

# *Assumptions are a curse of the flesh*

*Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honour; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;*

Rom 12:9-11

Making assumptions about others is hypocrisy. Assumptions are something that is accepted as true or as certain without proof. Assumptions are the product of our prejudices, which are preconceived judgments or opinions based on our fallen nature. They amount to an adverse opinion or leaning formed without just grounds or before sufficient knowledge.

We make assumptions about other people's lives based on our own limited experiences in life as we automatically assume we are correct because we think we know our experiences to be true. When we make assumptions about other people, what we are really doing is looking for things in others that confirm our own beliefs about life, thus we make ourselves to be superior because we make others subject to our determinations.

Our assumptions about life and meaning are naturally based on inadequate input because we only have a limited view about reality. Only God knows all truth. But we believe our assumptions to be true as we live according to the flesh of the natural man who is not born of the Spirit.

Once something is believed, whether fleshly or spiritual, all our emotions follow behind convincing us that we know the truth.

When we live for ourselves without God, we put error into our minds because we are not in fellowship with God who alone is true, so we will only get trash out after we have put it in. The subject matter doesn't matter.

The truth about earthly or heavenly things are open to assumptions by all who rely on their own understanding. Everyone born of the flesh carries

around in their minds a lot of refuse about earthly and heavenly things, this needs to be eradicated by the truth of God.

The less we know about the teaching of God in the Bible, the more we are vulnerable to be deceived by our preconceived assumptions, and the less our minds will be transformed by the Spirit of truth.

If we are truly born again to live for Christ, the light of the truth should be constantly exposing the errors of our assumptions, if it is not, we are not prepared to surrender to the authority of the Spirit for the transformation of our minds into the mind of Christ. We need the truth of God. *"Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth."* John 17:17

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."* John 14:6

*"If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?"* John 3:12

The human experience means there is no escaping the battle for our minds. Incorrect assumptions concerning earthly things will have the same bad result as unbelief about heavenly things. We need God to change our minds. *that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.* Eph 4:23

*So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."* John 8:31-32

Believing in Jesus Christ is only the beginning of the transformation of our minds according to the truth. The Holy Spirit gives us the truth.

*"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you."* John 16:13-14

Even when the Spirit is in us to will and to do, we still need to be reminded we are no longer to be living according our fleshly assumptions about life.

*However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.* Rom 8:9-11

The world naturally makes the assumption that God will not judge all mankind, or that life can only exist while God allows life in man. But it is written: "*And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.*" Heb 9:27

Many make the assumption there is no judgement from God. How can anyone know by themselves the truth of heavenly things except by the Spirit? So what we believe must be an assumption, because we don't control life.

Many believe that we live many lives over and over so no one faces judgement because all come to know they are god? This is also an assumption and therefore more trash in our minds.

Many believe that God will treat them favorably because they are essentially good people in their own eyes. But God says that "*he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.*" John 3:36

To think we are good enough to be accepted by God makes Jesus' sacrifice for sins redundant, useless, because we have found our own way to be reconciled with God without Christ dying for our sins. Believing some truth about God is not the same as giving up our assumptions. Satan believes the truth but keeps his assumptions.

We need more than just believing. Believing the truth of our salvation enables us to be able to walk with God by the Spirit, but needs to be

advanced by spiritual discipline and constant diligence include praying without ceasing, being immersed in the word of God.

Believing God means giving thanks in all things, and training the mind to be spiritually aligned as we worship God and love our neighbours, if we are to gain full awareness that we are in fact the dwelling place of God. Otherwise, our automatic response to our circumstances will default to that of the assumptions we have taken on according to the flesh.

*So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbour, for we are members of one another. and do not give the devil an opportunity. Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

Eph 4:17, 22-25, 27,29-30

### **We need to think the thoughts of God revealed to us in the Bible**

When a situation unexpectedly confronts us, we must stop and ask the Spirit of God how best to proceed. What would Jesus have us do in this situation? The obedient humble heart will get the wisdom required from the Spirit of God. *But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*

James 1:5

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

*But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.* Gal 5:16-17

When we make assumptions, we rely on the unregenerate mind that is not disposed to pleasing God. But: *If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.* Gal 5:25

Because our assumptions come from our flesh, we treat others as if they are fleshly like us and not worth our self sacrifice. This is seriously not loving our neighbours as we ourselves would be loved. But living by the Spirit means our desires will be stronger for the things of God than the things of the flesh and the world without God.

