

LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN

"With A Renewed Mind"

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Thread: 2021 will offer many reasons to NOT grow with Jesus; GROW with Jesus anyway!

Setting ourselves up for God's success:

- **"that comes from a pure heart"**
- Not conflicted or in competition with itself
- Driven solely by Jesus
- **"a clear conscience"**
- Clear windshield
- God is able to speak to you through it.
- **"and genuine faith"**
- This is who I am--someone following Jesus on His walk.

30 Day Challenge:

- Prioritize Chair Time at 15 minutes, 3-5 days a week (time to up your game!)
- 3/30: Who will you commit to pray for that they "see God's best for them in the next 30 days and that they step into it."
- Read/meditate for the next 30 days on Matthew Chapters 5, 6, 7 & 8.

This Week! _____

While Paul and Barnabas were at Antioch of Syria, some men from Judea arrived and began to teach the believers: "Unless you are circumcised as required by the law of Moses, you cannot be saved." ² Paul and Barnabas disagreed with them, arguing vehemently. Finally, the church decided to send Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem, accompanied by some local believers, to talk to the apostles and elders about this question.

Acts 15:1-2 NLT

²¹ I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. ²² I love God's law with all my heart. ²³ But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. ²⁴ Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? ²⁵ Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.

Life in the Spirit

⁸ So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. ² And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. ³ The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by

giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. ⁴ He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.

⁵ Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. ⁶ So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. ⁷ For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. ⁸ That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.

⁹ But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) ¹⁰ And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. ¹¹ The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

¹² Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. ¹³ For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.

Romans 7:21-8:13 NLT

What does God want FOR me?

- He wants me to be led by His _____, not anything else.
- He wants me to _____ into His "life and peace" (8:6).
- He wants for me to be "free" (8:2) not "miserable" (7:24) not a "slave" (7:25).

What does God want FROM me?

- Love God and others.
- _____ my life in such a way that it points people to Jesus.
- _____ Jesus to _____ what He says He will do and to _____ who He says He will BE.
- _____ to Him and Him alone for your next steps.

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Be an Influencer, Not an "influencee"

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Life Group Homework

For the week of January 24, 2021

MY STORY

- 1) How was your Chair Time this past week?

- 2) What are you doing to experience God's peace?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What challenged you from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER/ TAKING IT HOME

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. ¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Romans 8:1-17 ESV

- 4) According to the passage, what is the work Christ came to do?

- 5) In the previous chapter the apostle Paul writes about the war within himself. What does this passage teach us about our minds?

- 6) What is the opening line of this passage and what does it mean for you personally?

- 7) Does the answer to the previous question mean that if I sin as a Christian that I have somehow lost my salvation or that I am no longer a child of God?

- 8) As a parent if my child does something I don't want them to do and goes against my clear instructions and I catch them in the act, do they stop being my child? Why do people think it works this way with God?

- 9) How does this war reside in our mind?

- 10) What else do you see in this passage that stands out to you?

Next week we will be looking at practical ways to win the battle for our minds.

CHAIR TIME TOOL

Over the next few weeks while Pastor Craig is teaching this series, the reading for Chair Time is Matthew Chapters 5-8. This is known as the *Sermon on the Mount*, and I encourage you to read it in its entirety each day. I will write different questions for each week, but the reading will remain the same.

- 1) What do these chapters teach us about the war for our minds?

- 2) What acts of faith do you see in Chapter 8?

- 3) What is your takeaway from the reading?