

Welcome friends to another broadcast of "Morsels for Zion's Poor"

The will and purpose of ALMIGHTY GOD cannot be thwarted; yet at the same time men must give an account of their thoughts as well as their activities. While we must confess that we are full of sin from head to foot, yet we cannot use this confession to excuse our sinful ways. In fact, the very realization of this state we find ourselves in should be all the reason we need to cry out to the LORD for deliverance.

Our spirit is the very seat and heart of all that animates and motivates us. Solomon said, "*as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.*" and also "*Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*" The LORD JESUS said that the things which a man takes into his body could not defile him but "*that which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man, for from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: and these evil things come from within, and defile the man.*". So, we have within us a ravaging beast that desires to rule us and gain complete control over us. Quite a fearful thought were it not that the LORD through the gift of HIS SPIRIT will break that dominion and give us an abundant life which knows the taste of victory over that iron grip. We are not yet what we should be, yet by the grace of GOD we are certainly not what we once were. We who once were "*dead in trespasses and sins*" are now seated "*in heavenly places in CHRIST JESUS*" created in HIM "*unto good works, which GOD hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*"

The "spirit" which Solomon said should be ruled is primarily the seat of our emotions and appetites. One only has to look at the nearest buffet line and those who frequent them to see the results of failing to curb the appetite. But overeating is not primarily what Solomon had in mind. This is just a very practical example which illustrates the necessity of man to set a watch on his desire to feed all of his appetites. The emotions also must be ruled or they too will rule us. "*Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey.*" Of all the emotions, the one that scripture speaks most about is anger. Anger in itself is not a bad thing. The LORD JESUS CHRIST became angry when HE saw the money changers in the temple. But anger is a very strong emotion that certainly must be ruled over or it will take over control us. The man who does not rule his spirit of anger is destined to be destroyed by it. "*He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.*" Following closely to anger is the spirit of judgementalism. We are taught in GOD'S word that "*he that is spiritual judgeth all things*". Yet the LORD himself warned us to "*Judge not, that ye be not judged*" Simply put we are to be judges without "passing judgement" on others. This does not mean we are to approve of everything that others do or that we adopt the notion that there is no such thing as right and wrong. But we must fight against the emotion of self-righteousness that coupled with anger can lead us to speak condemnation on others while we excuse the same thing in ourselves.

Another emotion that if left unchecked can control us is that of sadness and despair. As natural as having a sad countenance is from time to time; we must be on guard to rule over that spirit of sadness which causes self-pity, and will ultimately lead us to despair. Paul said, "*We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair, persecuted, but not forsaken, cast down, but not destroyed*" Things may not always go just like we want them to, but we always have the promise of God that "*all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to HIS purpose.*"

The appetites of our spirit that must be ruled over are many. The scripture plainly sets forth the main ones, with the most emphasis placed on the "*lust of the flesh*" We have certain needs as human beings which are meant to be met in moderation. Mankind's sexual nature is the very foundation of the procreation of our species. Yet it is the lack of control over this appetite, that can destroy the very species it was meant to expand. "*Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*" The LORD JESUS CHRIST was tempted in all points like as we are, yet HE did no sin, neither was guile found in HIS heart. As HE has given us HIS example, may we have grace to walk according to it. HE is a faithful HIGH PRIEST over the household of GOD. HE ever liveth to make intercession for those that come unto GOD by HIM. Do you desire the salvation which is found in CHRIST alone?

"Thy free grace alone," #11 If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthe poor@windstream.net