

***2<sup>1</sup>And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, <sup>4</sup>and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. (1 Corinthians 2:1-5, ESV).***

I have always imagined the Apostle Paul as a dynamic speaker and a powerful person in so many ways, but here we see him continuing his dialogue concerning the simplicity of the gospel message. He is clear that it wasn't a message packaged in lofty speech or wisdom. Each of us can preach the same gospel. It is the message that Jesus came and was crucified. Remember from last time that this was a stumbling block to the Jewish mind and thoughts of a Messiah. He was to come as a conqueror, freeing the Jewish people from whatever enslaved them. The Greeks saw it all as nonsense because it didn't fit into their philosophical frame works, Hence they considered it nonsense or foolishness.

Curiously, Paul says that he actually approached the Corinthians with fear and trepidation. Even Paul had concerns that the gospel itself wasn't compelling enough to lead to belief. But in the end, the convincing proof of the gospel was the persuasive evidence of the Holy Spirit and the power that comes with the Spirit. This placed the rationale for accepting the gospel in the power of God and not in anything concerning the wisdom of men.

### **Wisdom from the Spirit**

***6<sup>6</sup>Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. <sup>7</sup>But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But, as it is written, (1 Corinthians 2:6-9a, ESV).***

Paul continues explaining that the gospel contains a wisdom that the wisdom of the world just can't recognize. All the wisdom of this age will just pass away. It will be no more. But there is a spiritual secret nugget of eternal spiritual wisdom that came from ages past into the present. It was foretold (decreed) before all the ages. Paul borrows a quote from Isaiah whose words have comforted, intrigued, and riveted believers for centuries.

***“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the heart of man imagined,  
what God has prepared for those who love him”— (1 Corinthians 2:9b-c, ESV).***

What Paul is talking about is heaven, and what heaven will be like. And he's saying that no one has ever seen, or imagined, what it will be like when we cross over into heaven. This nugget of knowledge is part of what is the wisdom of God. Man doesn't know anything about it, nor can man even imagine it. Throughout my ministry, many have asked me what I think heaven will be like. I always quote this passage. I really don't know, but I believe that it is something far greater than I can even imagine. It would be like trying to ask a baby in the womb what they think the world outside of the womb looks like. It is so far beyond anything the little unborn child could ever imagine, and so it is with us as we try to imagine what heaven will be like.

These Corinthians, along with most of the ancient world, had created a pantheon of gods and goddesses to try to understand the world in which they lived. They were trying to create solutions for everything that they couldn't understand or solve. The wisdom of the world couldn't help them when they were helpless, and Paul offered to them something different and unique. Instead of a self-imagined pantheon, he simply offered them Jesus. Yeshua, the Messiah that was truly God in the flesh come down. Paul explains that such a concept could only be understood by those who are spiritually mature. It could never be understood by those who were in authority when Jesus came.

***<sup>10</sup> these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup> For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also, no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. <sup>13</sup> And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. (1 Corinthians 2:10-13, ESV).***

Paul explains that our capacity to understand the things of the Spirit only comes through the fact that we have the Holy Spirit living within us. Without the Holy Spirit, we are blind to the operations of God and to the spiritual realm. This understanding is not taught by men, but rather it is brought by those who are Spirit filled to present the spiritual truths of God.

***<sup>14</sup> The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. <sup>15</sup> The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. <sup>16</sup> "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:14-16, ESV).***

Paul concedes that spiritual truth is folly to the natural person. That means the person who is not indwelt or persuaded by the Holy Spirit. These truths that Paul talks about are only visible through spiritual eyes. In a curious way, through the operation of the Holy Spirit we are able to see things as we too have the mind of Christ. So, what does it mean to have the mind of Christ? It means

that in a curious way, we can see things in a manner that the world can't comprehend. I'd like to give a few examples:

Having the mind of Christ means we understand God's plan in the world—to bring glory to Himself, restore creation to its original splendor, and provide salvation for sinners. It means we identify with Christ's purpose "to seek and to save what was lost" ([Luke 19:10](#)). It means we share Jesus' perspective of humility and obedience ([Philippians 2:5-8](#)), compassion ([Matthew 9:36](#)), and prayerful dependence on God ([Luke 5:16](#)).

In the verses leading up to [1 Corinthians 2:16](#), we note some truths concerning the mind of Christ:

- 1) The mind of Christ stands in sharp contrast to the wisdom of man (verses 5-6).
- 2) The mind of Christ involves wisdom from God, once hidden but now revealed (verse 7).
- 3) The mind of Christ is given to believers through the Spirit of God (verses 10-12).
- 4) The mind of Christ cannot be understood by those without the Spirit (verse 14).
- 5) The mind of Christ gives believers discernment in spiritual matters (verse 15).

In order to have the mind of Christ, one must first have saving faith in Christ ([John 1:12](#); [1 John 5:12](#)). After salvation, the believer lives a life under God's influence. The Holy Spirit indwells and enlightens the believer, infusing him with wisdom—the mind of Christ. The believer bears a responsibility to yield to the Spirit's leading ([Ephesians 4:30](#)) and to allow the Spirit to transform and renew his mind ([Romans 12:1-2](#)).<sup>1</sup>

**Marriage** - Having the mind of Christ will affect how you see your marriage. You will understand that your marriage should be a picture of the relationship of Christ and His church. The husband is to willingly sacrifice Himself for His bride and His love for her, and the wife is to be his helpmeet and encourager, and she is to respect him. You will be less interested in "winning the next argument" than you will be in having a deep desire to work in partnership with God to help that partner be the best version of themselves that they can possibly be.

**Love of Others** – your once selfish eyes will view the world and others around you in the way that God sees them. You will have compassion, empathy, and sympathy for those around you that is different from seeing them with only natural eyes. You will see them as precious souls in

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/mind-of-Christ.html>

need of redemption. Your desire will grow to work in partnership with God to “seek and to save what was lost” (Luke 19:10). Your love will be more unselfish. You will desire to do for others regardless of what you might get back in return. You do these things, not so much because you want to, but instead because your life is modeled after Jesus. You will approach conflicts and differences with others with great humility and forgiveness. People who are not able to ask for forgiveness or to apologize are characterized by lives of dysfunction and internal conflict. That is the opposite of a Christlike, Christ filled life.

**Your World View** - You will view the world with more compassion. You will find that the world’s events provoke you to pray more than they provoke you to panic. Your panicking will turn itself into more focused and intent praying. You will view political events much clearer, seeing them through the eyes of God. You will see the battle between good and evil more clearly. Yes, you must vote your conscience, but you will understand as David did that the battle is the Lord’s. David didn’t out power Goliath. He outprayed him. Some of you will be called to be fighters in the political arena, but not all are called to that.

You will view cultural and political events through spiritual lenses, recognizing truths that the natural man, the unbeliever, cannot perceive. You understand that God is working His purposes out in the world. You will choose not to be conformed to the world, but rather transformed by the renewing of your mind in the things of the spirit. Knowing God is in control will give you greater hope and wisdom.

Benefits from Having the Mind of Christ – I don’t want to go through each of several inheritances that our ours, but when we abide in Him and we have the mind of Christ we experience:

Love – received by God enabling us to love others in a supernatural extraordinary way. Remember that love is related to giving. God gave to you unconditionally and so you are to give to others in the same way. Receiving and understanding His love enables you to love yourself as He loves you and to love Him and others in that same way.

Joy – We learned that joy is related to the verb “to lean” in Hebrew, God’s language. As you experience the mind of Christ your learn to lean on Him and not on your own understanding. There is a joy that comes from that leaning on Him.

Peace – Jesus promised a peace not as the world gives. That peace is true shalom that comes in resting in Him. Shalom peace doesn’t fret. It doesn’t worry itself to death. At its foundation, it understands that you and I are not God. It is such a relief when you truly realize that you are not God. There is a peace that comes with that kind of surrender. That is having the mind of Christ.

Hope – When you have the mind of Christ, your hopelessness will be replaced by hope. This is because you’ve made a decision to trust in and rely on the only one who can bring you hope. And that person is Jesus.

Paul is telling the Corinthians that no imagined gods and goddesses are necessary to get through life. They had known and felt the power of God in the simple gospel and Paul was calling them back to it. They had begun to squabble with one another, vying with each other for a sense of importance. They were seeking to have value and worth by putting others down. That never works.

In the chapters that follow, Paul will point out to them the distractions that they have brought into the church. My call today is that we will not be sidetracked or distracted by the wisdom of the world, but rather we will each be attracted to the power of the gospel and the power of Jesus in each of our lives. Choose today to repent of any distractions that have crept in, and ask God to help you see the things, events, and people around you how He sees them. When you do this, you will have the mind of Christ.

Let us pray.

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