Spiritually Minded
Mind Control

• Minds will follow one of two paths of thought
  – 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 set their minds on the things of the Spirit. – Romans 8:5
  • On the flesh: Death, hostility, cannot please God
  • On the Spirit: Life, peace
Mind Control

• The two mindsets are mutually exclusive
  – The choice will be seen in how one lives
Flesh
Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
-- Galatians 5:19-21

Spirit
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
-- Galatians 5:22-23
God’s Desire

For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

— Galatians 5:17
God’s Desire

• God provides “heavy artillery” for the fight
You, 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. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If 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. So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For 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. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For 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!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God – Romans 8:9-16
God’s Desire

- God provides “heavy artillery” for the fight
- He has promised great reward for the victor

Life
Peace
Adoption

Heirship
Redemption
Salvation

Hope
Help
Unity
How To Be Spiritually Minded

• Choose the right direction
  – If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. – Colossians 3:1,2
How To Be Spiritually Minded

• Choose the right direction
  – Baptized for the right reason

Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses – Colossians 2:12,13
• Choose the right direction
  – Rejection brings death

For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. – Romans 8:6,7
How To Be Spiritually Minded

• Daily decisions determine mind’s status
  – Spiritual things nourish a spiritual mind
    • Prayer, Bible reading, meditation

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path – Psalm 119:105

I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds. – Psalm 77:12

Pray without ceasing -- I Thessalonians 5:17
How To Be Spiritually Minded

• Daily decisions determine mind’s status
  – Spiritual things nourish a spiritual mind
    • Prayer, Bible reading, meditation
  – Regular participation in assemblies
    • Weekly observance of the Lord’s Supper
How To Be Spiritually Minded

• Choice of Like-Minded Companions
  – Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” – I Corinthians 15:33
  – Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? – II Cor. 6:14
How To Be Spiritually Minded

• Choice of Like-Minded Companions
  – **Hospitality** provides opportunity to enjoy this
  – **Fellowship** links the spiritually minded in Christ

That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have **fellowship** with us; and indeed our **fellowship** is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. – I John 1:3
How To Be Spiritually Minded

• Keep a Laser Focus on Heaven
  – If Heaven is not real to me, I will never get there
  – Focus is on the One who is in Heaven

Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. – John 14:1-3
Where is Your Mind Focused?