature we inherited from Adam when he rebelled against God and started out on a career of His own. Everybody born since then has been born with that same evil nature of trying to get what they want in their own strength and wisdom of their own.

The ‘carnal mind’ is controlled by Satan and will do the will of Satan. Its character is to ignore God and have nothing to do with Him and not place its trust in God for anything.

The spiritual nature is directly opposite. It has the spirit of God, or the very nature of God. The very nature Adam received when he was first created in the Garden of Eden. It is the nature who’s only desire is to deal personally with God about every issue of life and place its full trust and confidence in God alone. It will reject every thought of trying to do anything of itself.

The results, or the fruits of these two natures are directly opposite. Jesus said, *“If the tree is bad, its fruit will be bad. But make the tree good, and its fruit will be good.”* Or, if the old evil nature is dwelling within, actions and attitudes will never be any good. But, if the spiritual nature is dwelling within, actions and attitudes will always be pleasing and according to God’s will and plan.

Solomon tells us in Proverbs 4:23 to, *“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”* He means that all our happiness here depends on getting rid of this old evil nature and receiving God’s nature within.

Paul gives us the fruits of these in Romans 8:6, he said *“to be carnally minded is death.”* He means that those who have this old evil nature, death hovers over them all the time. They have no peace, no safety, nor any guarantee of protection of any kind.

And then he tells us why, in verse 7, *“The carnal mind is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”* He means that it would be impossible for anyone having the carnal mind to obey one vital Truth or teaching found in God’s Word, nor live by any precepts found in God’s Holy Book, The Bible.

Paul gives us the same thought again in 1 Corinthians 2:14, *“The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”*

Then he adds in 1 Corinthians 2:9, *“Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.”* That means that the carnal mind has no idea of the great inheritance that God has given for this life.

Then verse 10, *“But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.”* Paul means that God will reveal all these Truths to a spiritually minded person, one who has that strong desire to have that spiritual life of Jesus Christ dwelling within, in place of that old evil nature. They are those who will have their eyes opened to see all that God has provided for them in this life, and will be led step by step into it, as rapidly as God can lead them.

Then Paul says, (vs.12) *“We have received, not the spirit of the world,”* that is the carnal mind, or the old evil nature, that nature that makes one absolutely blinded to the nature of God, but we have, *“the spirit which is of God; that we might know”* (and see and understand all) *“the things that are freely given to us of God.”*

One who has the carnal mind in control of them, cannot see, believe, or understand one vital Truth in God’s Word. Take God’s financial plan for an example. A person with a spiritual mind will believe and obey it completely. We see that in the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Acts. The Apostles followed the teaching of Jesus in the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of Luke and also in the ‘Sermon on the Mount’. They didn’t need to be reminded of it, they just sold their property and gave the money to the poor. *“no one counted anything they had as their own.”* They saw to it that their fellowman had just as much as they had.

The Scribes and Pharisees, who had a strong outward religion, one that will not take a person to Heaven by the slightest margin, ridiculed and mocked Jesus on His teaching on money. They thought it was the worst kind of nonsense.

But Jesus classified them in Luke 16:15, *“You are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men (that is, the carnal nature) is abomination in the sight of God.”*

Another thing about the carnal mind is, that a person can possess it and not know it. That is what Jeremiah meant when he said, *“the heart (or the old evil nature, the carnal mind) is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked.”*

That doesn’t mean that he goes about doing wicked things all the time, but it does mean that it does the most wicked thing of all—that of ignoring God and having nothing whatever to do with Him----and what could be more wicked than to do that under a cloak of religion?

In other words, a person can be under the control of the carnal mind or evil nature, and do everything the devil wants them to do, and never know for a moment that they were under the power and control of the devil. That is what makes it the most serious thing, to have something dwelling within, an old evil nature, or an attitude that will rob you of every bit of happiness that you could have in this life and then end up in the Lake of Fire forever at the end. That is the most serious thing that could ever happen to anyone.

Those who are under control of this old evil nature, have no Truth in them at all. They have never given God the slightest chance to deliver them from this influence and they do not know that they can be. That shows how deceitful the heart is, and who can know it.

Since Satan is a spiritual being, he can control people by the thoughts he puts in their mind. These thoughts can seem exactly like they are our own sensible thoughts---thoughts that seem so true and founded on facts. That is why so many people think that these thoughts from Satan are their own thoughts, and that is just the same way that one can have this old evil nature dwelling within and not even knowing it.

