

PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE CAN BE DANGEROUS

TEXT: Proverbs 14:12

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Proverbs 4:23

Guard your heart with all diligence, For out of it *spring* the issues of life.

Perspective comes from the heart and it can be dangerous.

Perspective can be marred by the quest for Approval, Recognition, Reward or Deceit.

Biblical example is in Ananias and Sapphira

They acted according to their personal perspective of what it means for believers to have one heart and mind, selling and sharing their possessions together, but their perspective led to their death.

Acts 4: ³² All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. ³³ ...And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all ³⁴ ...from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales ³⁵ and put it at the apostles' feet, it was distributed to anyone who had need. ³⁶ Barnabas sold his, gave all.

Act 5: ¹ Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. ² With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it

at the apostles' feet. ³ Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? ⁴ Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God."

⁵ When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died.

...⁹ Peter said to her, "How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."

¹⁰ At that moment she fell down at his feet and died.

Brethren, there is a way that seem right to a man but the end leads to death.

Personal perspective can be dangerous because of the motive that could be driving it.

Live by the Spirit

Galatians 5:16

“So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.” Let the Spirit of God determine the motive of your perspective.

Philippians 3:3

Those who are of Christ “put no confidence in the flesh.”

John 6:63

It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh profits nothing.

John 16:13

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 He will speak whatever He hears [from the Father, and He will disclose to you what is to come [in the future].

Rom 8:14 “those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

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Romans 8 teaches us how we can get the Spirit of God to shape our perspective:

² because as Christians, the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

- **8:4** do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Ask Holy Spirit what you should and be ready to obey what he tells you. --- what the Spirit will tell you will never contradict the word of God. “So test all Spirit (what you hear) to be sure they are of God.” (1 John 4:1)
- **8:5** Set your minds on things of the Spirit. Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.
- **8:13** Resist the desires of the flesh - for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

- **8:**¹⁴ Living by the Spirit is a mandatory requirement: For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.
- **8:** ¹⁶ The puts a mark on us - The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.

In conclusion, a personal perspective not anchored by the Holy Spirit leading could lead to death. For Christian the life insurance is to allow the Holy Ghost to be on the driver's seat.

We cannot pre-empt God. We must ask the Holy Spirit to shape our perspective.

Isaiah 55:“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, ”declares the LORD. ⁹ “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

God Bless You!

Prayer:

Let's ask God to please give us the grace to live by the Spirit, allowing the Holy Spirit to shape our perspective, thoughts, minds, heart, soul and plans.

God Bless You!