
THE MIND OF THE SPIRIT

Session VIII: The Mind of Christ, Part I

- I. The Source of a Christ-like Mind
 - A. The Holy Spirit is the person who reveals God's wisdom
 1. God can only reveal the true nature and wisdom of God.
 2. The first qualification of having the mind of Christ is to have his Spirit.
 - a) We receive the Spirit of Christ at salvation, and we also have access to the Baptism in the Holy Spirit releasing gifts of the Spirit.
 - b) 1 Corinthians 2:14 (NIV) *"The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God"*
 3. 1 Corinthians 2:16 (NRSV) *"For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?"*
 4. Isaiah 40:13 (NIV) *"Who can fathom the Spirit of the Lord, or instruct the Lord as his counselor?"*
 - B. Christians grow to be more Christ-like as they focus on Jesus' glory.
 1. 2 Corinthians 3:18 (NRSV) *"And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit."*
 2. Moses' face was transformed as he spent time with God. It was so bright that the Israelites couldn't look at him (v. 7).
 - a) This was temporary.
 - b) This was not experienced by the whole community.
 3. We live in a time when all can experience God's glory.
 - a) It is not temporary because we received the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:11 (NIV) *"How much greater is the glory of that which lasts."*
 - b) It is for all Christians to experience (v. 18).
- II. Benefits of a Christlike Mind
 - A. A Christ-like mind gives us a new way to interpret the world
 1. God's Word
 - a) Jesus' coming to save the world and set things right gives us a new understanding of God's plan for the world through his promises.
 - b) We see the Old Testament in new light as we interpret it through Jesus' work on the cross and his resurrection.
 2. Salvation
 - a) The Mind of Christ helps us to understand what salvation means and how that salvation affects our daily thoughts and actions.
 - b) We have an eternal hope because of the resurrection of Jesus. This hope enables us to live our lives "recklessly" because to lose is to gain.
 3. The World

- a) The Christ-like mind puts different values on the world around us than our pre-Jesus minds did.
 - (1) Jesus turned upside down the world's focus on:
 - (a) Money
 - (b) Power
 - (c) Ethics
 - (d) Gender
 - (e) Social roles
 - (2) Thinking Jesus' thoughts about the world causes us to place our values on the things that he valued.
 - b) We have an eternal perspective instead of the narrow viewpoint of the world. It is not a matter of simply living for the moment. Our thoughts and ideas are part of a "forever" framework.
- B. The Holy Spirit reveals truth
- 1. 1 Corinthians 2:11-12 (NIV) *"In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us."*
 - 2. We can understand truth because having the Mind of Christ means having access to the source of truth.
 - 3. 1 Corinthians 2:10 (NIV) *"The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God."*
 - a) Daniel 2:22 states that God reveals deep and hidden things. Job describes God's deep thoughts as almost inaccessible. Now, at the dawn of this new age Jesus has sent his Spirit into the world.
 - b) Christians have the Spirit in them.
 - (1) The Spirit gives us access to deep insights from God's Word.
 - (2) The Spirit enables us to learn Scripture on a level that non-believers can't because they don't have the Mind of Christ.
- C. The Mind of Christ levels the playing field.
- 1. The Corinthian church was divided, and often looked for ways to one up each other spiritually.
 - a) They transferred the world's values to Spiritual things.
 - b) They thought about God's actions in light of their old framework of thinking.
 - 2. Every believer has the Mind of Christ, so we all have equal access to God's truth and his thoughts.
 - 3. You can understand the Bible and God's plan for your life.
- D. Thinking spiritually helps us develop maturity.
- 1. The Corinthian church was addressed as "infants" (1 Cor. 3:1) by Paul. Their lack of spiritual understanding stunted the church's growth as Christians.
 - 2. The Mind of Christ enable us to expand our thinking and development so that we behave as mature believers.
 - 3. The Mind of Christ challenges the status quo. It stretches our thinking. Godly thinking pushes us towards a new reality.

III. Application

- A. Only God can reveal God so look to the Spirit to open your mind to God's truth.
- B. Spend time in worship and meditate on Jesus' character and nature.
- C. Believe by faith that you can receive God's truth and grow in the wisdom of God.
- D. Think about the world through a Jesus lens. Everything you think should pass through that filter.