

June 2015 Newsletter – Dealing With Emotions – Review

*“Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to **play**.” 1 Corinthians 10:7*

Now they may claim to be lovers of God, but without loving his Word they aren't. What they do love, instead, is pleasure, entertainment, stimulant gratification, themselves, and everything else pertaining to the flesh. And as a part of their self-deception, they have a form of godliness, but deny its power because what is absent is the filling of the Holy Spirit and metabolized doctrine.

This passage gives us a picture of what believers will be like, and are now, in the Last Days. They will be selfish, money lovers, braggarts, arrogant, maligners who bad-mouth other people, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful and that because they think they're entitled to everything, unholy, without natural affection, implacable, irreconcilable, fault-finders, no self control over their mouths, thinking, actions and emotions, brutal, haters of what is good, haters of divine good, untrustworthy, and evil in character, (they may be pretty on the outside, but their hearts are black), impulsive and reckless, conceited and lovers of pleasure. All of which proceed forth out of the mental attitude of pride, their lust patterns and emotions.

The lust for ease or retirement is very predominant in the older generation in America today, but there was a man mentioned in the NT who was going through the same thing. *“And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine **ease**, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?” Luke 12:16-20*

In this parable there was a certain rich man, who had a bumper crop on his land; a crop so large that he could retire from working the land, retire from even working at all! This is analogous to believers receiving wind-fall profits on their business, or hitting the lottery, hitting the jackpot in Reno, lawsuit settlements, or having saved enough, plus their pension, to retire. Some today are able to retire at age 70, some 65, and some in their 40's! Then it's golfing, traveling, or whatever their desires/lusts are.

This passage deals with the lust for ease, the lust not to work any more, (although man is commanded as a part of the curse to work until he dies, *“In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” Genesis 3:9*, the lust to retire, the lust to go out and have fun instead of constructive work.

To **retire** means to withdraw from working. You say, what's wrong with that? The curse laid upon **man** was to work by the sweat of his brow until he dies. The curse for the **woman** was to be in subjection to their own husband's authority and to have pain when bearing children. *“Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.” Genesis 3:16*

There are many men in America, who are financially set for life, who work everyday. Many of them have farms or ranches where work goes on all the time, but many are in the cities who are actively working in things that are constructive, not playing out on the golf course.

Many today in America parallel the man in Luke 12:19, who said, “*And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; **take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.***” Luke 12:19
The basis for his prosperity enabling him to retire was agricultural, while for most today it's the stock market, banking, investments, real estate, pension plans, etc..

The KJV has it as “take thine ease”, while the NIV puts it as “take life easy”. The word is the present middle imperative of *anapauo*. To **eat** is the aojist active imperative of *esthio*; to **drink** is the aojist active imperative of *pino*; and **be merry** is the present passive imperative of *euphraino*.

An interesting side note here is that the active voice is used in both **eating** and **drinking**, while the passive voice is used in **being merry**. The point? The point is that this man thought that eating and drinking was the thing that enabled him to be merry, like so many today. But to do that, of course, he had to have the time and the money, so it was necessary for him to have acquired enough money so he could retire, so he could pursue a life of eating, drinking and having fun!

Anapauo meant to stop, to cease, to bring to an end, to come to an end of something; it meant to stop working, instead of God's directive of **taking a rest in working**. There is a world of difference between taking time off, or taking a break, or mini-vacations from work, while one is actively working at something constructive, versus resting from work altogether, which is the idea of retirement today.

Both eating and drinking are in the aorist imperative, which is a command to start an action. Now it's not that he had never ate or drank, but now he's going to give himself over in the pursuit of the “good life”, as so many mistakenly follow after today. He thought that having good food, beer or wine and having fun summed up the epitome of what life is all about, but it isn't. “*For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.*” Romans 14:17

His thinking is entirely flesh oriented and has rejected the spiritual life God has for us. It's also his repudiation of the curse that God has laid upon all men to work until we die. He's saying, because of his windfall, that he doesn't have to work any more. Well, rich or poor all men have to work until we die. Even if we don't have to work because of our financial situation, we are still commanded to be actively involved (work) in something productive and constructive. We may only be able to work 20 hours a week, instead of the 60-80 hours we did when we were young, but we still have to work.

So the desire, the lust to retire, to withdraw from working enters into one's mind. This desire became a drive to be able to get to the place where one can retire. And as one goes on his way they become singularly focused on this desire to retire. It becomes an obsessive compulsive desire to retire where all they think about is retiring. Then one day after they get their pension plan, or social security, hit the lottery, or their investment comes through, they are officially retired. Now they can do what **they** want to do! Which, for this man, was to go out and “live the good life” and have fun!

