

# Romans 8:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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**For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh** (hoi kata sarka phronousin ta tēs sarkos)—The verb phroneō means to set one's mind on, to be intent upon, to cherish certain thoughts and desires. This is not occasional sin but life-orientation. Those "after the flesh" are characterized by self-centered thinking, finding identity and satisfaction in created things rather than the Creator. Paul describes a comprehensive worldview shaped by rebellion.

**But they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit**—The parallel construction emphasizes the total contrast. Spirit-orientation means minds shaped by God's revealed truth, affections directed toward eternal realities, wills aligned with divine purposes. This is the renewed mind of 12:2, the mind of Christ mentioned in Philippians 2:5. The preposition kata ("after/according to") indicates conformity—we become like what we worship and pursue.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Stoicism emphasized right thinking (logos) as the path to virtue, but saw this as achievable through human reason. Paul's doctrine is radically different: the mind must be supernaturally renewed by the Spirit (12:2; Ephesians 4:23). True transformation begins not with moral effort but with regeneration that changes fundamental desires.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. What specific "things of the flesh" do you find your mind drifting toward most frequently?
2. How does cultivating "the mind of the Spirit" through Scripture and prayer reshape daily priorities?
3. What's the relationship between what we "mind" (think about) and what we ultimately become?

## Interlinear Text

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τοῦ the things G3588	γὰρ For G1063	κατὰ after G2596	σαρκὸς of the flesh G4561	ὄντες they that are G5607	τοῦ the things G3588	τοῦ the things G3588
σαρκὸς of the flesh G4561	φρονοῦσιν do mind G5426	τοῦ the things G3588	δὲ but G1161	κατὰ after G2596	πνεύματος of the Spirit G4151	τοῦ the things G3588
τοῦ the things G3588	πνεύματος of the Spirit G4151					

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Corinthians 2:14** (Spirit): But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

**John 3:6** (Spirit): That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

**Romans 8:9** (Spirit): But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

**Mark 8:33** (Parallel theme): But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.

**2 Corinthians 10:3** (Parallel theme): For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

**2 Peter 2:10** (Parallel theme): But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

**Ephesians 5:9** (Spirit): (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

**1 Corinthians 15:48** (Parallel theme): As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.