

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. Romans 8:5-8 (NIV)

Mind Set

What will be your mindset? I'm not sure what you mean. **What you set your mind on will determine the entire course of your life. What you allow yourself to think and guide all that you say and do.** What are my choices? **That is a good question. I will let you tell me what choices are before you.** As I see it, I have only two choices before me. **Only two?** That's right. I can choose to live according to the sinful nature. I can set my mind on what the sinful naturally desires. That would be a very poor choice. That choice would lead to pain and suffering. That choice would lead to anguish and regret. That choice would lead to death, both now, and forever. **Saying that would be a poor choice sounds like an understatement, don't you think?** Yes definitely, the anguish and regret and pain and suffering of that choice would be unending. **That's true.** That has not been, nor will it ever be my choice. **What is your choice?** I will set my mind on what the Holy Spirit desires. My thoughts will not be on the things of this world. I will not adopt the values and patterns and practices of this life. I will not allow the world to shape me according to its mold. Instead, I will allow you to mold and shape me. I will listen attentively to you. I will keep your word ever before me. I will allow your word to dwell in me richly. I will meditate on your word day and night. You will guide the course of my life. You will give me thoughts to think, words to speak, and actions to take. I will live my life according to your will. I will go and do what is pleasing to you. You will fill me with life and peace. You will make me able to live a life that is pleasing to you. This is what I want. This is what I desire. This is the choice I have and will continue to make as I love and follow and serve you, with all that is within me. **You have made a very good choice. You have made a choice that you will never regret. You will live the life you have been called to live.** Thank you, Holy Spirit for helping me to make this choice.

Holy Spirit, I will no longer allow my mind to be set on the sinful nature. I will set my mind on what you desire. Help me to live a life that is pleasing to God. Help me to live a life that is full of life and peace. Help me to think, speak and act according to God's will. Amen

The Spirit Empowered Life *What The Spirit Desires*

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

NIV Romans 8:5-8

The Spirit Empowered Life *Things That Please The Spirit*

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. So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.

NLT Romans 8:5-8

The Spirit Empowered Life *Things Of The Spirit*

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. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

NRSV Romans 8:5-8

The Spirit Empowered Life *Gratify The Spirit*

For those who are according to the flesh *and* are controlled by its unholy desires set their minds on *and* pursue those things which gratify the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit *and* are controlled by the desires of the Spirit set their minds on *and* seek those things which gratify the [Holy] Spirit. Now the mind of the flesh [which is sense and reason without the Holy Spirit] is death [death that comprises all the miseries arising from sin, both here and hereafter]. But the mind of the [Holy] Spirit is life and [soul] peace [both now and forever]. [That is] because the mind of the flesh [with its carnal thoughts and purposes] is hostile to God, for it does not submit itself to God's Law; indeed it cannot. So then those who are living the life of the flesh [catering to the appetites and impulses of their carnal nature] cannot please or satisfy God, or be acceptable to Him.

AMP Romans 8:5-8

The Spirit Empowered Life *Things Of The Spirit*

For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

NASB Romans 8:5-8

The Spirit Empowered Life *Things Of The Spirit*

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. 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. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

ESV Romans 8:5-8

The Spirit Empowered Life *Things Of The Spirit*

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. For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

NKJV Romans 8:5-8

The Spirit Empowered Life *God's Spirit In Them*

Those who think they can do it on their own end up obsessed with measuring their own moral muscle but never get around to exercising it in real life. Those who trust God's action in them find that God's Spirit is in them—living and breathing God! Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end; attention to God leads us out into the open, into a spacious, free life. Focusing on the self is the opposite of focusing on God. Anyone completely absorbed in self ignores God, ends up thinking more about self than God. That person ignores who God is and what he is doing. And God isn't pleased at being ignored.

MSG Romans 8:5-8

The Spirit Empowered Life *Please God*

Those who let themselves be controlled by their lower natures live only to please themselves, but those who follow after the Holy Spirit find themselves doing those things that please God. Following after the Holy Spirit leads to life and peace, but following after the old nature leads to death because the old sinful nature within us is against God. It never did obey God's laws and it never will. That's why those who are still under the control of their old sinful selves, bent on following their old evil desires, can never please God.

TLB Romans 8:5-8

The Spirit Empowered Life *Things The Spirit Wants*

Those who live following their sinful selves think only about things that their sinful selves want. But those who live following the Spirit are thinking about the things the Spirit wants them to do. If people's thinking is controlled by the sinful self, there is death. But if their thinking is controlled by the Spirit, there is life and peace. When people's thinking is controlled by the sinful self, they are against God, because they refuse to obey God's law and really are not even able to obey God's law. Those people who are ruled by their sinful selves cannot please God.

NCV Romans 8:5-8

What The Spirit Desires

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

The Spirit Empowered Life – Romans 8:5-8

In Context: Read Romans 8

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: (What is God speaking to your heart?)

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. Romans 8:5-8 (NIV)

Considering The Words: (What words speak to your heart?)

Those who live according to the sinful nature | have their minds set on | what that nature desires; | but those who live in accordance with the Spirit | have their minds set on | what the Spirit desires. | The mind of sinful man is death, | but the mind controlled by the Spirit | is life and peace; | the sinful mind is hostile to God. | It does not submit to God's law, | nor can it do so. | Those controlled by the sinful nature | cannot please God. Romans 8:5-8 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: (What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Holy Spirit, I will no longer allow my mind to be set on the sinful nature. I will set my mind on what you desire. Help me to live a life that is pleasing to God. Help me to live a life that is full of life and peace. Help me to think, speak and act according to God's will. Amen

What It Means: (What questions speak to your heart?) *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

What are examples of a mind that is set on the sinful nature?

When have you experienced the negative consequences of setting your mind on the sinful nature?

Why will entertaining sinful thoughts always lead to sinful words and actions?

How are you continually choosing to set your mind on what the Spirit desires?

How is allowing your mind to be controlled by the Spirit filling your life with life and peace?

How is allowing your mind to be controlled by the Spirit helping you to live a life that is pleasing to God?

Why will you never regret setting your mind on what the Spirit desires?

Living It Out: (What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Set your mind on what the Spirit desires so you will be able to live a life that is pleasing to God.

Seeing It Happen: (What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that you will be able to live a life that is pleasing to God as you set your mind on what the Spirit desires.

Get Ready To Share: (What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group how you are setting your mind on what the Spirit desires.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you set your mind on what the Spirit desires so you can live a life that is pleasing to God.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Holy Spirit, I will set my mind on what you desire so I can live a life that is pleasing to God.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Holy Spirit, how can I set my mind on what you desire so I can live a life that is pleasing to God?
