

HAVING HIS MIND



*Have This Mind Among You
Chris Powers*

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

Philippians 2:5-7

When someone talks about divine guidance we tend to picture a "walkie-talkie" relationship with God where we keep getting messages, "Now go here....." "Now go there...."

While there are times when the Spirit of God intervenes in this way, the vast bulk of divine guidance is an inner thing. It's not a matter of getting messages....but of being so indwelt with the Spirit of God, so saturated with the love of God, that we begin to think in God.

God's thoughts are not our thoughts, neither are our ways his ways. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are God's ways higher than our ways, and his thoughts than our thoughts. But when, by the power of his cross, we come into Jesus Christ, we are called out of our ways and our thoughts into God's ways and God's thoughts. We are invited by the Spirit of God to enter into the mind of Christ.

The Unrenewed Mind

The natural mind is the throne of the Deceiver, the dwelling place of Satan. The Deceiver keeps urging us to eat of the Tree of Knowledge promising that as we do we shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. But knowledge apart from God--- knowledge that excludes the reality of the living God – becomes distorted and false, is inflamed with a weird imagi-nation, vanity, suspicion.

...for although they knew God they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking and their senseless minds were darkened.

Romans 1:21



And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a base mind and to improper conduct. They were filled with all manner of wickedness, evil, covetousness, malice. Full of gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

Romans 1:28-31

All these things flow out of a mind which is estranged from God and is held in the grip of the Father of Lies. How can a reprobate mind receive divine guidance? If the mind is deceived it will then be "guided" by strange voices and think they are the voice of God. If the mind is deceived the life we live becomes an out flowing of that deception.

Certain of our rightness, we set about to change the world. But the changes turn out to be destructive. How many of us are "seeking direction" with minds so bent out of shape we can't recognize truth which comes to us? We swallow lie after lie as if it came from the Throne of God!

The Renewed Mind

The basic requirement of divine guidance is to have the deceived mind set free from the lies that hold it prisoner and brought into truth; no longer conformed to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, the pride of life; but renewed in the image of God---given the mind of Christ.

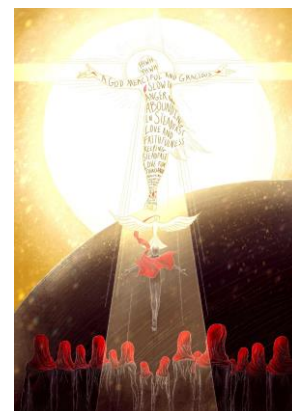
What we need – desperately need – is not to hear voices, "messages from heaven" as if we were plugged into a computer....

but to have in us the mind of Christ:

a free mind,

a clear mind,

a mind that is able to recognize and appreciate the mercy of God.



Then guidance comes from within as the Spirit speaks to the heart.

Is this too much to expect?

Why does Paul make the fantastic claim in I Corinthians that he has the mind of Christ?

Why does he exhort us in Philippians 2 to have the mind in us which was also in Christ Jesus?

Why does he tell us in Colossians 3 to set our minds on things above?

Why does he beseech us by the mercies of God ... not to be conformed to this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds?

Because he knows from his own experience that we *can have* the mind of Christ –

A mind that thinks God's thoughts, moves in God's ways.

A Mind That is literally saturated with the life, the mercy, the wisdom, the truth of God.

This mind is ours for the receiving.

A mind we can enter if we will.

Have this mind in you

... Be transformed by the renewing of your mind

... Set your mind

... Turn your mind toward the Lord

...Open it to that living truth which comes rushing down from Calvary like a river and washes away the lies which have held it bound for so long.

Soon you will be thinking God's thoughts of mercy. And you will be doing God's deeds of mercy from a mind that is set to do the will of God, which it knows as well as it knows its own name.

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.....

Philippians 2:5.

The Mind of Christ

The mind of Christ is down-to-earth.

...who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, ...

Philippians 2:6-7a

Jesus was in the form of God but he gave it up and came, down to earth. We are not in the form of God, yet we are forever trying to rise up and vie with God for the power and the glory to be our own god.

To enter into the mind of Christ all we have to do is let go of our vanity and come down to earth.

I need to forsake the idea that I have superior insight, "I can criticize all I like because I'm right. I discern. I see through people."

To have the mind of Christ is to give up such nonsense, which we know to be false, and come down to earth.

I need to desert the idea that I have a superior destiny – "I'm not like other mortals, I've been chosen by God for some great work. I'm God's special messenger to my fellowship. I'm the martyr of martyrs."

To have the mind of Christ is to give up these delusions and come down to reality.

The mind of Christ is the mind of a servant.

...taking the form of a servant; being born in the likeness of men....

Philippians 2:7b

No longer in the form of God, yet manifesting what God is like, clearly for the first time on earth as a servant.

***"For the Son of Man came not to be served,
but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many."***

Mark 10:45

This is the Father's nature; this is what the Son is like.

And as we enter into his mind this becomes our nature too.

To serve, to pour out our lives as quietly and unobtrusively as the house-hold servant. Not as a duty, or as proof that we're totally committed, but as our joy! Glad to serve in the lowliest, meanest, most thankless place.

The mind of Christ is a passion to do the will of God---which is mercy.

***And being found in human form he humbled himself
and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.***

Philippians 2:8

Jesus didn't do this as a chore. He did this as a burning passion.

"My meat is to do the will of God and to accomplish his work."

John 4:34

"I have a baptism to be baptized with (of fire) and how I am constrained until it is accomplished?"

Luke 12:50

"Father, I came to do your will, in the volume of the book it is written of me."

Hebrews 10:7

If we awaken in the morning with the mind of Christ ...

we awaken with a desire, a passion, to do one thing:

To offer ourselves up as a living sacrifice to God in the exact place where we are

– in our present cir-cumstances.

To pour ourselves out in performing the will of God, which is mercy, even unto death.

Each new day we bring our mind to the flame of Christ's mind until it catches fire with that flame afresh, until it burns with his passion.

When our minds burn with the passion of the mind of Christ there is little need to hear voices or "get messages."

What a strange sight we must be to the Father so much of the time. People who desire to be led by God; and yet when God looks at our minds what does he see? Cobwebs and dust to be sure, clutter and distraction indeed, but far worse he sees minds that are satisfied to go on and on locked in deception and vanity, minds that are darkened and dull and sluggish and base.

Do we think God can't see the perversity, the sick twisted thoughts that occupy our minds?

Can we presume to think our minds are capable of divine guidance in this shape?

Are we willing to exchange these minds for the mind of Christ day-by-day, hour-by-hour?

Are we willing to be transformed by the re-newing of our minds in the mind of Christ?

What a change will come over our living when our mind becomes the dwelling place, no more of the serpent who beguiles...

but of the Christ who sets us free.



Prayer- Merciful Lord help us to enter your mind. Rescue us from our futile, dark thoughts. Rescue us from our own sense of rightness. Set our minds free from this prison we put ourselves in. By your power, in your mercy give us minds that know what your Spirit is calling us to. Help us to let go of our vanity and self importance, to give up our delusions and come down to earth. Help us to willingly embrace a servant heart and to do it with joy. Help us to live lives obedient to your call of mercy. Indwell our minds, fill them with your love. And yes saturate them with your life, your wisdom, your mercy, your truth so they do ignite with a passion to dwell in you each day.

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THE LAMB
WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN

