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The Fruit Reveals the Root

Justification

- Romans 3:21-5:21
- The Cross: His death
- An act done for us
- Removes the guilt and penalty of sin

Sanctification

- Romans 6-8
- The Resurrection: His Life
- A work done in us
- Removes the growth and the power of sin

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The Fruit Reveals the Root

The Cross

- What do I think?
- How do I feel?
- What do I want?
- What do I believe?

death

envy, jealousy, guilt, pride, solitary, impure actions, fear, anger, lusty desires, boastful thoughts, covousness, avarice, worry, self-contradiction, self-control, trustworthiness

The Resurrection

- What does He say?
- How does He feel?
- What does He want?
- What does He say is True?

LIFE

peace, joy, patience, kindness, love, goodness, gentleness, honesty, self-control, trustworthiness

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The Fruit Reveals the Root

Paul's four contrasts between living by the Spirit, or in the flesh – 2 Corinthians 3:6-11

1. The Spirit produces Life – the flesh produces only death! v. 6
2. Stones or Hearts? v. 3;7 – religion vs. relationship; liturgy vs. reality
3. Freedom or guilt? v. 9 – righteous, being right leads to doing right
4. Fading or permanent? v. 11 – the “Big Push”

✓ In Christ, a person has only the mere possibility of living in the Spirit; it does not make authentic spiritual living automatic!

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Discipline of the Mind

The Cross

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- What do I believe?

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Discipline of the Mind

Where do we start?

1. Remind ourselves of reality!
 - Ephesians 6:12 – we're in a spiritual battle!
 - 2 Corinthians 4:16-17 – everything is spiritual!
 - We are amphibious – we have a twofold nature, spirit & particles
2. The battle begins in the mind – our interface...
 - Colossians 3:2,3 – “set your mind on things above”
 - Romans 12:2 – “be transformed by the renewing of your mind”
 - 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 – “every thought captive”
 - “Beware of what you set your mind on for that you will surely become” Emerson

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Discipline of the Mind

Where do we start?

3. I have two choices: Spirit or flesh (Him or me)
 - Romans 8:5-8 – “set their minds”
 - Things of the flesh – money, entertainment,

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Discipline of the Mind

"We must look to the city of Las Vegas, Nevada as a metaphor of our national character and aspiration. Las Vegas is a city entirely devoted to the idea of entertainment, and as such proclaims the spirit of a culture in which all public discourse increasingly takes the form of entertainment. Our politics, religion, news, athletics, education and commerce have been transformed into adjuncts of show business, largely without protest or even much popular notice. The result is that we are a people on the verge of amusing ourselves to death."

Neil Postman

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Discipline of the Mind

Where do we start?

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- **Romans 8:5-8** – “set their minds”
- *Things of the flesh* – money, entertainment, pleasure, fame, fulfillment, etc...
- *Things of the Spirit* – **Philippians 4:8**

4. **Discipline, it's what my mind needs!**

- **Hebrews 12:11** – discipline yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness!

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Discipline of the Mind

Where do we start?

5. Saturation of my mind with the written and Living Word!

- **Matthew 4:1-11** – “it is written”
- **2 Timothy 3:16,17** – “all scripture equips us for every good work”

6. We have to get serious!

- **1 Peter 1:13** – “gird your minds for action”
- Practice, practice practice!
- **Hebrews 5:14** – it takes practice to train our senses – thoughts!

7. It is not me “doing it”, but Christ in me – by faith!

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Discipline of the Mind

“We ... want to make it quite clear that we cannot free and purify our own heart by exerting our own ‘will.’ ... As long as we think we can save ourselves by our own will power, we will only make the evil in us stronger that ever.”

Heini Arnold, Freedom from Sinful Thoughts

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Discipline of the Mind

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- **Hebrews 12:1,2** – fixing our eyes on Jesus!

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Discipline of the Mind

Faith is the least self-regarding of the virtues. It is by its very nature scarcely conscious of its own existence. Like the eye which sees everything in front of it and never sees itself, faith is occupied with the Object upon which it rests and pays no attention to itself at all. While we are looking at God we do not see ourselves – blessed riddance. The man who has struggled to purify himself and has had nothing but repeated failures will experience real relief when he stops tinkering with his soul and looks away to the perfect One. While he looks at Christ the very things he has so long been trying to do will be getting done within him. It will be God working in him to will and to do. (Tozer, *POG*)