Many retirees in America retire with the goal of traveling around, which is best defined by the old German word wanderlust. **Wanderlust** is a strong innate desire of the flesh to rove, to travel about, to move here and there at random. The mildest form is a wish to travel all the way to full blown going all over the country in an RV. It is the opposite of settling down, or staying in one place after you retire, where you can start accomplishing something productive and constructive with your life. “*And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*” Psalms 1:3

Although a multi-billion dollar industry has been created upon the wanderlust of the flesh nature, RV's, campers, trailers, SUV's motor homes, etc.; it is an industry that has built itself up by stimulating the flesh's lust to wander as well as being the source of gratifying that lust. In America you have armies of talented people, who are experts in stimulating people's various lusts and then offer their products as the solution for gratifying them.

Remember, **wanderlust** is the idea of running from a feeling, or to a feeling, or to gratify a feeling. Oftentimes these people think they are pursuing after a legitimate goal and would never imagine that they are pursuing after an illusion of the mind. This introduces the problem of the *mataiotes* of the mind. "*This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity (mataiotes) of their mind,*" Ephesians 4:17

Basically *mataiotes* is an illusion of the mind; something that deceives by producing a false or misleading impression of reality. The believer who has this thinks that he is following after something real, true and worthwhile, but he's actually following after an illusion of the mind. It's an exact similarity to the man in the desert who thinks he sees a body of water and then goes after it, only to find that it's a mirage.

Once he is there he looks up and sees another body of water and goes after it, only to find that it also is a mirage. Further deception impels him to go on seeking one mirage after another. And so it is with people in life, they follow after one mirage after another only to find that there is nothing to them and at the end of it all is bitter disappointment and a wasting of one's time and life!

Mataiotes of the soul so distorts one's perception of reality that they think, they are convinced that this next thing they are chasing after will supply to their soul what their soul needs, only to find, after they have attained it, or bought it, that there is nothing to it at all. So now they go on chasing after the next illusion of their minds for surely it has to have the answers and satisfaction their souls crave. They are in pursuit of the impossible dream. If this isn't what I thought it was, then surely it has to be over the next hill or around the corner.

Mataiotes doesn't just produce one illusion in the mind and then it's done; **it keeps on producing one illusion after another!** It comes from *porosis* in the mind, which is similar to a calcification, or building up gunk in water pipes. When a buildup of sediment or sludge occurs in water pipes, then the flow of the water is cut down and can be stopped altogether. The similar thing takes place in the soul where *porosis* builds up in our spiritual "*pipes*", thus diminishing, even stopping the flow of spiritual phenomena through them. The result is that this so effects the soul that it no longer functions as it should and its perception of reality changes. Instead of perceiving reality as it is, it now perceives it differently. Instead of perceiving the truth of reality, it now is perceiving an illusion. This is what *mataiotes* is. **The only thing that will prevent the buildup of *porosis* in our souls, and remove that *porosis* if it is already there, thereby ridding our souls of illusory thinking, is the intake of Bible Doctrine metabolized by faith, under the filling of the Holy Spirit.**

Wanderlust is not only a strong drive to travel and not settle down in one place. It can be connected to the emotions of fear, guilt, anger, grief, human happiness and human love, where one keeps going to get away from these feelings, or in some of them to gratify these feelings. But it is also connected to *mataiotes* because *mataiotes* is a mental condition that keeps on producing **illusions** in the mind that deceive the individual that this next thing, or this next goal, or this next love will satisfy what the soul needs and keeps compelling the individual to go after them.

Characteristics of the flesh nature.

The flesh is **weak**; it is unable to perform. *“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is **weak**.”* Matthew 26:41

Lusts originate in the flesh. *“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the **lust** of the flesh.”* Galatians 5:16

Emotions originate in the flesh. *“And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the **affections and lusts**.”* Galatians 5:24

The flesh has a **will** of its own. *“Which were born, not of blood, nor of the **will** of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”* John 1:13

The flesh can only produce **flesh activity**. *“That which is born of the flesh is **flesh**; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”* John 3:6

The flesh can **judge**. *“Ye **judge** after the flesh; I judge no man.”* John 8:15

There is no **profit** in the flesh. *“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh **profiteth** nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”* John 6:63

The flesh is the **outer man**. *“For he is not a Jew, which is one **outwardly**; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh.”* Romans 2:28

The flesh cannot be **justified**. *“Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be **justified** in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”* Romans 3:20

The flesh has its own **dynamic** for living life. *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not **after** the flesh, but after the Spirit.”* Romans 8:1

Sin is in the flesh. *“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned **sin** in the flesh.”* Romans 8:3

