



# Growing In the Faith 2020

Developing a Relationship with  
God Through His Word

Sabbath Morning

Biblical Study Enables  
Spiritual Thinking



# One Mind, Two Options

*"<sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." **Romans 8:5,6***

- How is the mind different from the brain?
  - Reasoning, Will, Conscience, Emotions
- What is a carnal mind & how does it lead to death?
- What is a spiritual mind & how does it lead to life?
- Can our minds accommodate both?     **James 1:5-8**



# Physical Vs. Spiritual

*"<sup>16</sup>I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. <sup>17</sup>For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. "*

**Galatians 5:16,17**

- Why do we do what we don't want? **Rom 7:13-25**
  - What is the law of sin in our members?
- What does the metaphor of walking imply?
  - What do we do when we think a direction is correct?
- How do we develop a spiritual path for our thinking?



# What is Faith?

*“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”* **Hebrews 11:1**

- Is believing all that faith requires?
- What are the 2 aspects of faith? **James 2:17-26**
  - Can one **believe** without faith? What is lacking?
  - Can one **work** without faith? What is lacking?
- Does what we see, hear, taste smell, feel, found our faith?  
**John 20:29**
- Do our sensory perceptions trump God’s word?
- Is faith without evidence?



# Faith Is Our Evidence

- “Faith is simple **reliance upon God’s word**. Building the patience to trust God to do what He has promised. If you believe that His word is true, that His promises are sure, that it is impossible for Him to lie, then **this is your spiritual evidence** (unseen and unfelt) and He will grant to you as you believe.

However, if you decide that the physical evidences (such as sight and feeling) are to be trusted in over and above the promise of Almighty God, then you reject His promise and it will not be granted you.”

– The Plain Truth About Healing (1979, Page 24)



# Faith Vs. Science

- How does faith help us understand the physical?
- How does science help us understand the spiritual?
- How does faith differ from science?
  - Hypothesis vs. Reason **Isaiah 1:16-19**
  - Observation vs. Revelation **James 1:21**
  - Research vs. Study **2Corinthians 10:5**
  - Experimentation vs. Obedience **1John 3:7**
  - Measurement vs. Evaluation **2Corinthians 13:5**
  - Accept/Reject vs. Submission **James 4:7**
- Do we believe what we read in science texts? Why?
- Do we believe what we read in the Bible? Why?



# Spiritual Thinking

- Spiritual matters are the most important things in life, but material thinking does not equip us to rightly discern their value.
  - They fight each other. **Galatians 5:17**
- A mind given to the material is willfully unaware of the spiritual influences on a physical life.
  - We can see & hear, but not discern. **Jeremiah 5:20,21,31,**
- Scrutiny with scripture is a spiritual thinking skill that is hindered by a reliance on material thinking alone.
  - **Romans 8:5-8**
- Understanding the spiritual influence on the material only comes by developing a mind to think spiritually.



# Spiritually Revealed / Discerned

*"<sup>19</sup>..., no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, <sup>21</sup>for prophecy never came by the will of man, but **holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.**" 2Peter 1:19-20*

- What is inspired in spirit is only revealed in spirit.
  - "God breathed" 2Timothy 3:16,17
- A spiritually discerning mind is born in the study and application of God's spiritually inspired word.
  - Reasoning with God Isaiah 1:16-19



# The Bible Changes How We Think

- **2Timothy 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.”*
- **Ps 119:99** *“I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation.*
  - It is how we think that changes who we are.
- **Acts 17:10-12**
  - *“Fair-minded”*: noble (KJV); a quality of the mind & heart.
  - *“Received the word with readiness”*: inclination, eagerness
  - *“Searched the Scriptures”*: Confirming what they heard.
  - *“Daily”*: truth seekers devote themselves to constant study.

