**Overcoming A Carnal Mind PT 1**

**1Cor 3:1-3,** “1And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, **but as unto carnal,** even as unto babes in Christ. 2I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. 3For ye are **yet carnal:** for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are **ye not carnal,** and walk as men?”

**2Tim 3:5-7,** “5Having a **form of godliness,** but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. 6For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers’ lusts, **7Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”**

**Matt 7:21-23,** “21Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, **shall enter into the kingdom of heaven;** **but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.** 22Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you:** depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

**2Peter 3:9,** “9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”**

7.5 Billion people in the World………2.3 Billion Christians…………….1.8 Billion Muslims……………… etc.

**Note:** It is undeniably clear that it is God’s will that none should perish but that all should come to repentance. Whether Islamic faith, Judaism, Buddhist, or even an atheistic belief that there is no God. Before any of the Billions of souls in need of true salvation can be won over, the church itself must first get it’s act together so that we are not introducing another religion called Christianity to the world but a revelation of Christ and his redemption for all.

Many of our so-called confessed believer today are full of Carnality a mindset of the world infiltrating the church with what it deems to be the acceptable formula needed in our religious society today.

**The blunder of carnality**

**2 Corinthians 10:3-5**, “3For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God **for pulling down strongholds,** 5casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every **thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,”**

**Carnal:** Pertaining to or characterized by the flesh or the body, its impulses, inclinations, passions, desired carnal pleasures. not spiritual; merely human; **worldly leanings that provide a temporal fleshly fix.**

**Resulted Outcome:** Continual dependency, reliance, addiction,need, habit, and faith in temporal satisfaction rather than God’s eternal word**. Dependency on something other than God which then makes it an Idol.** (Resistance to the word, resistance to the Holy Spirit and complete surrender to the things of the flesh)

**Colossians 3:5 NIV** “Put to death, therefore, the components of your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed, which is idolatry.”

**What is a carnal Christian?**

* For the sake of pleasing the flesh, one who is not willing to “present his/her body as a living sacrifice pleasing and acceptable to God” **(Romans 12:2).** One that will allow reasonings and justifications to exalt itself against the knowledge of God. **(2 Cor 10:5)**

Eventually takes on a seared conscious to repent of sin, though you know you are sinning rebellion takes hold of you for the sake of the flesh. (Stronghold)

**Eph 4:19,** **NLT** “They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity.”

**Romans 1:28,** “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;”

* The carnal Christian lives in the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life that is from the world.

**1 John 2:15-17, KJV** “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.”

**Note:** A Spirit-led Christian will not remain carnal; they will grow and mature because of God’s work in their life (Hebrew 12:5-11, Romans 12:1, Ephesians 2:8-10, James 2).

**Hebrews 12:3,** “3For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye **be wearied and faint in your minds.”**

**Phil 2:5,** **“Let this mind be in you,** which was also in Christ Jesus:”

**Strongholds are first established in the mind;** that is why we are to take every thought captive. Behind a stronghold is also a lie—a place of personal bondage where God’s Word has been subjugated to any unscriptural knowledge or personally confused belief that is presented to be true. Behind every lie is a fear, and behind every fear is an idol. **Idols are established wherever there exists a failure to trust in the provisions of God.**

**The following areas may help you to recognize demonic oppression, possession or bondages of the flesh (sin)**

1. **Sexual perversion and immorality homosexuality, molestation, etc. are no longer seen as areas relevant to Godly standards as ascribed in the word. See quote from “The Heart of The Matter”**
2. **A compulsion to abuse your body through drugs, alcohol, gluttony, abuse or misuse of other substances, etc. Romans 8:13, “For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.**
3. **Abandoning God order of things and seeking spiritual knowledge and alternative methods through Eastern religions and other counterfeit religious groups trying to find peace joy and happiness. (TM, Yoga, humanism, etc.)**

**Romans 14:17,** “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy **in the Holy Ghost.”**

**Romans 15:13,** “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the **power of the Holy Spirit.**

1. **Mental distress or oppression (anxiety, fear, anger, mental confusion, etc.)**

**Phil 4:4-7,** “4Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5Let your calmness be apparent to all. The Lord is at hand. 6Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7**And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”**

1. **Lack of freedom or joy in the Lord (spiritual bondage);**

**Gal 5:1,** “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the **yoke of bondage.”**

**Romans 8:1,** “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

Galatians 5:1

1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

James 4:7

7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Psalm 32:7

7 You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

Psalm 34:4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.