The flesh only **cares** about the things of the flesh. *“For they that are after the flesh do **mind** the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.”* Romans 8:5

The flesh **cannot please** God. *“So then they that are in the flesh **cannot please** God.”* Romans 8:8

We owe **nothing** to the flesh. *“Therefore, brethren, we are **debtors**, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.”* Romans 8:12

Our **relations** are flesh related. *“For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my **kinsmen** according to the flesh.”* Romans 9:3

There is **no glory** in the flesh. *“That no flesh should **glory** in his presence.”* 1 Corinthians 1:29

The flesh can and will **die**. *“To deliver such an one unto Satan for the **destruction** of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.”* 1 Corinthians 5:5

This flesh cannot **inherit** God's eternal kingdom. “*Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.*” 1 Corinthians 15:50

Our **warfare** is not of the flesh. “*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*” Ephesians 6:12

We have to live our **lives**, though, in the flesh. “*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*” Galatians 2:20

Spiritual **completion** does not take place in the flesh by the flesh. “*Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?*” Galatians 3:3

Temptation comes from the flesh. “*And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.*” Galatians 4:14

The **liberty** of grace is not to be opportunity for the flesh. “*For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*” Galatians 5:13

The flesh can be summed up as always **wanting**. “*This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*” Galatians 5:16

The flesh is **contrary** to the life and design of the Spirit. “*For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*” Galatians 5:17

All **wickedness** proceeds from the flesh. “*Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,*” Galatians 5:19

We have been crucified and are **dead** to the flesh. “*And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*” Galatians 5:24

Corruption comes from the flesh. “*For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*” Galatians 6:8

The flesh has **mental** and **emotional desires**, as well as **physical cravings**. “*Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*” Ephesians 2:3

Man **loves** his flesh. “*For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:*” Ephesians 5:29

We are to have **no confidence** in the flesh. “*For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.*” Philippians 3:3

We have **fathers** of our flesh and a Father of our spirits. “*Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?*” Hebrews 12:9

Various Sins In The Soul

Sin in the soul can be categorized as mental attitude sins with pride being the worse, then the seven feelings of the emotional complex, and then the 28 categories of lust. Stress in the soul, which is not technically sin is tantamount to sin in the soul because it quickly converts to sin in the soul and its effect is as destructive as sin in the soul.

Defense mechanisms on the soul, including TMS, are also in this category of sin in the soul because they repress the truth of various feelings that we want to keep buried. TMS is a diversionary tactic that the subconscious mind employs to divert our conscious mind from being consciously aware of how we actually feel inside. It does this through creating, or exacerbating existing physical pain to distract the mind so that it doesn't feel the emotion. Refusing to feel an emotion on a conscious level is in effect a denial of that emotion.

The mind doesn't want to accept the true person of the heart, so it creates its own alternate personality; a more acceptable personality, or identity, which is in effect an idol because it is not real! We do this so that the alternate personality will be accepted by those around us and even ourselves! But to do that, it has to deny that these certain feelings don't exist, because how we truly feel about things really defines us. So we deny or repress our true feelings, which really reveal us on the inside, so we can put forth this false personality. To deal with that we must learn to not only confess our sins to God, but also express to him how we really feel! *"If we **confess** our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* 1 John 1:9 **Confession** means that we recognize to ourselves that we do feel a certain way, (he already knows we do), and are acknowledging to him that we do.

There is another factor in this and that's the new man that was created in us when we believed on Christ as our Savior. This new man is Christ being formed in us, it is Christ in us, and the old man definitely does not want to accept this, so it fights the surfacing and revealing of Christ in us. Sitting under the teaching of Bible Doctrine over the years is bringing this new man to the surface, so a lot of our fighting back against this is really the old man trying to keep the new man from surfacing into the conscious mind. And this makes sense because the new man is created in the image of Jesus Christ, whom the world rejected when he was here on earth. *"My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until **Christ be formed in you**,"* Galatians 4:19

The psychological defense mechanisms of repression fighting against the emergence of Christ in us creates tension in the soul, which is the stuff of TMS. Truth, under the ministry of the Holy Spirit, wanting to surface in the soul, while the flesh trying to keep it buried. *"For the flesh lusteth against, (a state of hostility), the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."* Galatians 5:17

Paul put it as, *"O **wretched man** that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"* Romans 7:24 Who shall rescue **me**, the inner new man, **out of, ek**, the body of this death? Paul wanted this new man inside of him to be reflected in everything he thought and did in life, but the old man fought against it incessantly to the place where he was most miserable. The key to victory in this is by having the correct doctrinal information about what took place and what is taking place inside of us and by living in the filling of the Holy Spirit, for it is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that we can overcome the tyranny of the flesh. *"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."* Galatians 5:16