



Spiritually Minded Spiritually Active

I feel compelled to talk to you, today, about being spiritually minded. Really, there are two ways to be “minded.” One is “carnal,” and the other is “spiritual.”

Romans 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

The book of Romans teaches Christian doctrine, and one vital aspect of this doctrine relates to what you do with your thoughts. God expects His family members to think in a spiritual way, not a carnal way. The benefits are clear. Perhaps some people seek out a death benefit and would, therefore, profit by being carnally



minded. Nonetheless, **God wants His people to be spiritually minded for two reasons: so that they might have life and peace!**

The natural man is another perception of what “spiritually minded” means.

1 Corinthians 2:14 But 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.

The natural man is a man who is not born again of God’s spirit. He is not a Christian. He does not perceive or understand spiritual things. Before you became born again, you were a natural man. All mankind is born naturally. Only when they confess Jesus as their Lord and believe that God raised him from the dead are they changed out of a natural state and into a spiritual state.

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

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While there's only one natural state, there is more than one spiritual state. The natural state of man refers to when a man isn't born again. There are two primary classifications of spiritual states. One is being born again. That's the good one. Another is being controlled by satan and his spirits. That's the bad one. God doesn't want the later for His people.

What does God want for His people? He wants for them to be spiritually minded and to be spiritual men and women. So, there are actually two aspects of the spiritual man. One is regarding his thoughts. The other is regarding his actions. ***Just how spiritual are you?*** Do you control your thoughts to be spiritually minded? Do you control your actions to be spiritually active? Because this is so integrated into the personal walk of each Christian, only the individual can answer these

questions.

I know what you're thinking. You're about ready to say; now Jerry, I don't think you know just how hard it is in my life. You don't understand what I have to go through. Sometimes, it is far easier for me to act as if I'm not born again. Sometimes, it's really inconvenient for me to think about the Bible, but especially, to act out the Bible. I really don't think you know what I have to go through.

I'm here to tell you that God wants you to be spiritually minded, today, tomorrow, and forever. That's right. Also, He wants you to act spiritually too. No excuses. Sure, I know it's hard to walk as a Christian at times. Sometimes it is easy too. But it is always possible to walk as a Christian. Each and every one of you have things that seem to come crashing down on your head, causing lots of pressure. What do you do when they come crashing?

Do you run and hide? Do you start complaining to everything that moves? Do you get mad and start punching something? ***Or do you first turn to God in prayer?*** Just what do you do?

What do you do when money is tight? Do you allow yourself to feel badly? Do you turn into a beggar and grovel from person to person, hoping to find some spare change? Do you continue piling up the debt, thinking that it will never come home to roost? What do you do? How about turning to God in prayer?

What do you do when you are sick? Do you collapse on the floor in a pool of tears? Do you complain like there's no tomorrow? Do you give up and wish you were dead? Just what do you do? How about turning to God in prayer?

Prayer is really something. God

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gave us this awesome tool for our benefit. Yet, many scoff at it. After all, they have been Christians for well over 30 or 40 years. While it did work for them at one time, it just doesn't seem to fit into today's most modern times. Why, some people can't seem to eek out the tiniest of prayers even when their life is on the line. After all, it is such a silly thing to do, isn't it?

Thessalonians 5:17 pray without ceasing.

That's one of the shortest verses in the Bible, yet one of the most powerful. Just how do you read it? What does it mean to you? This English translation works well: pray without ceasing. That means, you should pray all the time. In times of feasting, famine, or anywhere in between. That's not too silly, is it?

The first century Christians prayed a lot.

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

They found places, remarkable places to pray.

Acts 16:13 And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont [known] to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.

They continued instant in prayer.

Romans 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

They prayed for everything.

Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests

be made known unto God.

They continued in prayer, and they were thankful.

Colossians 4:2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

They prayed when they were afflicted.

James 5:13 Is any among you afflicted? let him pray.

They prayed when they were sick.

James 5:14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, ...

Is prayer really silly? I think not. In fact, *the Bible says, prayer availeth much.*

James 5:16 Confess your faults [This means, acknowledge

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your problems] one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

But you say, “God does not hear me. He never answers my prayers.”

1 Peter 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

On the contrary, God’s ears are always open to your prayers.

The real question is, do you pray enough?

Do you pray “through” as I’ve heard it said? This means, do you pray until you receive your answer to prayer? Most people who don’t get answered prayers are guilty of giving up. They don’t pray through.

What have you learned from

this? I hope you have learned the importance of maintaining a spiritual mindset in the face of adversity. The Bible guarantees that this will bring you life and peace. If you ever feel close to death, this is the perfect remedy.

I hope you have learned the importance of spiritual living.

Just thinking God’s Word isn’t enough.

You must act it out. You must live like a Christian, day in and day out. I hope you have learned that prayer is your vital connection to the spiritual realm.

Without prayer, you really don’t have a hope of reliving affliction, sickness, and carnal troubles. I especially hope that you don’t think prayer is silly. It is a most powerful, personal deliverance activity that God expects you to use all the time! Learn to use it in your daily Christian walk. Embrace it. Become spiritually minded and spiritually active!

Much love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown