

Spiritual Depression: Its Causes and Cure by Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones  
Chapter 8: Feelings  
II Tim 1:6

**2Ti 1:6** Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

In recent lessons we have considered how the enemy of our souls will seek to mire us down with our past or fill us with fear of the future. This lesson focuses upon a method that he uses ever so subversively to lead us from the will of God. Our feelings are a gift from the Lord, but they cannot be the leader of our souls. Like all other tools, they must be kept in their place, under submission to the Word of God. We are going to consider how feelings can mislead us and deceive us and then point to a certain cure in making sure that we are following the Word of God and not our fickle feelings.

**Lloyd-Jones – “Perhaps there is nothing so frequently encountered as a cause of spiritual depression and unhappiness in the Christian life as this very problem of feelings... People are constantly troubled about the matter, and I am sure that all who have ever been engaged in pastoral work will agree that there is no particular subject that brings people so often to the pastor as this very problem of feelings... Oh, the havoc that is wrought and the tragedy, the misery and the wretchedness that are to be found in the world simply because people do not know how to handle their own feelings!”**

**1. What is the main emphasis that Lloyd-Jones has in regards to faith?**

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**Rom 11:25** For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

**1Th 4:13** But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

**2. According to Lloyd-Jones, what effect does regeneration have upon the feelings?**

**3. How are feelings interrelated to depression?**

**4. Lloyd-Jones makes three general statements about feelings. What are they?**

1)

2)

3)

5. **What is a great danger regarding feelings?**
  
6. **Lloyd-Jones states another danger regarding feelings with regards to Christianity. What is that danger?**
  
7. **What correction does Lloyd-Jones bring in connection with a sermon preached by J.C. Philpot?**
  
8. **Lloyd-Jones gives a number of suggestions on how we are to manage our feelings.**
  - 1) **What is the primary consideration in regards to our feelings?**
  
  - 2) **What is a great mistake that we can make as to our feelings?**
  
  - 3) **In his next point, he compares two things. In what way does he compare them?**
  
9. **How are we to “stir up the gift” that is within us? Give three directives concerning this command.**
  - 1)
  - 2)
  - 3)
  
10. **What is Lloyd-Jones final and most important exhortation in overcoming the dominance of feelings?**