The characteristics of the spiritual mind, or nature, are directly opposite to that. To have the spiritual nature dwelling within, means that the Truths that are written in the Bible, are written on our hearts, and always on our minds. In other words, it is our privilege to have the Spirit of God Himself, the One who dictated and inspired the Bible, to come and dwell within us and to have His very nature controlling our every thought, word, and action.

God is a spiritual being, and His nature can also work within us without us even knowing it, that is, as far as seeing or feeling anything. The only way that we could know the nature of God dwelling within would be through the teaching and statements of His Word and only by faith.

That is the only way, we cannot go by feelings. There is nothing more dangerous than to go by feelings or experiences. To place our faith in feelings or experiences would rob us of all that Jesus died to give to us and open the door for that old evil nature to get back inside.

When we have received the Holy Spirit, that new spiritual nature dwelling within, the Bible becomes a different Book to us. We become more interested in it and our desire is to find out exactly what God's will is for our lives and never reject one Truth of His Word.

When we hear there are instructions in there for us to follow in our appearance, in the way we talk and act, we would want to find out all about it. There would be no need to be pushed into it, either. Instead, it would be our very nature to want to accept all instructions found in God's Word.

If we still had that old carnal mind and still seeing things as the nominal Church member sees them, we might say, "What does my appearance, or the way I talk, or act have to do with my spiritual mind, I don't see anything wrong with it, this is the way I want to be?" That is the carnal mind in operation.

Now the spiritual mind is just the opposite. When they hear that these are the ways of the world and there is a plan written in God's Word concerning every issue of life, they don't ridicule or reject it. They begin to look into God's Word and try to find out more about it.

It is the same way with meeting things that are said and done to us. A person with a carnal mind will always hold a grudge and resent. They will try to say a few things to straighten things out and could not help using a little self-effort to try to make things work out.

But the spiritual mind would always see it through entirely different eyes. The spiritual mind would not hold a grudge or resent, just keep quiet and say to themselves, "Now this is a most valuable lesson for me to learn, thank You Lord for your guidance."

The characteristic of the carnal mind is to trust in themselves to handle and control anyone and to make things go as we would like. But the spiritual mind always says, "Can't I trust God for this? Can't I depend on the power of God to handle my children?"

God is the only One who will enable the parents to take a right attitude toward the children, and it is only the Holy Spirit who can open their eyes to see that it is only the devil in back of all the trouble with any member of the family. They would quickly conclude that there is no use of using self-efforts, which is only giving the devil a stronger foothold.

A person filled with the Holy Spirit would have the Grace of God to meet their children right, and not use arbitrary, or carnal means to control them. They would turn the job over to God right and they will have a model family. They would prove what Jesus said, that if there is a son of peace in any home, the devil would have to get out of that home and every member of it.

We can all be delivered from this old evil nature and receive God's new nature, or the spiritual mind within us. It is by believing God's testimony about His Son. We were all born, filled with rebellion and treason against our Creator and we cannot help it of ourselves.

The only Atonement for treason is death. So, with our rebellion and treason against God, only death could make it right. Our loving Heavenly Father knows that it would not be right for us to die since we were born with that carnal and treasonable nature, without our consent, or any choice of our own. That is why God chose His only Son, Jesus Christ to die in our stead, and bear the penalty of our treason and rebellion.

We need to know this fact, to see it right and be sure that we have Jesus Christ dwelling within us, in-

stead of that deceitful and carnal mind, under the control of the devil. The only possible way for us to have the life of Jesus Christ within us is, finding out the facts of Jesus' death and resurrection written in God's Holy Book, The Bible.

Paul tells us in the sixth chapter of Romans to take that attitude, finally and forever, that through the death and resurrection and power of Jesus Christ, we have become "dead indeed unto sin," and we have been fully delivered from that old evil nature---and not because of anything that we have done, or could do, nor because of anything that we may have felt or experienced---but only because of what Jesus Christ did for us when He died on the Cross and what He did for us when He was raised from the dead.

Romans 6:11, "*Reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*"

We have that Blood-bought right to take this position regardless of our feelings, our experiences or our emotions—just because of what somebody else has done for us.

Paul wrote a very forceful and vehement letter to the Galatians after some Jewish teachers told them that they had to do some outward works to be justified in the sight of God. Paul told them that they were to be delivered from that old carnal nature, and receive God's new nature, by faith in Jesus Christ.

He said, "I have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." That is taking the attitude that God tells us to take, and Paul had to take it by faith alone. That is the place where the carnal mind cannot live, by faith alone on God's Word.

When we have that spiritual nature within, we will have Christ living within us, it will be our very nature to meet things right, to obey God's Word and trust in Him alone for everything and as we are taught and trained by God, we will have a real and true preparation for Eternal Life.



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