The life of the Spirit will have given us the inner compelling strength to live out the life of Christ according to the will of God. The Spirit is given to the obedient, so when we are willing to obey, we will find we are enabled by the Spirit to please God. Apart from the Spirit we can do nothing; a repetition of the words of Jesus, *Apart from Me you can do nothing.* John 15:5

The trouble is we mostly don't take the time to stop and think. Think about it? Did Jesus Christ ever respond to people with assumptions and without full knowledge and thereby deny His self sacrifice to anyone?

To follow Christ means we do as He would do by putting off our assumptions and loving others before putting ourselves and our opinions first. This is offering ourselves as a living sacrifice as we are transformed by the renewing of our minds.

In order to be able to ask for godly wisdom to please God we need to be walking by the Spirit in the first place, otherwise we will rely on our own understanding and won't realise we are living according to the flesh without understanding.

### **Assumptions are a curse we must struggle to overcome**

The degree to which we are disturbed by our assumptions may indicate the depth of our understanding and our need to conscientiously walk by

the Spirit. Subsequently, any indifference to suffering may also indicate the flesh is at the front door.

This is also true if we are indifferent to the suffering experienced by others in the world. We need to be aware of the truth that God is to rule over all His creation. But thank God He has promises to set us free from our assumptions by giving us the truth. Even if we are slow learners.

Unfortunately, we make many assumptions about people who come into our lives that are unjust and unreasonable, so we fail to comply with the command to love our neighbour. The problem degenerates even further when we make assumptions about those who are the dwelling place of God by the Spirit by faith in Jesus Christ. When we make assumptions about the people of the Spirit, we deny they have the honour of knowing God's transforming Spirit.

When it comes to our negative response, we can be sure we are making sinful assumptions and not consciously under the hand of the Spirit. If we do not give honour to others before ourselves, we have made a bad assumption. *For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.* 1 Cor 2:11

The reality is, quite unknown to us there may be many valid reasons for the behaviour of others that our fleshly thinking would never consider possible. And in most cases the behaviour that causes us offence may not be intended for us personally. When people are acting on assumptions the bullets fly randomly in every direction.

Assumptions are a curse of the flesh. And the flesh is the life of natural man devoid of the control of Spirit of God's truth. *For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.* Rom 8:5-8

Assumptions about God will lead us to death, so making assumptions about people may indicate we are living as if already dead. The alternative is to live by the faith in Jesus Christ that we have received.

*And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.* Col 1:21-23

We need life in the Spirit to see the light. If we haven't been made aware of the grief that accompanies sinful assumptions by the Spirit, we won't have the passion to proclaim the truth of God in Christ by the same Spirit.

*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.* Rom 11:33-36

If we assume we know the truth, the truth will escape us; and we wouldn't be able to hear the truth from the mouth of God. God's word is truth, it's not the same as our assumptions. If we know the truth, the truth will set us free from and we will learn not to make assumptions.

When we are told to put to death what is earthly in us, we need to understand that this means we kill off our assumptions. Content is everything. We think, and we are. Behaviour follows thought. *For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so.*

Rom 8:6

Having our mind set on the Spirit is only possible when God has changed our desire to live for Christ in obedience and truth so the will of God is

stronger than the desires of the our flesh. This is because the Spirit promotes a compelling desire to please God in all we do.

*For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.* 2 Cor 5:14-15

To be led by the Spirit means we willingly follow His leading to fulfill the law of God. *so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.* (Rom 8:4) So pleasing God will no longer be a burden we despise but a joy we desire.

