

1 Corinthians 2

So I was reading my bible and one passage really stuck out to me. 1 Corinthians 2:16 says, for who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ! I was reading this and thought 'what does having a mind of Christ mean???'

The bible describes a total of 12 different ways of thinking, big picture, focused, creative, realistic, strategic, possibility, reflective, questioning popular thinking, shared, unselfish and bottom-line. All of these fall under the 12th way of thinking, spiritual thinking.

Personally I put God in a box. God is ONLY capable of doing so much. God is only capable of doing what I can understand. But this is not true. God is capable of doing immeasurably more than we can hope or imagine.

So what does "having the mind of Christ really mean???"

Having the mind of Christ is looking at life with a Christ-like view, having his values and desires in mind always.

Thinking God's thoughts, not the worlds thought. Now don't get me wrong, sometimes the worlds thoughts are good, but this is to tempt and pull us away from God's vision and God's thoughts. Satan is a wolf in sheep's clothing, he is going to come as a sweet beautiful image. Satan will tempt us away by allowing us to be so busy doing things FOR God that we don't spend time WITH God. I am guilty of doing this. I do so much FOR God and sometimes I don't have my eyes fixed firmly on God. I am sure I am not the only one here that gets overwhelmed with doing good deeds and then completely forget about spending quality time with God.

Having the mind of Christ means to share God's perspective on humility, compassion as well as full dependence on God.

In this particular passage, 1 Corinthians 2 Paul is contrasting the unbeliever's mind with the believer's mind.

Verse 5-6 says "so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom but on God's power. We do however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing."

These verses are describing the wisdom of man that we all possess. But it is also saying that we depend and rely on our mere human knowledge when we should be relying on God's power and knowledge.

Verse 7 says "No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began."

This verse is simply saying that to have God's wisdom, to have a mind of Christ, all wisdom needs to come from God alone. And this is given to all those who have God's Spirit. God's wisdom is given to ALL believers and ALL followers of Christ.

Verse 14-15 says "The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but consider them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. The person with the Spirit makes judgements about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgements."

Because we, as believers have the Holy Spirit we hold the keys to the Kingdom. Because of this we have a sense of discernment in spiritual matters.

So practically how do I develop a mind of Christ???

We as believers all have the Holy Spirit freely given to us, and this means that we all have the mind of Christ. But are we actively tuned in to what God is saying? Do we truly believe that God is capable of ALL things?

As a believer our responsibility is to yield to the Holy Spirit's direction within your life and let the Holy Spirit transform your life in accordance to God's will.

We must abide in the Holy Spirit and allow the Holy Spirit to abide in us.

So how do we do this???

Now I could give you the standard read your bible and pray. Now those are great. Continue reading your bible and praying but abiding in Christ and therefore the Holy Spirit as well, we must:

- Trust fully in God. None of this walking to the edge of comfort and refusing to go anywhere out of our little comfort zone. We need to fully trust in God and stepping out in Faith, trusting that God is holding you in the palm of his hand is a sure demonstration of this.
- Spend time with Christ and the Holy Spirit. Make a time for you to just sit and listen to God. Take away all distractions and just sit in the Holy Spirit and allow God to speak to you and into your life.
- Know who you are in Christ. Now this is a difficult one. I personally struggle with this. But scripture provides answers.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here."*

Now in the Greek language, there are two words which are translated in the bible as the word 'new'. The word new in this particular passage, is 'kainos' which means "something just made which is unlike anything else in existence."

In Christ we are made entirely new. Just as God created the heavens and the earth out of nothing, so he does with us. God doesn't just 'fix' our old selves, he makes us entirely new.

When we are 'in Christ' we participate in divine nature, which is shown in 2 Peter 1:4 "Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires."

God himself had given us the keys to the kingdom. We participate in who is allowed into the kingdom and who we turn away. God has entrusted us in the divine nature of heaven.

God himself as the Holy Spirit resides in our hearts. Because of this, we are in Christ and Christ is in us.

So, who are we in Christ?

- We are regenerated
- We are renewed
- We are born again
- We are now spiritually minded
- We are saved

Because of who we are in Christ:

- We now have fellowship with God
- We now obey his will
- We are now devoted to his service.
- We now share God's perspective

But what does it mean to share God's perspective???

Having God's perspective simply means that we need to place value on the same things that Jesus placed value on.

I am sure there are many more things that Jesus highly valued but there are 5 main things that Jesus really valued.

John 17:5 says *"And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began."*

This verse is saying that we need to have a desire, a real longing to bring glory to God in all that we do.

Luke 19:10 says *"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."*

This verse is saying that we need to actively seek with a longing heart to provide salvation to sinners, just as Jesus did.

Phillippians 2:5-8 says *“In your relationship with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in the very nature of 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 humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross!”*

We need to have a perspective on humility and obedience in the same way that Jesus humbled himself and obeyed God’s will fully. Even if doing so resulted in death.

Matthew 9:36 says *“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”*

We need to look out into the world with a compassionate heart, having mercy and grace on those lost sheep.

Luke 5:16 says *“But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.”*

Jesus prayerfully depended on God. He 100% believed that God is good in all that he does and he gives us a perfect image of having a prayerful dependence on God.

So, do you value these things???

Do you have a desire to bring glory to God?

Do you have a longing to provide salvation to sinners?

Do you share Jesus’ perspective on humility and obedience?

Do you look at the world with a compassionate heart?

Do you prayerfully depend on God?