

The Key to Spiritual Growth - A Right Spirit

A city broken down and without walls is open to attack. It is vulnerable to the enemy. It is easily destroyed. Scripture tells us that if we do not accept responsibility for keeping our own spirit right, we become equally open to attack (Prov. 25:28).

The ***Enemies*** our spirit can be affected by:

Our foes—dwelling on our criticism robs us of our joy, ruins our day, and causes us to lose focus on who God is and what He wants us to do for Him.

Our friends—most of us can accept the fact that there are those who dislike and oppose us. However, when a friend turns his back on us, it is especially difficult to deal with.

Our families—hardest of all is the attack that comes from within. I know many dear preachers who find little support from a hurt, critical or bitter family. They truly have a difficult burden to bear. How hard it is for them to keep a good spirit.

The facts of life—Flat tires, bad weather, financial set backs, a broken dish, ^{OR} refrigerator: all of these can affect our spirit (Job 5:7).

The ***Effects*** a bad spirit can have on us:

It can affect our perception. Because of the unhappiness within us, we see everything in a negative vein.

It can affect our perspective. All our troubles become maximized, and all our blessings become minimized. Most of us have far more blessing in our lives than we do burdens. A good marriage, sweet children, loving church members, material provision—not to mention eternal salvation, God's Word, and the comfort and help of the Holy Spirit!

It can affect our potential. People with a bad spirit can accomplish little for God. We become unattractive to others. We lack faith. We find ourselves in a critical mode.

The ***Exhortation*** to help you keep your own spirit right.

Focus on God (Isaiah 26:3). It does not matter what happens in the rest of the world: our God is good. He is loving; He is perfect.

Focus on the goodness of God. He has saved us. He has sustained us. He has been better to us than we deserve.

Focus on the good around us. Quit focusing on those who discourage and disappoint you and think on those who have done right and are a blessing.

Keep the right friends (Proverbs 27:9 & 17). Having friends with good spirits, right attitudes and good hearts will do much to keep us on the right path and in the right attitude

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