The evidence of living by assumptions as opposed to living by the Spirit is obvious in the following verses. *Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outburst of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.* Gal 5:19-23

Consequently, the fruit of the Spirit is the evidence of life lived in fellowship with God, and it is found in us when we live by His enabling strength to overcome the assumptions of the flesh by the compelling love of Christ. This means God has given us the ability to go on killing off assumptions by the Spirit.

*Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and your abominations.* Ezek 36:26-27, 31

Good grief learned from corrected assumptions is God's motivation for the heart to seek Him first and to glorify Him in all things. *Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*

Phil 4:8-9

### **In summary**

When we claim to love God and others, but we live by the assumptions we have collected from our sinful experience, we misrepresent the truth of God. Making assumptions about others is hypocrisy.

Our assumptions are something we have accept as true or as certain but without proof. Only God is true.

Our assumptions are the product of our prejudices, which are our preconceived judgments or opinions about life and people. They amount to an adverse opinion or leaning which are formed without justification and before we have sufficient knowledge.

Mostly we are unaware we live by sinful assumptions because we have an automatic default to live by the darkness that we have taken on that we haven't yet taken to the cross of Christ. And we haven't learnt to examine carefully all our thinking by the consuming Fire of the truth of God.

We make assumptions about other people's lives based on our own fleshly experiences and assume we are correct because we believe ourselves.

When we make assumptions about people, what we are really doing is looking to put them in our little boxes so we stay in control.

We need to examine ourselves because no one is completely safe from the judgement that may come because of the ravages caused by our personal assumptions.

Because our assumptions come from our flesh, we treat others as if they are fleshly like us and not worth our self sacrifice. This is seriously not loving our neighbours as we ourselves would be loved.

We claim to follow Jesus Christ who didn't deny His self sacrifice to anyone. To follow Christ means we do as He would do by putting off our assumptions and loving others before putting ourselves and our opinions first.

Following Christ is offering ourselves as a living sacrifice as we are transformed by the renewing of our minds from assumptions to truth.

To assume we are good enough to be accepted by God makes Jesus' sacrifice for sins redundant, useless, because we have found our own way to be reconciled with God without Christ dying for our sins. Believing some truth about God is not the same as giving up our assumptions. Satan believes the truth but keeps his assumptions.

Whatever assumptions and lifestyle we have that do not conform with the life of Christ and the teaching of the Bible and the holiness of God we must willingly surrendered by denying ourselves and taking up our cross to follow Christ; that is, if we want to enjoy fellowship with God in the kingdom of His Son.

If we have the assumption we know the truth, it is more than likely we remain in the dark. This is Pharisaic.

When we assume our assumptions are correct, we also assume others who disagree with us must be wrong.

If we want to know why we shouldn't jump to judgmental conclusions about the motives of others, we only have to be aware of our own previous assumptions.

This is because God's truth hasn't yet corrected all our sinful thoughts.

*For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.*

1 Cor 2:11

We are only wise in our own eyes if we don't think to submit our thinking to the governance of the Spirit.

But we don't think!

If we are not disciplining ourselves to turn all our thoughts over to the purifying administration of the Spirit of God, we haven't understood that God is sovereign and must reign over us.

When is it acceptable to give ourselves or others precedence over God?

That is hypocrisy.

It might be possible to say that all our grief in this life is a result of our sinful assumptions, simply because they don't give us a clear view of the glory of God in order that we can worship Him in holiness and truth.

If this is correct, we are the problem that causes our loss of peace because we blame our failure on something or someone out there somewhere.

Leaning on our own understanding is hypocrisy.

Our assumptions are like the attraction of every pretty or handsome face, they hide the fact of a sinful heart.

How much do we need the mercy of God to help us seek His reign and forsake our assumptions? Absolutely!

Assumptions are the opposite of faith.

Need more evidence? Look at the history of God's chosen people and their failure to trust Him because they believed in their assumptions instead.

And we are often no different.

Why do we sin, because we chose to believe the deception that we know better than God, in fact we take His place.

*Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. Col 3:1-2*

*do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways  
acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

*I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that  
you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the  
riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints. Eph 1:18*

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