

Volume 6, Day 20: Am I Carnally Minded?

The natural man knows nothing about carnality. The flesh lusting against the Spirit that came in at regeneration, and the Spirit lusting against the flesh, produces carnality. Carnality occurs when, and only when, the flesh is allowed to reign in the moment. "Walk in the Spirit," says Paul, "and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh." Be ruled by the Spirit and carnality will disappear.

Are you contentious or easily troubled about trifles? "Oh, but no one who is a Christian ever is!" you might say. But Paul says they are. He connects these things with carnality. Is there a truth in the Bible that instantly awakens petulance in you? That is a proof that you are carnal. If sanctification is being worked out, there is no trace of that spirit left.

If the Spirit of God detects anything in you that is wrong, He does not ask you to correct it. He asks you to accept the light of His truth about it. He will put it right. A child of the light confesses instantly and stands bare before God. A child walking in darkness says, "Oh, I can explain that away." When the light breaks and the conviction of wrong comes, be a child of the light, and confess, and God will deal with what is wrong. If you vindicate yourself, you prove yourself to be carnal indeed!

What is the proof that carnality has gone? Don't kid yourself! When carnality is overcome it is the most real thing imaginable. God will give you many opportunities to prove to yourself the marvel of His grace. The practical test is the only proof. "Why," you say, "if this had happened before, I would have been resentful!" You will never cease to be the most amazed person on earth at what God has done for you on the inside.

My Confirming Scriptures:

Aligning Experiences:

petulance

noun

PEEVISHNESS, bad temper, ill temper, pettishness, pique, impatience, irritability, moodiness, sulkiness, snappishness, touchiness, waspishness, irascibility, tetchiness, testiness, querulousness, fractiousness, cantankerousness, grumpiness, grouchiness, crabbiness, ill humor, spleen;

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan