



# Lesson 18

## *The Mind of Christ*

### INTRODUCTION

What does it look like for disciples of Christ to let go of our old human-driven mindsets? How do we actually put on the pure and holy thinking of Jesus? Are we really living for Christ, or are we just pretending to live for Him?

As disciples of Christ, we are called to constantly listen and respond to Holy Spirit within us. This response includes yielding to Christ's love and allowing Him to renew our minds. Christ's love produces within us a pure heart. (1 Tim. 1:5) Truly, unless we love God with our whole hearts in an "on-fire" and "completely sold-out" kind of way, we will never know God as fully as we could. If we fail to yield and surrender our thoughts to God, we will not be able to renew our minds and let God produce within us a sound mind. Putting on the mind of Christ lets our faith dictate our thoughts, words, and actions.

**DO NOT CONFORM TO THE PATTERN OF THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND. THEN YOU WILL BE ABLE TO TEST AND APPROVE WHAT GOD'S WILL IS—HIS GOOD, PLEASING AND PERFECT WILL. ROMANS 12:2 (NIV)**

Finally, when we fail to respond to Holy Spirit, we do not allow our faith to grow. Living our lives in submitted posture prompts increase in our faith. The faith given to us by God gives us power to accomplish God's works! (2 Tim. 1:7)

## THE MIND OF CHRIST

FOR GOD HAS NOT GIVEN US A SPIRIT OF FEAR, BUT OF POWER AND OF LOVE AND OF A SOUND MIND. 2 TIMOTHY 1:7 (NKJV)

### WHAT DOES THE NATURAL, HUMAN MIND DIRECTED LIFE LOOK LIKE?

The mind dwells on things of the flesh and is slave to the flesh.

The mind is at odds with God. It is not subject to God and cannot please God. It is not under His control. It has no help from Holy Spirit.

It can cause spiritual death.

### WHAT DOES THE YIELDED, SPIRIT DIRECTED LIFE LOOK LIKE? (Rom. 12:1-2, Phil. 2:5-8, 1 Peter 4:1)

It does as the Spirit directs and is not a slave to the flesh.

It loves God, belongs to God, and desires to please God. It is helped by Holy Spirit.

This life shows Christ in daily practice and produces eternal spiritual life.

IN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH ONE ANOTHER, HAVE THE SAME MINDSET AS CHRIST JESUS: WHO, BEING IN VERY NATURE GOD, DID NOT CONSIDER EQUALITY WITH GOD SOMETHING TO BE USED TO HIS OWN ADVANTAGE; RATHER, HE MADE HIMSELF NOTHING BY TAKING THE VERY NATURE OF A SERVANT, BEING MADE IN HUMAN LIKENESS. AND BEING FOUND IN APPEARANCE AS A MAN, HE HUMBLLED HIMSELF BY BECOMING OBEDIENT TO DEATH—EVEN DEATH ON A CROSS! PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8 (NIV)

### WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST?

So that we may be blameless and harmless.

To be holy as He is holy.

To be empty of self, so to be full of Him.

So that we will not be corrupted or conformed to the world. We are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.

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. THE MIND GOVERNED BY THE FLESH IS DEATH, BUT THE MIND GOVERNED BY THE SPIRIT IS LIFE AND PEACE. THE MIND GOVERNED BY THE FLESH IS HOSTILE TO GOD; IT DOES NOT SUBMIT TO GOD'S LAW, NOR CAN IT DO SO. THOSE WHO ARE IN THE REALM OF THE FLESH CANNOT PLEASE GOD. YOU, HOWEVER, ARE NOT IN THE REALM OF THE FLESH BUT ARE IN THE REALM OF THE SPIRIT, IF INDEED THE SPIRIT OF GOD LIVES IN YOU. AND IF ANYONE DOES NOT HAVE THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST, THEY DO NOT BELONG TO CHRIST. ROMANS 8:5-9 (NIV)

### **WHAT GIVES US THE MIND OF CHRIST?**

Consistency in our love for God and determination to make our actions match our faith.

Faith in the One who equips us.

Having a constant desire to bless God and to be a useful vessel.

Confessing our faults and not growing weary.

Continually giving God glory, praise, and honor.

### **WHAT KEEPS US FROM HAVING THE MIND OF CHRIST?**

**PAST TRAINING** - We must let go of self-rule to now elevate Christ.

**DISOBEDIENCE** - No matter how spiritual we are, being unwilling to obey God hinders our walk.

**FRUSTRATION** - We must learn to WAIT on God. Satan encourages pushing forward, while God tells us to be patient. God has perfect timing. (Rom. 8:31)

**INTELLECT** - The whole process of reasoning insists that we must understand everything. Intellect always wants to have something impersonal and objective to study. The Living Word, Jesus, wants us to have fellowship with Him so that our knowledge comes from spiritual discernment and not the mind of man. (John 5:38-40, Luke 12:29) We must learn to submit our intellect. This does not mean that we are not supposed to use our heads in spiritual things because, in actuality, we must! We must read the Bible and spend time in prayer so that our head knowledge confirms our spiritual understanding, and vice-versa!

**EMOTIONS OR FEELINGS** - Negative emotions such as anger, doubt, and fear hinder the mind of Christ from being in control of our lives. Regardless of feelings, we must forge ahead in truth and not emotion. The battle of the emotions is determined by whether we are responding to our flesh, or to the Spirit.

**OUR BODY** - If we do not allow God to use and move through our bodies, we limit His ability to use us as we are not allowing Christ's mind to direct us. The body is directly influenced by the mind.

**DEMONIC INFLUENCE** - Jesus sometimes heals first then delivers believers; other times he delivers first and then heals. The healing and deliverance may be physical, mental, or both. (Matt. 8:16, Matt. 10:8, Luke 9:11) Once delivered, it is important to fill the newly empty space with Holy Spirit.

**UNHOLY ACTIONS** - We are born with a sin nature and our sin nature is always pushing us to take the "easy way," the "cool way" and the "worldly way." This sin nature is in conflict with our spirit nature. Unholy actions result from our failure to allow God to crucify our flesh. Examples of these kinds of actions include:

Curse words in our speech, off-color jokes and unholy topics of conversation.

Intimate association with worldly friends.

Secular entertainment such as improper books, movies, music, or television programs.

Self-indulgence.

Wastefulness.

Depression or self-pity.

It can feel lonely when we allow God to change us because we become "not of this world." While we live in this world, we are called to "live here" but not "of here."

## VICTORY IN THE MIND OF CHRIST

We do not have to live in bondage to sin. Becoming a Christian and allowing Holy Spirit to dwell within us equips us for not giving up, conquering, and overcoming the sins of the flesh. Our weaknesses are exposed as pictures of God's strength! The old self has NO DOMINION over us. We can live fully and freely unto God.

We will never consistently walk in the Spirit until we choose to allow Holy Spirit to crucify the desires of our flesh. In order to bring about death to these desires, the Lord convicts us and then waits for our response to His conviction. He will bring deliverance as we turn away from our sinful ways and refuse to yield to them.

**IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS AND TO CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS. 1 JOHN 1:9 (NKJV)**

**WHEN TEMPTED (AND WE WILL BE TEMPTED) WE MUST:**

Repent, confess, and ask God for forgiveness in complete belief that He does forgive.

Change. We should begin doing, saying and thinking as Christ does. Ask Holy Spirit to empower us to begin thinking, saying and doing things as Christ does.

Submit to the discipline of the Word and rejoice in knowing that God is good!

We must refuse to lose our faith.

Always remember to give God the glory when our fleshly desires are conquered and be prepared to help others do the same.

**CONCLUSION**

Being conformed to Christ's image and allowing our mind to be like His produces Holiness and deepens our relationship with God. When we allow our mind to respond to Holy Spirit in us, we grow in our relationship with the Lord, we reach new levels of spiritual maturity and we may expect to begin to do the works of Jesus! Overcoming the barriers that stunt our spiritual development requires action on our part. It is a daily choice to die to self and allow God to take control of our life and our actions. Only with the help of the Lord can we conquer our flesh and live in agreement with God's Word.